IN TIMES OF CHANGE

One of my stress-coping mechanisms during COVID-19 is gardening. I enjoy the act of gardening itself, and then, of course, I take great pleasure in seeing the flowers and shrubs thrive. This year, I had a bed of lilies that bloomed with such exuberance I thought they might thrive through the winter! They were a delight each day.

In many ways, that reflects how I think about Bloodworks. It is a joy to see this garden nurtured and thriving — to produce amazing results.

A few examples of things we’re done and are doing:

- We set an intention last year to address our blood inventory, and with extraordinary engagement from the community, it has stabilized and remains steady.
- We committed to accelerate discoveries that depend upon blood products, and Bloodworks Bio has grown multiple times over.
- And, we decisively reduced our overhead, by roughly $5 million this fiscal year.

Then, in the midst of the pandemic, we adapted in many different ways: innovating how we collect blood; implementing safety protocols needed to ensure our staff and donors could do their work and make their donations safely; and aggressively scaling a convalescent plasma program to treat patients with the virus.

We are making active gains on determining the best use of our real estate, shifting to work from home where possible; investing in the digital experience to meet what is now an expectation of our donors; rejuvenating our research program; and investing in Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging training.

An enormous body of work has been completed, and it is working. We are seeing strong performance across the board at Bloodworks. Some, better than we’ve seen in years!

This time of change requires creativity, agility and resilience… attributes we are using every day.

We are nurturing this beautiful garden that is Bloodworks, and we are producing beautiful results, for our community’s benefit.

Kindly,

Curt Bailey, MBA
President and CEO
Bloodworks Northwest

COMMUNITY IMPACT/
JULY 1, 2019-JUNE 30, 2020

Faced with the challenge of a global pandemic, our community stepped up like never before. We have experienced our highest levels of blood inventory in the last 5 years, and since April 2020, we are import-free.

190,356
SUCCESSFUL BLOOD COLLECTIONS

283
POP UP DONOR CENTER DRIVES

9,628
POP UP DONOR CENTER COLLECTIONS

1,934
COLLECTIONS (WA, HI)

21
UNITS DISTRIBUTED FOR TRANSPLANTATION

WASHINGTON CENTER FOR APHERESIS THERAPY
5,852 PATIENT PROCEDURES

BLOODWORKS TRANSFUSION SERVICE LABS
26,398 BLOOD COMPONENTS ISSUED

BLOODWORKS HLA TESTING
468 ENABLED SOLID ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

AGILITY/ When we collected Washington’s first COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP) unit on April 10, 2020, Bloodworks Northwest made national news.

CONVALESCENT PLASMA CCPa represents a bold departure from how blood centers like Bloodworks typically operate. By dovetailing research and community donations, we mobilized quickly to collect our first unit of antibody-rich CCP just weeks after the initial Stay At Home order in March, 2020.

This program speaks to the depth and breadth of our organization, touching every department within Bloodworks Northwest. For more than 75 years, Bloodworks has been the region’s top resource for all things blood. Our world-renowned researchers and medical staff work beside our specialized product team to develop agile solutions to collect, process, and distribute biological products to scientists across the country, enabling us to amplify the generosity of our donor community.

“Everyone continues to pull out the stops and get a lot done really fast,” said Aaron Posey, Executive Vice President of Bloodworks Bio.

To date, Bloodworks has collected more than 2,400 CCP units for participating hospitals, and the numbers keep growing. While we’re all anxiously waiting for a vaccine, CCP therapy provides a glimmer of hope for critically ill patients.

TOGETHER.

SAVING LIVES THROUGH RESEARCH, INNOVATION, EDUCATION, AND EXCELLENCE IN BLOOD, MEDICAL, AND LABORATORY SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITY.
The Hope of the World

SHEILA JULICH, COVID-19 CONVALESCENT PLASMA DONOR

By Bill Harper

In March of this year, the daily operations of Bloodworks Northwest were abruptly interrupted. All mobile blood drives and 60% of our ability to collect blood, canceled overnight. “Our blood supply is at risk of collapse” stated our President and CEO, Curt Bailey, on local television. It was time to respond and adapt.

Just as Bloodworks itself was born from crisis during WWII, so too was our path forward in this new, strange, and socially-distanced world. Community partners flocked to our aid and offered their spaces to host first-ever, weeks-long Pop-Up Donor Centers, and blood donors answered in kind, with a record-setting summer that included 50k donations, 10k first-time donors, and a day in March that exceeded the number of blood donations we had received on 9/11. When faced with the worst, we became our best, and Bound by Blood we became.

Soon after the first cases of COVID-19 emerged in the Pacific Northwest, Bloodworks launched its COVID-19 convalescent plasma program – the first in the nation – that collects antibody-rich plasma from people recovered from the disease and gives it to patients currently sick with the virus. This pioneering path – over a century old – marks a turning point for some severely ill patients and offers us all a ray of hope in a story suffused by powerlessness.

Among Bloodworks’ first convalescent plasma donors was 79-year-old Sheila Julich, an on-call nurse at Life Care Center in Kirkland, WA, the very nursing home that became known as the United States’ first COVID-19 outbreak epicenter. Sheila was one of the first positive cases at Life Care to survive the virus. “I couldn’t be there to say goodbye,” she said of the friends and residents she lost, 37 in all.

But after she’d recovered fully, a doctor at Life Care told her about Bloodworks’ convalescent plasma program, and without hesitation, she made an appointment. It was an opportunity, she said, to make the difference she couldn’t make while she herself was sick.

Sheila is one of the hundreds of Bloodworks convalescent plasma donors since April. These donations have treated patients nationwide, as well as advanced research for a cure. Neighbors helping neighbors, and more than anything else, it’s hope.

“I felt lucky and blessed that I made it through, and I wanted to help somebody else if possible.”

Sheila is one of the hundreds of Bloodworks convalescent plasma donors since April. These donations have treated patients nationwide, as well as advanced research for a cure. Neighbors helping neighbors, and more than anything else, it’s hope.

To hear Sheila’s story in her own words, listen to her episode of our podcast, Bloodworks 101, titled The Grandma with Superpowers.
We adapted overnight to a new normal we couldn’t have predicted, we built new community partnerships and strengthened existing ones for the good of all, and we found a new name for what drives us, **BOUND BY BLOOD** that epitomizes our most fundamental truth: we are strongest together.
A PROMISING NEW TREATMENT FOR HEMOPHILIA A

A study led by Dr. Barbara Konkle demonstrated clinical evidence of a new long-acting treatment for hemophilia A. This treatment could dramatically extend the amount of time a patient can go between treatments, dramatically improving their quality of life. In March, Dr. Konkle’s findings were published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine.

COLD-STORRED PLATELETS

Dr. Moritz Stolla has evaluated platelet storage methodologies and developed technology for storing platelets in the refrigerator instead of at room temperature. This enables better platelet function, and in many settings including the battlefield, cold-stored platelets may be a better clinical choice. This fall, Dr. Stolla launched a new clinical study to investigate the effectiveness of cold-stored platelets in cardiac surgery patients.

A NEW MASS SPECTROMETER

Our Mass Spectrometry Core facility, led by Dr. Xiaoyun Fu, installed a new LC-Mass Spectrometer. This state-of-the-art equipment, which will be used to advance blood research by all of our investigators, was made possible by charitable grants from MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, Washington Research Foundation, and the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation.

COVID-19 is a disease that targets and sabotages blood vessels – resulting in medical complications that impact the brain, kidney, heart, and lungs of patients. Rooted in our expertise and capabilities in blood science, Bloodworks Research Institute is uniquely suited to understand how COVID-19 starts, progresses, and ultimately, how it can be beaten.

Dr. Jill Johnsen, an expert in the genetics of blood groups, launched a study to determine if ABO blood type is a risk factor for COVID-19 infection and severity. Utilizing samples from individuals who have recovered from COVID-19, Dr. Dominic Chung & Dr. José López are leading the development of antibodies capable of blocking entry of the virus into cells.
I SPEAK FOR ALL TRUSTEES WHEN I EXPRESS MY SINCEREST GRATITUDE TO EVERY EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER, DONOR, AND COMMUNITY PARTNER WHO STOOD WITH US THIS YEAR TO PROVE THAT EVEN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, RACIAL STRIFE, WILDFIRES, AND A CRATERING ECONOMY CANNOT KEEP US FROM HELPING OTHERS.

THIS HASN’T BEEN AN EASY YEAR, BUT AS IT DRAWS TO A CLOSE, ONE THING IS CLEAR: THIS WAS THE TIME WHEN WE WERE REMINDED OF WHAT WE’VE MADE OF. AND WHAT WE’VE DONE, THE LIVES WE’VE SAVED, THE HOPE WE’VE CREATED – THAT ALL FEELS MUCH MORE LIKE A BEGINNING THAN AN END.

OUR COMMUNITY’S NEED FOR BLOOD DOESN’T STOP. FROM WHAT WE’VE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR, WE HAVE BUT ONE WAY TO PROCEED: BOLDLY, PROUDLY, EMPOWERED, AND FULL OF HOPE.

Sean Signom, Chair, Bloodworks Northwest Board of Trustees

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS/
OUR WORK TO SAVE AND ENHANCE LIVES SIMPLY ISN’T POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS/
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THESE GENEROUS COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, BLOODWORKS NORTHWEST IS ABLE TO PROVIDE A STRONG AND SAFE BLOOD SUPPLY TO LOCAL PATIENTS.

CONTINUED
COMMUNITY PARTNERS/
CONTINUED

STG Presents
Sunrise Village
Swedish Medical Center
Swift Agency
Symetra
T-Mobile Park
Tacoma Defiance
Tacoma Rainiers
Taproot Theatre Company
The 107 Independent
Supporters Trust
The Bridge Church
The Collector
The Doctor’s Clinic
The Historic Trust
The Moos Theatre
The Mountaineers
The Neptune Theatre
The Nines Hotel
The Paramount Theatre
The Portland Clinic
The Sanctuary
Thinkspace
Three Rivers VFV Post 1324
Thurston County Realtors Association
Timbersake Church
Tito’s Vodka
Top Pot Doughnuts
Trapper’s Sushi
Trident Seafoods
Trublu
United Methodist Church-Queen Anne
Uniteus Community Credit Union
University of Oregon
University of Washington
University Place Hotel & Conference Center
UIW Medicine
Vancouver Toyota
Veterans Memorial Coliseum
Wafld Bank
Washington State Bicycle Association
Washington State Department of Transportation
Washington State Patrol
Wegmans Realty
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Weyerhauser
Whatcom Educational Credit Union
Wilbur-Ellis
Windermere Real Estate
Women in Cloud
Woodville Unitarian Universalist Church
WSECU
YMCA
Zillow
Zoom+Care

For more information regarding financial contributions:
Giving@bloodworksnw.org
(206) 568-3614

BECAUSE OF THE THANK THE DONOR PROGRAM, FRIENDS, FAMILY AND PATIENTS CAN SAY THANKS FOR THE LIFE SAVING BLOOD RECEIVED FROM DONORS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

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