

## BLOOD COMPATIBILITY CHART

	You Can Receive Red Cells From:	You Can Receive Platelets From:	You Can Receive Plasma From:
O-	O-	O-, A-, B-, AB-	O-, A-, B-, AB-
O+	O-, O+	O-, A-, B-, AB-	O-, A-, B-, AB-
A-	O-, A-	O-, A-, B-, AB-	A-, AB-
A+	O-, A-, O+, A+	O-, A-, B-, AB-	A-, AB-
B-	O-, B-	O-, A-, B-, AB-	B-, AB-
B+	O-, B-, O+, B+	O-, A-, B-, AB-	B-, AB-
AB-	O-, A-, B-, AB-	O-, A-, B-, AB-	AB-
AB+	O-, A-, B-, AB-, O+, A+, B+, AB+	O-, A-, B-, AB-	AB-



## The Mobile Clinic Project

2019 marks the second year that The UCLA Blood & Platelet Center has supported the Mobile Clinic Project at UCLA's initiative to provide blankets to homeless members of the Los Angeles community. Celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, The Mobile Clinic Project's mission "aims to improve the health outcomes and quality of life of individuals experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations in the greater Los Angeles area by connecting

them to the existing continuum of care."

The history of the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center's involvement goes back to the fall of 2018 when we offered our donors the opportunity to donate their "thank you gifts," in the form of sleeping bags, to clients served by the Mobile Clinic Project. Our second year of this collaboration was extremely successful thanks to our donors and UCLA student, Geena Conde, who served as liaison and coordinator of the effort. All told, in addition to their lifesaving blood & platelet donations, our generous donors provided 150 blankets to the Project.

Ms. Conde, is a fourth year Psychology/Biology Major and a Los Angeles native hailing from Boyle Heights. Her commitment to helping Los Angeles's underserved population began in High School when she tutored homeless children at the Union Rescue Mission on Skid Row. When Ms. Conde learned about volunteering to work with the Mobile Clinic Project, she saw a perfect intersection of her interests in the medical field and giving back to the community.

Ms. Conde remarked, "We give out about fifteen blankets a week, so they are definitely in high demand. I think everyone has the right to feel a sense of warmth and comfort. It's astonishing to see the gratitude some of our clients just have for things that we take for granted. I would pass out a toothbrush or a blanket and it would mean the world to them. It puts things in perspective especially when you're going to a school [UCLA] like this. I think you don't recognize your privilege all the time."

The spirit of giving is crucial to the missions of the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center and the Mobile Clinic Project. The winter months present unique challenges to the efforts of both enterprises and the local community's support is essential and greatly appreciated.

To learn more about the Mobile Clinic Project visit:

<https://www.mobileclinicproject.org/>

To make a lifesaving blood or platelet donation visit:

<https://www.uclahealth.org/gotblood/> or call (310) 825-0888 x2

### WINTER PROMOTION FOR PLATELET DONORS

**DONATE PLATELETS AND RECEIVE OUR 2019 LIMITED EDITION BLOOD & PLATELET CENTER HOODIE\***



\*While supplies last. Platelet donors may choose either the hoodie or 3 movie tickets. (Eligible employees will also receive blood time).

# FROM THE PAST...

**And now for some history:**

## **UCLA BLOOD & PLATELET CENTER – THE 1980s**

The 1980s were a huge growth era for our blood center. The first big change was the acquisition of an additional room in the back of the lab section of CHS which allowed for all of the blood center's activity to take place in a single location. Around this time the UCLA Medical Center initiated a policy to actively pursue an increase in the amount of blood collected for patients. In 1982 the first Donor Incentive Program (DIP) was implemented with the goal of getting more donors through the door. Although the DIP efforts were successful in generating more donations, blood product shortages persisted.

In 1983, researchers in the United States and France described the virus that causes AIDS, now known as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and its transmissibility through transfusion caused a major upheaval in the world of blood collection and transfusion. Suddenly, patients wanted blood from known donors and designated donor programs (now called directed donor programs) were initiated to fill this need. The UCLA Blood Center was at the forefront of this movement and well prepared to comply with the Paul Gann Blood Safety Act which took effect in 1989; mandating patients be given explicit warnings about blood safety and notification of transfusion alternatives.

Given that a large percentage of the American public distrusted the safety of the national blood supply, serious shortages resulted. Not only was there a diminishing supply of blood and platelet donations nationwide, but the addition of liver and heart transplant procedures at UCLA expanded the hospital's need for an increased supply of units.

The blood center at UCLA met the challenges of this decade admirably and the number of full-time employees grew to 50 collecting 8,000 units of whole blood and 1,500 units of platelets annually. Approximately 700-900 of these units were either Autologous or directed donor.

By the end of the 1980s, the expansion of the blood center once again required more space and additional rooms were requisitioned for blood and platelet collection. From the original single closet-like room containing all operations, the blood center now took up four rooms at CHS with therapeutic apheresis or apheresis for platelet collection procedures located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and whole blood collection on the A-Level.

Accommodating donors and serving the needs of patients is the purpose of the Blood & Platelet Center's activities and, in addition to blood shortages and shifting trends in public behavior, the very location of its operations has presented an ongoing challenge requiring inventive solutions. How the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center responded to the issue of space while continuing to expand and maintain the well-being of our blood supply will be detailed in the next newsletter.





## BLOOD DONATIONS SAVE LIVES

On March 20, 2018, Samantha Dawson was diagnosed with breast cancer. Soon after receiving the devastating diagnosis, she underwent two surgeries. Then, over the next eight months, she endured six sessions of chemotherapy. During these difficult months, Samantha continued to work and give her all to UCLA as an administrator at the Chancellor's Office. For her final round of treatment, the doctor determined that a blood transfusion was required, so she ended up receiving two units of blood at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

All products collected at the UCLA Blood and Platelet Center locations go directly to patients at the UCLA hospitals, so after her recovery, she decided to stop by the Ackerman Union branch to convey her gratitude to donors. "Without blood transfusions, I would not be here today," she expressed, "I encourage everyone to give."

Blood donations are an integral part in life-saving procedures on a daily basis. On average, someone requires a blood transfusion every two seconds. Patients who need blood range from trauma to cancer patients to patients with chronic diseases. Red cells are only stored up to 42 days and platelets are stored up to five days. This requires that there be a constant new supply of donations to ensure that the supply doesn't run out. However, this daily need for blood exponentially grows during a large-scale disaster due to the significant increase of people affected and injured. Additionally, this need is worsened because there is a delay between when the blood is donated and when the blood products become available for use.

Blood donations go through a rigorous testing process, which takes several days. After large-scale emergencies and disaster, we tend to see an overwhelming outpouring of people who go to donation centers to help. While this is great and should always be encouraged, donations made before a disaster are just as important. We need maintain a well-stocked supply of blood products in order to ensure that at any given time we are prepared for a large-scale event/need, and we can't do this without people like you.

### In FY 2018 / 2019

- UCLA Health provided 70,855 blood transfusions
- 79% of transfusions use blood collected by the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center
- Total Collections 56,062
- High school blood drives account for 70% of blood donations