

Bank Ships 1,000th Unit

The St. Louis Cord Blood Bank News
Summer Issue 2007



Kris Wassmer and Janet Schaeffler
prepare the 1,000th cord blood unit for
patient transplant

The St. Louis Cord Blood Bank marked a major milestone in October when it shipped the 1,000th unit for use in a patient transplant.

The bank is the second largest of its kind in the world, and has been exporting cord blood for transplants for 10 years now, saving many lives along the way.

“The survival rate for patients treated with bone marrow transplants is about 35 percent. In our experience with cord blood stem cells, the overall survival rate in children is 55 percent, and is approaching that rate for adults with newer applications,” says Donna Regan, manager of the cord blood bank. “We’re proud to know that cord blood has played a role in saving these lives. We like to call it the ultimate recycling project.”

In 1996, a woman donated the first cord blood unit that was eligible for use in transplant. Since then, the bank has grown, and now it works with 29 areas hospitals and 350 physicians to collect cord blood.

More than 15,000 cord blood units are currently being stored at the bank for exportation worldwide.

Things have changed since 2006

- It took 10 years to reach 1,000 units shipped. We are on schedule to ship our 2,000th unit by the end of this year, only five years after the 1,000th unit.
- On January 18, 2011 we received our 100,000th donation.
- We now have more than 20,000 cord blood units in storage.
- We still work with 29 hospitals, but more than 450 doctors collect cord blood for us.