

Lives Saved

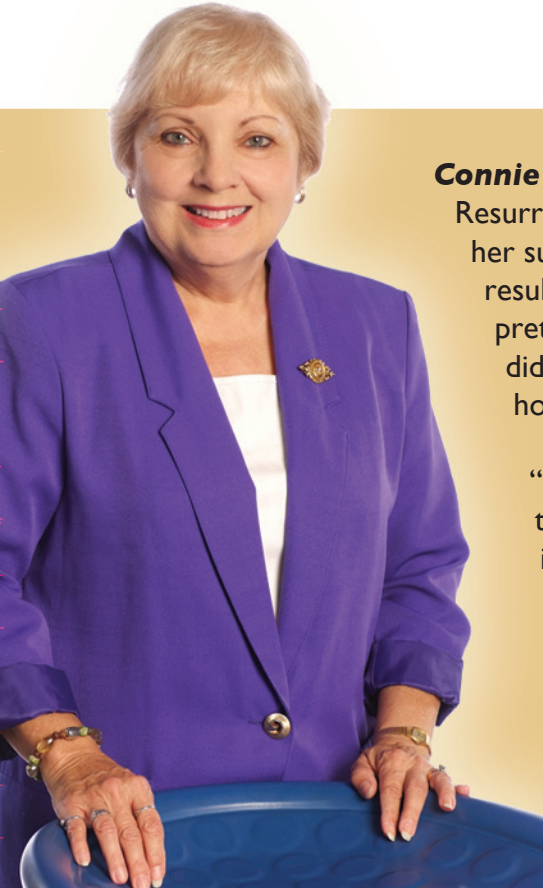
Malik Yousseff

Meet Malik Yousseff, a typical, energetic, and full of life preschooler.

He loves to watch movies like Milo and Otis and Babe and to color and play. But life wasn't so sure for him when he was born. In fact, he was struggling to make it through each day.

Malik was born at Sarasota Memorial Hospital with a rare condition called thrombocytopenia, which means that he developed antibodies against his mother's platelets. He required multiple transfusions, sometimes more than one a day, every day for about four weeks. In all, Malik received platelets from over 20 different donors.

His grandmother, Missy Dorr, explained that every transfusion that he received was from an unknown donor. "I'm thankful everyday for every single person who goes to the Blood Bank and donates and has no idea where it's going. They don't realize the impact. It was a whole community that saved my grandson's life," said Ms. Dorr.



Connie Buell

Connie Buell is a living miracle. Last June, she was on her way to volunteer at the Resurrection House when she was seriously injured in a car accident that resulted in her suffering multiple broken bones, a concussion and blood filling her lungs. As a result of her injuries, she needed two blood transfusions. For about a week she was pretty much incoherent. Doctors told her husband Earl on that first day that they didn't think she was going to survive. Connie spent about three weeks in the hospital, months rehabilitating at home, and now is doing much better.

"These blood donations saved my life. I wouldn't be here without it. I am so thankful," Connie says. Earl starts shedding a tear at this mention. "It's so important to donate. It really hits home when your wife needs blood."

Connie and Earl have also been on the giving end. They started donating blood about thirty years ago in Cincinnati. While they can't donate now, Earl volunteers his time taking blood units from the Blood Bank's lab to the various hospital floors and emergency room. For this couple, the connection with blood is in their blood. As a recipient. As a life giver. Together, they understand what it means to give and receive.

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