

Your Baby's Cord Blood Could Save A Life.



Giving Mothers Something To Talk About

For more information, or to learn how you can participate, contact The Dan Berger Cord Blood Program at www.danbergercordblood.com

While sitting in the waiting area of Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC's bustling outpatient clinic, a pregnant Kellee Bell waited for her doctor. While waiting, she noticed Magee offered cord blood options through The Dan Berger Cord Blood Program.

Having had two children already — Khiron and Dae'Shaun — Kellee wondered if she could donate her baby's cord blood and was eager to learn how it could benefit others.

A couple of weeks after her doctor's appointment, she watched a TV commercial promoting cord blood donation to help a suffering child. After a successful stem cell transplant, this child was healed. It didn't take much more for a mother of a child with special needs to realize she was going to donate her third baby's cord blood hoping to provide a lifeline to give someone a second chance at life.

Kellee watched her son, Khiron, as he developed hearing difficulties and struggled with speech. It was a very hard time, said Kellee. Eventually, he was diagnosed with autism. Kellee didn't hesitate to call Mary Wiegel, the cord blood manager, to discuss her cord blood donation options. "By donating cord blood it is a good idea and is something that can be remembered forever. I hope there's a few children that we can save just by donating," says Kellee.

After meeting with Mary on a few occasions, she eagerly awaited the birth of her baby girl, Janyah Nicole, to make this one-of-a-kind donation.

Kellee is so passionate about donating cord blood that one day while in the outpatient clinic's waiting room she asked another pregnant mother what she was doing with her baby's cord blood. After much conversation, she handed this mother a Dan Berger Cord Blood Program brochure and told her that the cord blood will be discarded if she doesn't make a decision, "so why not bless someone?"

Kellee wants other mothers to put themselves in someone else's shoes, a mother who has to watch their child suffer. "Donating cord blood is a blessing. Donate that cord, don't be selfish." Kellee hopes to volunteer at the outpatient clinic to educate other moms that if they don't make a cord blood decision "they are missing out on the circle of life." She is glad cord blood is giving mothers something to talk about.