

Someone's *life* depends on *YOU*.

Facts about Virginia Blood Services

- Founded in 1974 at the direction of the Richmond Academy of Medicine as Richmond Metropolitan Blood Service. Thirty years later, transfusions became the most common procedure performed during a hospital stay.
- Took Richmond in one year from a haphazard system of paid and volunteer blood sources to an all-volunteer blood supply.
- Is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation providing patient services throughout central Virginia. VBS is not affiliated with the American Red Cross.
- Employs more than 260 people and annually conducts more than 2,700 blood drives and collects nearly 130,000 donations.
- Operates eight donor centers: two in Richmond, two in Charlottesville and one each in Chester, Glen Allen, Fishersville and Harrisonburg.
- Is one of the largest volunteer efforts in central Virginia. Last year nearly 70,000 volunteers donated blood with VBS.
- Supplies all hospitals and numerous dialysis centers and home health agencies in Richmond, Petersburg, Hopewell, Charlottesville, the Staunton/Waynesboro area, Harrisonburg, South Hill, Emporia and Farmville.
- Provides the blood for nearly two thirds of the patients receiving organ transplants in Virginia.
- Receives excellent inspection reports from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Medicare and the American Association of Blood Banks.
- Governed by a volunteer board of directors made up of local medical and business leaders and counseled by a medical advisory committee comprised of prominent physicians.
- Receives no governmental funding and is not a United Way agency. Funding comes almost entirely from processing fees that are a portion of a patient's transfusion charges. These fees cover the cost of salaries, benefits, supplies, vehicles, laboratory equipment and other items required to make blood safe and available. Fundraising helps VBS completely cover its costs.

- Is a member of America's Blood Centers, a 77-member organization of independent, nonprofit, regional blood centers that provide more than half of our nation's blood supply and all of the Canadian blood supply. The rest of the U.S. supply is provided by the American Red Cross and hospital-based programs.

**The mission of Virginia Blood Services
is to inspire our communities
to provide a safe and
reliable blood supply
for the patients we serve.**