

Born in a time of need

The need for a coordinated system to receive, store, and distribute blood became obvious to many during World War II when an adequate blood supply often meant the difference between life and death. To honor those who gave their lives during the war, the Minneapolis War Memorial Blood Bank began welcoming labor unions, lodges, and business groups to donate through their organized blood clubs in 1948. Over the next six decades, we expanded our capabilities and outreach to fulfill our mission of helping to save and sustain lives through blood donation and to benefit the communities we serve.

MILESTONES OF GROWTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- International brand leader General Mills signs on as a corporate blood drive sponsor that continues today—65 years later
- War Memorial Blood Bank becomes Memorial Blood Centers of Minnesota in 1992 and the Arrowhead Regional Blood Center in Duluth becomes an important part of the organization serving the Northland
- Throughout the 1990s, three new donor centers open—downtown Minneapolis, Plymouth and Superior, WI—and MBC becomes a member donor center of the National Marrow Donor Program (Be the Match)
- Donor centers open in Hibbing (2001) and Coon Rapids (2002) and all operations come under the name Memorial Blood Centers (MBC)
- 2003 marks the opening of the Virginia donor center and annual blood collections surpass 100,000 units for first time
- New donor centers in Eden Prairie and Bloomington open in 2004
- In 2006, MBC moves to new state-of-the-art St. Paul headquarters
- Named 2007 Associate Member of the Year by the Minnesota Hospital Association
- In 2008, among the first group of blood centers in the nation to implement ISBT 128, a new labeling system for blood products that internationally standardizes blood bag labels for added quality and safety
- Woodbury Donor Center opens in 2008, bringing to 11 the number of convenient centers throughout Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin
- Blood donations reach an all-time high in 2008 with 140,000 units (vs. 8,065 units collected in 1948) and push MBC to a new milestone of having helped save and sustain over 6 million lives
- 2008 Minnesota Quality Award winner
- A designated Charitable Partner of the 2009 Extreme Makeover Home Edition project in Douglas County, WI
- In 2009, launches scholarship program for graduating seniors pursuing higher education
- 2010 Minnesota Quality Award winner
- Officially joins forces with Nebraska Community Blood Bank in 2012 to form a new blood services organization, Innovative Blood Resources (IBR), becoming an operating division of IBR while continuing to do-business-as Memorial Blood Centers



Hubert H. Humphrey, former Vice-President of the United States and Mayor of Minneapolis in 1948, is among the first to donate a pint of blood.

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH YOUR COMMUNITY-BASED MEMORIAL BLOOD CENTERS TO HELP SAVE AND SUSTAIN LIVES.

CONTACT:



**Memorial
BLOOD CENTERS**

A Division of Innovative
Blood Resources

