

Apheresis Platelet donors have a special commitment to saving lives through their continuous and frequent donations. Make the commitment today to donate platelets and save lives.

Apheresis Platelet Donation

It's Achievement.
It's Service.
It's Community.
It's being a Blood Donor.



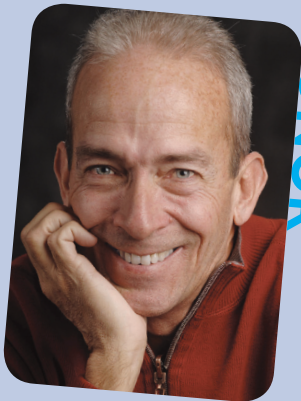
Contact Us
800.287.4903
www.lifeservebloodcenter.org



Howard Berkenbosch

Blood donors share a common commitment, the desire to help someone in need. Howard's commitment to saving lives is evident by

the number of gallons of blood he has donated throughout his lifetime. His donations provide the gift of life to someone he will probably never meet. "You just never know if you'll be the one to need blood at some point in time. I've been fortunate to be healthy and able to donate and I just believe it is the right thing to do to help others."



DONOR

What is an Apheresis Platelet donation?

An Apheresis Platelet donation is an automated donation procedure that allows donors to give six times the number of platelets normally collected during a Whole Blood donation. During this special donation process, the automation machine separates components in the blood, retains only the platelet cells and returns the remaining blood components (red cells and plasma), to the donor.

What is the difference between Whole Blood and Apheresis Platelet donations?

While a Whole Blood donation uses just one arm during a donation, an Apheresis Platelet donation uses both arms. Blood is drawn from one arm, passed through a cell-separating machine where the platelets are carefully removed and the remaining blood components are returned in the other arm. Because this is an automated collection process, the donation takes about one-and-a-half hours longer than a Whole Blood donation. To pass the time, donors relax in a contour chair and enjoy listening to music or watching DVD's.

Who is eligible to give an Apheresis Platelet donation?

- Donors who meet the general blood donor eligibility requirements, are at least 16 years of age or older (with a signed Parental/Guardian Permission Form), weigh 120 pounds and are in good general health.
- Donors who meet the same medical qualifications as Whole Blood donors.
- Donors who are willing to give approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours of time per donation.
- Donors who do not take medication containing aspirin 48 hours prior to donating.

How often can someone make an Apheresis Platelet donation?

Donors are eligible to give platelets every two weeks. Since platelets can only be stored for five days, the need for platelet donations is continuous. Donors must wait eight weeks after Whole Blood donations to give an Apheresis Platelet donation, but donors can give a Whole Blood donation just three days after a platelet donation.

Is the procedure dangerous?

NO! There is no risk of contracting any disease when donating platelets. Every type of blood donation, including Whole Blood, Double Red Cell and Apheresis Platelet, is performed using a sterile, disposable kit. Each disposable kit is used for only one donor and is discarded following the donation procedure.

Why should someone give an Apheresis Platelet Donation?

Platelets are essential for life, as they are blood cells that help control bleeding. When a blood vessel is damaged, platelets collect at the site of the injury and activate substances in plasma which form a clot and allow the wound to heal. Platelets are transfused frequently for:

- Cancer and leukemia patients
- Burn patients
- Transplant recipients
- Heart surgery
- Patients suffering from bleeding disorders

Questions?

Call LifeServe Blood Center at **800.287.4903** or email your questions to **blooddonor@lifeservebloodcenter.org**.

