

Do You Want to Save Lives?

Dear Branch Presidents,

In 2011, the ICF Live to Give Committee began; its mission to provide additional support to patients with Cooley's anemia, who require routine blood transfusions to survive, by raising awareness for and promoting the importance of blood donation. Committee members achieve these goals in the following ways:

- Write monthly articles for the ICF Bollettino to educate the community.
- Help branches and districts plan blood drives.
- Educate the ICF about Live to Give while dispelling myths that exist about blood and blood donation.
- Give blood to replenish the blood supply. A person can donate blood in honor of someone, something, or a disease such as Cooley's anemia or Cancer. Along these lines, designating donated blood for a specific individual is problematic and costly so what is recommended instead is donating blood in honor of a person or an occasion. We created the ICF Live to Give Post Card for this reason ó to give blood in honor of or in memory of someone or to celebrate an occasion (similar to ICF monetary donations).
- Plan an annual blood drive at convention. In the past 11 Convention Blood Drives we have collected 342 units of red blood cells, 4 units of whole red blood cells, 4 red blood cell/plasma and two units of plasma, saving 1,054 lives!

I am writing you today to ask if your branch would consider planning a blood drive at your church or in your community with our help? We have attached information on how to plan a blood drive as well as a list of blood banks by district. If you can provide a location, we will do everything we can to help and make your branches blood drive a success. Please contact me at carmensk@comcast.net or Laurice Levine at LLevine430@aol.com if you are interested. Thank you for your time and consideration. Together, we can save lives!

Sincerely,
Carmen Kilcullen
Apostolate-Charity/Live to Give Committee Chair