

My story

Please give blood.



**American
Red Cross**

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

**Vince and his family.
Front: children Tony and Katie.
Back: Vince and his wife Susan.**

Vince woke up on a spring morning a decade ago, surprised to be surrounded by his family. But even more surprising, Vince says, were the nurses, asking him how he was doing.

No one, he says, expected him to survive the **massive factory accident** that killed six of his friends and injured dozens of co-workers. Vince suffered **third-degree burns** over 70 percent of his body when a boiler exploded and set fire to his workplace. Rushed to the hospital, he lay in a coma for two months. In between skin grafts and surgeries, he received hundreds of units of **plasma from volunteer donors**.

Throughout his recovery, Vince heard about **American Red Cross blood drives and fundraisers** held in his honor and for other accident survivors. He told his family that the generosity of donors inspired him to do something for humankind. Soon after his rehabilitation, he **resumed donating blood**, and **started a Red Cross blood drive** so others could give for the greater good.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, be in general good health, and present a donor card or positive ID upon donation. ©2009 The American National Red Cross 05/09AP479

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