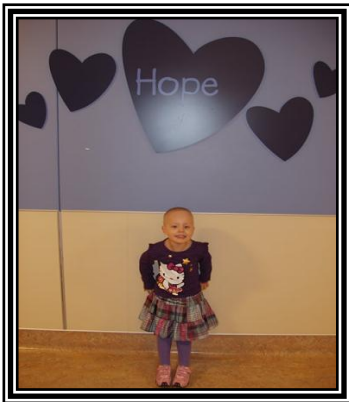


## Our Organization is Saving Lives! Book Your Appointment to Give Blood with our Team

**Scouts/Girl Guides of Canada** is a proud member of Canadian Blood Services's *Partners for Life* program. As a *Partner for Life*, we have pledged to donate **175** donations in 2010.

As of **October 25, 2010** we have donated **162** units of life-saving blood and platelets. We need your help to reach our annual life-saving goal and to help hospital patients like Ava who need blood every minute of every day.



*Written by her Aunt Linda Allen-Hardisty- Regina*

Inspired by her niece, Ava Melnychuk, Linda Allen-Hardisty recently became a regular blood donor. One month before her second birthday, Ava was diagnosed with a rare form of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), so rare that she is one of three known cases in North America.

It was terrifying news for Ava's parents as they listened in disbelief to the doctor state that their baby has cancer...words that no parent should ever have to hear.

In an instant, Ava's daily routine of living the life of an active toddler transformed into days full of chemotherapy treatments, medical procedures and numerous red blood cell transfusions and platelet transfusions. Everyone gained strength from Ava as she embraced a new world of meeting new people, the loving doctors and nurses who became her new family for almost a year.

Our family adopted an unwavering positive vision that saw Ava go into remission after the first of five rounds of chemotherapy. A relief at first however Ava's journey to complete the remainder of her treatment became tougher as she fought bouts of infections and a weakened immune system.

Ava received at least a hundred red blood cell transfusions and platelet transfusions, mostly platelets. Due to a few complications, Ava was rushed to intensive care in respiratory distress.

During this time when Ava was so sick, there were no platelets available for her much needed transfusion. It was extremely upsetting to her parents because the lack of a platelet transfusion put her at higher risk of bleeding, especially internally.

Platelets finally arrived the next morning from out of province. It was at this moment that Linda gained a whole new perspective of what is meant by "It's in you to give". No child should ever have to wait for blood or platelets ever again ... EVER.

A week after she celebrated her third birthday, Ava's parents were informed that she had relapsed and her leukemia returned, meaning Ava now required a bone marrow transplant and numerous red blood cell transfusions and platelets again.

Fortunately, a live bone marrow match was found for Ava and received her bone marrow transplant at the Alberta's Children's Hospital in January 2010. Her transplant was successful and Ava came home in June. She is happy being at home with her dogs, toys, and family and is enjoying the sunny weather like a three-year old should!



*“Ava’s treatment was critically dependent upon donors’ generous commitment to make time to donate blood and platelets.*

*Ava adamantly informed her mom ‘I will get better, mommy, I told you!’ We believe Ava knows that YOU will be there for her. Deep within my heart, I treasure your precious gift for Ava.”*

*– Linda Allen-Hardisty, blood donor*

Every year, thousands of Canadians like Ava depend on volunteer blood donors. Blood is used every day to treat patients with bleeding disorders, individuals undergoing surgery, transplant recipients, cancer patients, trauma patients such as collision victims, newborn babies and many others. You can help by donating blood with our **Partners for Life** team and help us make a final push towards achieving our annual commitment to Canadian Blood Services. Here’s how to get involved:

### **Book Your Appointment Today**

Call 1 888 2 DONATE (1 888 236-6283) to find a blood donor clinic near you and to book your appointment to donate this fall. You can also find clinic information at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca). Appointments are recommended at all clinics.

### **November is:**

**The 2010 Banker’s Blood Donor Challenge** so if you are employed by a financial institution or your family, friends and neighbours are please sign the sign-in sheet at our front reception when you arrive to donate.

### **Promotions going on at Canadian Blood Services:**

- **Bleed Green Campaign** draws for pair of tickets even play-off game.
- **Life Saving Hat Tricks** with the Saskatoon Blades – 3 visits during The Blades season and enter for a draw for a pair of 2011-2012 season tickets and other prizes.

### **Register for Partners for Life**

You must register to have your donations count towards our annual donation goal. An accurate total of our contribution means we will be recognized and celebrated for all we do to support Canada’s blood program. Register at [www.blood.ca/joinpartnersforlife](http://www.blood.ca/joinpartnersforlife). You will need our Partner ID number: #SCOU008370 or tell the receptionist at Canadian Blood Services when you arrive and they can see that you are registered. Once you register, your future donations will automatically be counted towards our annual goal. Any donations that you already made in 2010 will also be counted.

### **For More Information**

Questions about giving blood? Visit [www.blood.ca/eligibility](http://www.blood.ca/eligibility) or call **1 888 2 DONATE** and ask to speak to a nurse. You can also follow these links to learn more:

[Who Needs Blood?](#)  
[Donation Process](#)

Questions about our *Partners for Life* team? Contact your Girl Guides volunteer PFL rep, **Cathie Drinkwater**, at 664-6124.

**Thank you for giving blood with our Partners for Life Team!**