Mike and Sara Cline celebrated their son Liam’s first birthday by holding a Red Cross blood drive in Anaconda. Sara needed 25 units of blood after giving birth to Liam.

Mom recruits 29 first-time donors

Sara Cline celebrated her son Liam’s first birthday recently, an unforgettable milestone she wouldn’t have been able to share with him if not for the generosity of blood donors.

A project engineer who lives in Anaconda, Sara had a relatively easy pregnancy. But when the day finally came, Sara had to be induced, and her medical team performed an emergency cesarean section after almost 24 hours of labor.

On May 14, 2020, Liam was born healthy, but shortly after Sara was moved to the recovery room, her blood pressure crashed and she felt like she might pass out. Doctors found the source of the bleeding and performed surgery to fix it, but she still wasn’t stabilizing. Then they discovered a much bigger issue – a rupture in her uterine artery causing severe hemorrhaging.

See healthy baby, page 3

Welcome

Andrew Harper is the new Disaster Program Manager, servicing Eastern Montana. Andrew comes to the American Red Cross after a career in the health care industry and as Disaster Emergency Services Director for Musselshell County. He worked with multi-county agencies and stakeholders to develop strategies for a more resilient community. He is also a volunteer EMT.

Andrew lives in Eastern Montana with his wife and three daughters. He enjoys amateur radio, sailing, boating, and being outdoors.

BLOOD DESPERATELY NEEDED

The American Red Cross is experiencing a severe blood shortage nationwide as the number of trauma cases, organ transplants and elective surgeries rise, and frequent donors hit the road for summer vacations. Please help keep shelves stocked and make sure lifesaving blood is available for patients like Sara by scheduling a donation today. Visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 800-RED CROSS. A donation takes less than an hour and potentially can save up to three lives.

40 years of joy, ingenuity, mileage

It was 1981 and Eric Beasley was working for United Van Lines in Boise when a friend mentioned that the American Red Cross was looking for a driver to go out to blood draws. Eric didn’t think much about it until one slow day on the job when his boss told him to either go paint the warehouse or take the rest of the day off.

Eric decided it was finally time to pay the Red Cross a visit. Four decades later, Eric agrees that was a good decision.

“I still look at it and say ‘wow, how did that happen?”’ Eric joked.

See joy, page 3
Key volunteer jobs open

Energy, passion indispensable

Four important volunteer positions are open in the region, and the Red Cross is looking for leaders to fill them.

Logistics, Regional Program Lead – Do you have a passion for resource management and strategy? If so, you may be a perfect fit for the Logistics Regional Program Lead position. The position provides oversight for the logistics activities: Facility Management, Inventory, Donations, Supply, Procurement, and more. If you are interested, please email Regional Disas- ter Officer Peggy Smith at peggy.smith@redcross.org or by phone at (208) 789-3352.

Donor Ambassador: Green donors during a blood drive, answer questions, help them work through any issues, thank them and create a favorable impression.

Location: Onsite at blood drives.

Qualifications, Key Tasks:
• Communicate in a professional manner with diverse populations.
• Demonstrate excellent customer service and comfort working with people.
• Manage the reception process by ensuring each donor is warmly greeted and assisted with initial intake according to the appoint- ment priority system.
• Manage the hospitality experience by performing refreshments to don- nors, thanking them for their contribution, and offering to schedule their next donation ap- pointment.

Time commitment: One 4–6 hour shift per month for six months.

Need availability: M-F during hours when blood drives are held.

Primary locations: Missoula, Havre, Pocatello, Twin Falls and Lewiston.

COVID GUIDELINES. As the country continues to open up, the Red Cross has followed the CDC’s lead in establishing guidelines regarding staff and employ- ees.

Here are the guidelines from into effect the Red Cross in late May.

• Fully vaccinated work- force (paid and volunteers) will no longer need to wear a mask while conducting Red Cross business – including previously restricted face-to-face interac- tions – as long as they avoid large groups.

Mass Care, Regional Program Lead – Are you seeking a new challenge and an opportunity to guide our region’s client-facing mass care mission? If so, the Mass Care Regional Program Lead position may be what you’re looking for. This position oversees the regional feeding leads, sheltering leads, distribution of emergency supplies leads, and reunification leads. Contact: Ted Koeming at ted.koeming@redcross.org or 406-360-0647.

Sheltering, Regional Program Lead – Providing care and comfort in the Red Cross’ Disaster Services mission. If you would like the opportunity to support and build capacity in this critical mission area, the Sheltering Regional Program Lead is a fantastic chance to do that. Contact: Ted Koeming at ted.koeming@redcross.org or 406-360-0647.

Training, Regional Training Lead – Do you think training is important? Would you like to see the Idaho and Montana Region offer more training opportunities? If so, this position works with leadership and a training team to learn, offer and coordinate training.

If interested, please contact Disaster Program Manager Peggy Smith at peggy.smith@redcross.org, or by phone at (208) 789-3352.

Donor support a rewarding task

New volunteer positions open up all the time, and In The Know keeps you up to date on changes. Also, check out the new T-shirt design below, and be sure to join your fellow volunteers for social time in July. Keep reading!

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN

Donors are motivated by a variety of factors. Some donors are motivated by the recognition their efforts bring. For example, a donor might be motivated by good social interactions, being part of their community, supporting a cause, receiving a thank you note, or by showing gratitude for the experience. Other donors might be motivated by the feeling of giving back and helping others.

To help address any questions, please call 1-877-291-6005.

Logistics, Regional Program Lead – does not have the mission or interest in the Red Cross’ Disaster Services mission. If you would like to learn more about the mission and how you can help, please email Regional Program Lead Maggie Gilbert at maggie.gilbert@redcross.org.

KETCHUP WITH FRIENDS. These social ses- sions with volunteers have provided many lighthearted moments. Please consider joining us for our fall session, and sign up to win a door prize. These socials were joy Baxter and Peter Davidson. We would love to have addi- tional event team members to help us plan more fun events like this one.

If you are interested, please contact Nate Gilbert at Nathan.Gilbert@redcross.org.

Join this Microsoft Teams meeting on your computer or mobile app at 7:30
Joy: Jack-of-all-trades thrives at Red Cross

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Eric hung up his Red Cross vest for the final time on June 4, 40 years and a few months after the first time he walked through the door for the first time. During that time Eric has adapted to tremendous change, driven “a million miles” and seen a lot of amazing work.

“I believe in the Red Cross mission – it’s huge,” he said. “It helps people – patients who need blood and those we serve through CPR and safety classes and disaster response. This is a great organization. I’m proud to have worked for them all these years. That’s what kept me here.”

Eric spent his first 10 years at the Red Cross as a mobile unit driver, driving a box truck to blood drives across Idaho and into Washington and Eastern Ore- gon “and everywhere in between,” helping load and unload equipment. He also ended up upon occasion to come to the rescue during the inevitable crisis that comes with frequent road trips across a vast, remote region.

“I had three years of auto mechanics in high school,” the Boise native said. “And then my dad was a certified air- craft mechanic, so we worked on every- thing and that was pretty handy when I was on the road. I remember pulling a starter out of a box truck on a snowy day in Sun Valley because I knew what to do to fix it.”

Back then there were only four nurses at Red Cross blood drives with some pretty ambitious goals during a four- hour draw.

“We had some pretty long days,” he said.

And of course, there were a lot of snowy roads and white-knuckle driving. Eric remembers a trip back from Washington State University when he came around a corner and discovered a car tipped on its side with the driver still inside. The driver was able to climb out a window and together they tipped the car back on its wheels. They got the car started and away he went.

“I don’t recall in all the years I drove not making it to a site due to weather,” Eric said.

He also spent some windshield time at 15,000 feet with the Civil Air Patrol as they delivered blood collected at mobile drives back to Boise so they could process the plasma in time.

“Usually it was a Cessna 172 or 182 – a small plane,” he said. “It was really interesting … it was an eye on that gauge for me or ‘if you see any other airplanes let me know.’

Pen and paper reigned supreme when he started his time in hospital services assisting with blood storage and distri-
bution.

“I was here when there were no computers,” he said. “Everything was handwritten. Then comes the computer age and that was quite the change.

He said some of the most memorable were “nerve-racking” – times came dur-
ing surprise Food and Drug Administra-
tion inspections.

“I remember the first time we had an FDA inspector come in, my boss wasn’t there so it was me and I had never even been in one before,” he said. “That was pretty exciting.”

But as always, Eric found a way to get the job done.

“At one time there was a military Dale Gray, a Red Cross nurse stationed in a hospital blood unit in Alaska during the Vietnam War. Dale was from Moscow, ID and was making a stop at Missoula, MT.

The Clines signed up to participate in the donor drive at Mike and Sara’s Red Cross blood drive.

Over the last 40 years, Dale has donated over 113 units of blood. He is proud of his record.

Story by Matt Ochsner

Healthy baby: Mom, dad beat donor goal

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She was rushed into surgery again to repair the tear.

It was a fairly small window and together they tipped the car back on its wheels. They got the car started and away he went.

“By that point, Sara had lost so much blood her body went into shock and her blood was no longer able to clot. They placed her on a helicopter bound for Missoula, and every second mat-
tered.

When the time came I was on my own and I was just on the edge,” she said. “I remember pulling a ton of things at once and I remember thinking ‘This can’t be happening.’

But there was something that just went perfectly right,” she said.

They included three members of Sara’s medical team and 29 first donors.

“That was my No. 1 motivator for doing the blood drive — I felt like it owed it to the donors who saved my life to replenish the blood I used,” she said.

Sara said she hopes to continue donating when she personally gives 25 units of blood, and she wants others to come give it a try — even those who might be a little afraid of needles.

“It’s a little tiny poke and it makes all the difference in somebody’s life,” she said. “For us, our son knows his mom because of people who were able to do that.”

— Story by Matt Ochsner