



PLATELET DONATION

IF I COULD MEET THE BLOOD OR PLATELET DONOR THAT GAVE BLOOD OR PLATELETS TO ME, I WOULD JUST SAY, "THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE."

LIVIYA WAS ALMOST SIX YEARS OLD WHEN SHE GOT SICK. SHE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A RARE DISEASE CALLED APLASTIC ANEMIA. APLASTIC ANEMIA IS BASICALLY WHERE THE BONE MARROW SHUTS DOWN AND YOU NO LONGER PRODUCE RED CELLS, WHITE CELLS OR PLATELETS. THE DOCTOR SAID TO ME, "THE NORMAL PLATELET COUNT FOR SOMEONE WHO IS SICK IS ABOUT A HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND. WHEN SOMEONE REACHES A TEN-THOUSAND PLATELET COUNT, IT'S CONSIDERED VERY DANGEROUS AND YOUR DAUGHTER IS AT TWO-THOUSAND-FIVE-HUNDRED. MEANING, SHE'S BLEEDING OUT INTERNALLY AND THE PLATELETS WERE CRUCIAL, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT STOPPED THE BLEEDING." SHE NEEDED A TRANSFUSION OF PLATELETS IMMEDIATELY TO SAVE HER LIFE. WHEN YOU SEE YOUR CHILD FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIFE AND THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT, YOU FEEL THAT THE WORLD IS SO LARGE AND YOU ARE SO SMALL AND SO POWERLESS. WE WERE SO GRATEFUL THAT THERE WERE PLATELETS AVAILABLE FOR LIVIYA, BECAUSE IF SHE DIDN'T HAVE THEM AT THAT MOMENT OF US GETTING INTO THAT HOSPITAL, SHE WOULD NOT BE ALIVE TODAY. LIVIYA IS NOW AT APPROXIMATELY SEVEN YEARS OF REMISSION.

IF RED CROSS WASN'T HERE, I WOULDN'T BE HERE AND I KNOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE HERE, BECAUSE BLOOD JUST DOESN'T COME OUT OF NOWHERE. IT HAS TO COME FROM OTHER PEOPLE.

GIVING BLOOD, GIVING PLATELETS, SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS MAKES A DIFFERENCE. IT SAVED OUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.