

## Your View

# Cord blood donation can make difference between life and death

### To the Editor:

I was delighted to see your articles regarding umbilical cord blood and the groundbreaking work The Brady Kohn Foundation is doing. While I have watched eagerly as legislators in Washington battle out the merits of supporting stem cell research. I am heartened to know right here in Delaware we have a foundation that is reaching out to the community to help shed light on the mysteries of cord blood and its life-saving stem cells.

I have assisted many women in donating their cord blood here in Delaware. I have seen the difference the four-ounce collection of this amazing resource can make in saving lives. Patients who were thought to have a very poor chance of survival are now getting a chance at life. It is a fact that the stem cells found in cord blood can make the difference in life and death with patients battling leukemias, blood disorders, cancers and other deadly diseases.

While research is vital in finding ways of using cord blood, it could not be achieved without the help of generous patients who realize that while they are giving life to a new baby, they are also potentially saving the life of another individual - all with this painless and simple procedure of capturing the baby's cord blood at birth.

The Brady Kohn Foundation's free umbilical cord blood donation pilot program has had incredible success over the last year of its existence. To date, more than 50 units of cord blood have been donated. With less than 50,000 samples of cord blood available in the nation, this program has the potential to make a real difference.

Thanks to the generous support of Congressman Mike Castle, Senator Joseph Biden and Senator Tom Carper, this program has the promise to grow. With the added support of parents, as a community, we can make a difference and save lives. We must support our politicians in lobbying for the necessary financial support to help programs like this prosper as well as help our scientists discover more ways to utilize this extraordinary by-product of birth.

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