

Blood Donation

I have lived in Montrose for over thirty years and have been impressed by the many unique features and attributes Montrose has. Two unique features stand out in my mind, one very visible and known, and one that is not so famous. We are very lucky to have one of the few remaining and operating drive in movie theaters in the Country. My family and I have spent many enjoyable summer evenings watching movies at the Star Drive In.

Just as unique and rare is our own Montrose Memorial walk in blood bank. For over forty years the majority of blood transfused into patients in Montrose has come from local volunteer donors; “Friends and Family Caring for Friends and Family”. Very few community hospitals in the United States have walk in blood banks and instead buy their blood from large blood donor organizations like the Red Cross, United Blood Services, or Bel Bonfils. Not here in Montrose. Over 95% of the blood products transfused in Montrose are collected and processed here at our hospital. This is a very unique and rare situation. In order for your blood to be used locally and benefit patients at MMH or at our San Juan Cancer Center, you must donate blood at the hospital blood bank.

When portable blood mobiles are brought to town for “blood drives,” all of the blood collected goes out of our community and is not used here in Montrose for our patients. I am not sure everyone understands that. Giving blood at these blood drives is commendable but it does not benefit our local patients.

Fortunately, we at MMH have a special group of dedicated donors who have helped us meet our local needs. If you would like to donate for our own patients it is easy process. It starts with a call to our Blood Bank at MMH 240-7223. By joining our donor list you can ensure that your blood will be used locally and benefit “friends, neighbors, and family.”

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