



Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank

Good Tidings for a Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on all the many wonderful events of the past year, we are filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. We are so thankful for our generous cord blood donor families and the support received from the community. It is our privilege to work with the most dedicated doctors, nurses and medical staff who volunteer their time to collect cord blood. We are humbled by the selflessness around us and it is this that inspires us to do even greater things. Before we welcome the New Year, we'd like to thank you all and take a moment to celebrate a few highlights from 2017.

HCBB Reaches 219th Transplant, Maui Receives Its First!

We are excited to share that we reached our 219th transplant in 2017! The accumulation of cord blood units banked in past years resulted in an amazing 19 transplants this year. To top that off, our 219th transplant was from a cord blood unit collected on Maui. This is Maui's first and much anticipated transplant since the program's start in May of 2012!

An umbilical cord blood transplant is undoubtedly life-changing for the recipients, but also has a deeply resounding effect on all who share in the collection effort. Meet one of our Nurses, Sue Byers and hear her story...



John and Sue Byers with grandson, Cody

My name is Sue Byers. I am a labor and delivery nurse who had the pleasure of working at Queens Medical Center for over four years. When I started at Queens in June of 2012, one of my least favorite tasks of my job was Hawaii Cord Blood collection. It was a tedious task that required following numerous steps. If one of your knots was not tight enough, the sample was rejected.

On 11/21/12, I was diagnosed with Chronic Leukemia. While my disease was not an aggressive one, many people with CLL do require transplants. I approached my HCBB task in a new light after that day. A cancer diagnosis is a life changer. Stem cell transplant is a life saver.

I left Hawaii in 11/16. On 11/21/17 was my five year anniversary of my diagnosis. On 11/22/17 I received a text from Lisa saying that one of the units I collected had been transplanted into a leukemia patient. I was elated! I had not given much thought as to where the

units went and certainly never expected to be informed if one was actually transplanted. The family who donated the cord blood was also notified of their gift.

So to all you nurses collecting cord blood for HCBB, tie your knots at the right length and you may soon receive a call like I did. It is an indescribable feeling. Thank you to all the families who donate their cord blood and HCBB for making it all possible.

A Hui Hou

-Sue



Big and Banked Winners for 2016

The results for last year's Pump Up the Volume contest have been confirmed! The "Big & Banked" winner for largest banked cord blood unit collected went to Dr. Mikiko Yazawa-Bunn and team! Their winning unit was a hefty **292 grams**! Congratulations to Dr. Yazawa-Bunn and to all of the winners! Thank you for making "Volume Vital"!

2017's Pump Up the Volume winners to be announced in the next couple of months.

1st Place: 292 grams
Dr. Mikiko Yazawa-Bunn, Eryn Shon, RN & Lorraine Baxa, RN
Kapi'olani Medical Center

2nd Place: 250 grams
Dr. Rebecca Bicker, Ashley Welch, RN & Alicia Kalama-Kaikala, RN
Maui Memorial Medical Center

3rd Place: 234 grams
Dr. Lindsey Choi, Nicole Kronebusch, & Mary Weisgram, RN

4th Place: 230 grams
Dr. Allison Moore, Chelsey Harbottle, RN & Elena McGuire, RN
Castle Medical Center

5th Place: 223 grams
Dr. Nathan Fujita, Laura Greer, RN & Karen Rayl, RN
Queen's Medical Center

6th Place: 213 grams
Connie Conover, CNM, Sandi Kline, RN & Jena Kimata, RN

HCBB Umbilical Cord Blood Seminar held on Maui

Last year we launched a series of umbilical cord blood seminars in Honolulu that met with such rave reviews that we continued it again this year. The positive feedback prompted us to take the show on the road to Maui!

The very first seminar in Maui was held on October 17, 2017 at the Bistro Casanova in Wailuku. Dr. Randal Wada impressed the attendees who were hearing him speak for the first time on the latest in transplant, cellular therapy and the role of umbilical cord blood. All events were very well received and we look forward to keeping these seminars ongoing.



Dr. Randal Wada speaking to doctors and nurses in Maui

Aloha Susan and Welcome Barbara!



From left to right, Susan Valentine, Barbara Lee and Lisa Wong-Yamamoto

After four years of hard work and dedication to the Hawai'i Cord Blood Program on Maui, we bid Susan Valentine, our Nurse Educator, a fond farewell and big Mahalo. Sue was a Labor and Delivery nurse at Maui Memorial Hospital with over 30 years of nursing experience. In 2013 she joined HCBB part-time to help educate and facilitate cord blood collections in Maui.

Though we will miss her dearly, we are excited to share that Sue will now be enjoying retirement full-time! Congratulations on your retirement Sue, and thank you for all the love you put into building the Maui Program.

To help us on location in Maui, Barbara Lee, RN has joined HCBB and will be coordinating our efforts there at Maui Memorial Hospital. Welcome Barbara!

Reece Toyama Golf Tournament Fundraiser

The Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank was fortunate to be selected as this year's recipient of the Reece Toyama Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament. The Golf Tournament was held on October 6, 2017 at the Pearl Country Club and raised \$10,000 for the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank.

Founded by Derek Toyama, the Reece Toyama Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical assistance and promoting youth sports to Hawai'i's keiki.

<http://www.reecetoyamafoundation.org>.

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to Derek and the Reece Toyama Foundation for the generous donation. It was an unexpected honor and we are deeply grateful to have been chosen. Mahalo Nui Loa!



Derek Toyama (Reese Toyama Foundation) and Dr. Randal Wada

Thank you to our HCBB Donors!

We wouldn't be here without our donors and would like to thank the many individuals as well as corporate and non-profit organizations who have generously supported us.

Friends of Hawai'i Charities – On May 31, 2017, the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank was honored with a generous grant of \$5,000 from the Friends of Hawai'i Charities in support of our program. In addition, HCBB participated in their **Aloha for Hawai'i Charities** fundraising campaign and received a percentage match donation of \$7,527.86 which included a generous \$1,000 designation from the Chan Foundation. We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the Friends of Hawai'i Charities, Inc. and the Chan Foundation for their thoughtful charitable contributions.

The Friends of Hawai'i Charities is the event host of the Sony Open in Hawai'i and was formed for the purpose of raising funds for Hawai'i charities. Through their charity partnership with The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc., they have been able to distribute \$16 million over the years to programs like ours.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan – HCBB received a grant of \$27,500 on June 29, 2017 from the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. (KFHP) in support of our Maui Program. The funds will be used to continue umbilical cord blood collections on Maui.

Hawaiian Electric Inc. – On December 1, 2017 the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank received a generous donation of \$5,000 from the HEI Charitable Foundation on behalf of the Hawaiian Electric Company. This charitable contribution was designated through the Aloha United Way Campaign. We would like to send a special thank you to HEI and the Aloha United Way for their continued support of HCBB!

Aloha United Way – HCBB was chosen again to be an Aloha United Way Partner Agency! This has enabled AUW donations to be allocated directly to the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank. We are grateful to be included in their fundraising campaign.

39th Annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk – The 39th Annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk "A Tradition of Giving" took place on May 20, 2017 in Honolulu. Sponsored by the Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association, the event was a success, helping to raise funds for Hawai'i's charities. The Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank was one of many organizations to benefit from the community fundraiser. We would like to send a big MAHALO to HLTA for their donation and long-standing support of non-profit organizations in Hawaii.

There are a few special people we would like to thank, Dr. Thomas Kosasa and Mr. Nathan Yoshizaki for their incredible support over the years. And last but not least, we are so grateful to our dedicated Board of Directors who volunteer their time to HCBB. Thank you to all for making it possible!

Our newsletter would not be complete without our most precious donor babies! These adorable faces are the reason why we are here and we thank them and their families for their life-giving gift!



The need for contributions for charitable organizations grows with each year and so it is with a humble heart, we thank you for your continued support. It is because of you that the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank is able to carry out its mission to save lives. Thank you very much.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2018!

Mahalo and Aloha,
Your friends at the Hawai'i Cord Blood Bank



HCBB Staff (from left to right): Allison Sears, Lynette Matsumoto, Dr. Randal Wada, Linda Watanabe and Lisa Wong-Yamamoto