



**As you bring a new life into this world, you
can offer the gift of life to someone else...**



Why you may choose to donate your baby's cord blood ...

- Your baby's umbilical cord blood could give hope to a patient with leukemia, aplastic anemia, diabetes, sickle cell anemia or other diseases. The blood-forming cells found in cord blood are being studied under research protocols as a new method for treating patients in need.
- Each year thousands of patients are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases that can be treated by rebuilding the patient's hematopoietic (blood cell producing) system with blood-forming cells. Umbilical cord blood is being used as one of the sources of blood cells for treatment.
- Donating cord blood is medically safe. The cord blood is collected from the umbilical cord after your baby is born. Donation does not change the birth process. The umbilical cord and placenta are usually thrown away after a baby is born.
- Donating cord blood is free to you and completely confidential. Public cord blood banks cover the cost of processing and storing your baby's donated cord blood.
- *Public Cord Blood Donation is Different from Private Storage.* When you donate your baby's umbilical cord blood to our public bank, it becomes part of the National Cord Blood Inventory. Your cord blood could be used to treat patients in need of a transplant anywhere in the world, and it may be transferred to another public cord blood bank. If it does not meet the criteria for transplant, it may be used by scientists in the search for new and more effective medical uses for cord blood cells.

Your cord blood will not be reserved for your family's private use...

Before deciding to donate your baby's cord blood, be sure you understand the difference between donating cord blood to the public national inventory and banking it privately for your own use. Donating umbilical cord blood to a public bank is free. Private banks will charge you a fee to store your baby's cord blood for your family's own use. You can discuss this issue with your doctor or visit a number of websites to learn more about private and public banking, including the American Academy of Pediatrics at <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;104/1/116>

Some more information, if you decide to donate...

Before you give birth, PVH Nursing Staff ask you to read, complete and sign documents that indicate that you understand and agree to the donation process. You will also be asked to provide medical history information about you and your family. Many of the hospital's health care professionals who will be involved in your baby's delivery have been thoroughly trained in cord blood collection. Please feel free to ask them any questions about the process.

Thanks to those of you who choose to donate this precious resource!



Dr. Ralph Quinones of The Children's Hospital with a young girl whose aplastic anemia was cured with a cord from an unrelated donor.