

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

Why you are needed

Approximately 4 million people need blood each year – one every few seconds. When people think of the need for blood, they often think of emergencies, but for thousands of Americans, it's a way of life.

People who suffer from cancer, heart disease, leukemia and other major illnesses need blood on a regular basis to survive.

Blood use varies greatly from patient to patient. Recently in central Virginia, a patient undergoing a procedure that would normally require four to six units of red blood cells required nearly 80!

The following examples are not uncommon:

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| Hip replacement | Two units red blood cells |
| Prostate cancer surgery | Two units red blood cells |
| Sickle cell disease | Up to four units red blood cells monthly |
| Leukemia | Ten to 12 units platelets weekly during treatment |
| Liver transplant | Ten units red blood cells 13 units fresh frozen plasma Ten units platelets |
| Heart transplant | Two to four units red blood cells |
| Bone marrow transplant | One to two units red blood cells weekly; Six to eight units platelets two to three times weekly for four to six weeks |

