


# Automated Donations



## Time-Saving and Life-Saving

The pool of eligible blood donors is shrinking at an unprecedented rate. At the same time, our population continues to expand, and medical advances allow people to live longer than ever before. The result is an ever-widening gap between blood supply and demand.

One solution to remedy the disparity is automated blood collection instruments that allow donors to give specific components of their blood. This automated process is called apheresis (a fur ee sis) and allows SCBB staff to match the donation to each individual donor's physical make-up.

Automated donations can be used to collect red blood cells, platelets, plasma or any combination.

## Double Red Cell Donation

The most popular solution, preferred by many of our regular blood donors, is to double their gift at each visit by using the automated process. Red blood cells are the most frequently transfused blood component. By doing "double red cells" you can give just as many red cell donations in only three visits per year as whole blood donors give in six visits per year. And you receive two credits towards your League of Lifesavers rewards.

Double red donation takes approximately 20 minutes longer to complete than typical whole blood donation and uses a smaller and more comfortable needle.

## Platelets and Plasma Donation

**Platelets** are vital to life because they help prevent massive blood loss by aiding the clotting process. They are most frequently used in the treatment of cancer patients and organ transplants. The challenge is that platelets are only viable for five days after donation. The high demand and the exceedingly short shelf-life make platelet collections a tough balancing act.

**Plasma** is the fluid component of the blood that carries blood cells, nutrients and clotting factors throughout the body. Plasma is used to save patients with serious conditions such as severe burns, bleeding disorders and immune system dysfunction.

Platelet donations usually take just over one hour to complete. You may watch DVDs, listen to music, read or simply sit back and relax.



### Safe and Comfortable

Your comfort and safety are paramount. Donors routinely report the ease and positive benefits of automated donations. The procedure is supervised by our highly trained staff.



### Always in Demand

Patients need different types of blood components, depending upon their illness or injury. Automated donations provide an efficient way to fulfill the needs and aid in patient safety.



### For More Information

We want to answer all your questions about automated donation. Please contact Carlen Kelly at 941.954.1600 x1005 [ckelly@scbb.org](mailto:ckelly@scbb.org) or Brenda Szych at 941.485.4800 [bszych@scbb.org](mailto:bszych@scbb.org).

