

Gulf Coast Blood

# IMPACT REPORT

2025



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

As we reflect on 2025, we're grateful for the extraordinary impact made possible by our donors, partners, and community. Every day, I'm inspired by our Gulf Coast Blood staff and the momentum carrying us into the future.



Nikhil Nayak

Blood moves us forward. Every donation fuels healing today while advancing the science that shapes tomorrow. For more than five decades, the generosity of our community, businesses, organizations, and community leaders has enabled Gulf Coast Blood to support millions of patients across 170 hospitals, including those in the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world.

This year marked an important milestone in our growth with the opening of our new donor center in the Texas Medical Center, expanding access for donors and strengthening our ability to meet the needs of patients across the region. Looking ahead, we plan to open two additional donor centers in 2026, further extending our reach and ensuring a reliable blood supply for the communities and hospitals we serve.

Our mission remains rooted in saving lives, but its impact reaches even further. Beyond transfusions, blood donations play a critical role in advancing medical research. We're supporting studies that drive progress in areas such as cancer treatments, Alzheimer's disease, and other life-changing therapies. By contributing blood for research, donors help accelerate discoveries that lead to cures, improve outcomes, and transform the future of medicine.

When you donate, you do more than give blood. You give hope. You help patients heal, families persevere, and researchers push the boundaries of what's possible. As you review the impact we made together in 2025, remember that every donation touches real people and real lives, many of whom you may never meet. You make the difference, and together, we're shaping a healthier future for all.



# YOUR BLOOD CENTER

Gulf Coast Blood is the only blood provider for Houston and its surrounding communities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

As one of the largest community blood centers in the country, we support more than 170 hospitals across 26 counties, including the world-renowned Texas Medical Center. With 18 donor centers and 6,609 mobile drives annually, we work around the clock to meet the needs of patients throughout our region. We're also proud to serve communities in East Texas and the Brazos Valley.



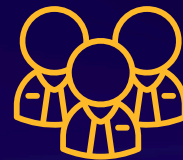
Hospitals

**170**



Counties

**26**



Employees

**774**

# YOUR BLOOD

Throughout 2025, Gulf Coast Blood helped ensure patients had access to the lifesaving blood products they needed. What stands out beyond the numbers is how our community showed up with compassion, humanity, and a shared commitment to support one another.



**329,812**

Total Units Donated

**260,418**

Red Cells

**47,332**

Platelets

**22,062**

Plasma

**18**

Donor Centers

**2,934**

Blood Drive Host Groups

**6,609**

Mobile Blood Drives



# YOUR NEIGHBORS



Elena was diagnosed with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia at age two. Elena faced months of treatment and countless blood transfusions. Once shy, she's now a bright, caring big sister who sings, dances, and helps in the kitchen. Her family is forever grateful to blood donors, the lifesavers who gave Elena her chance to ring the bell.

Donating with Gulf Coast Blood means supporting people far beyond your immediate reach. It impacts families, cherished friends, and patients you may never meet. Your choice to give blood has the power to make a profound impact in the lives of others.



# VOLUNTEERS & DRIVERS



## Volunteers



**486**

Volunteers



**16,320**

Volunteer Hours

## Drivers



**1,162,703**

Miles Covered by  
Our Drivers

Our mission continues to grow because of the loyal dedication of our volunteers and drivers, whose daily efforts are essential to saving lives. Their outstanding service powers our organization and brings hope to countless individuals.



# OUR DONORS



At Gulf Coast Blood, donors are the heartbeat of our mission, bringing strength, hope, and care to patients and families. Their generosity provides lifesaving support when it matters most, and we are deeply thankful for every donation. Our diverse donor base reflects the rich makeup of our communities, and our dedicated high school donors help keep our supply stable while empowering the next generation of lifesavers.

Total Donors

**163,345**

First Time Donors

**51,850**

High School  
Donations

**35,760**



As part of our strategic vision, we're helping unlock new frontiers in medicine by providing the blood components needed for groundbreaking cellular therapies and research. Thanks to our donors, patients benefit from treatments such as stem cell transplants, immunotherapies, and regenerative medicine. Each donation carries the power to spark innovation and offer hope to those battling critical illness. Together, we're creating a brighter future for patients one donation at a time.

Cellular Therapy Donations

**721**

# HONORING OUR HISTORY



## Gulf Coast Blood Day

We're honored to have received a proclamation from Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo's office recognizing 50 years of lifesaving service. August 15, 2025, was officially named Gulf Coast Blood Day, celebrating the lifesaving impact of our mission and the donors who make it possible. This recognition honors our shared commitment to saving lives every day.

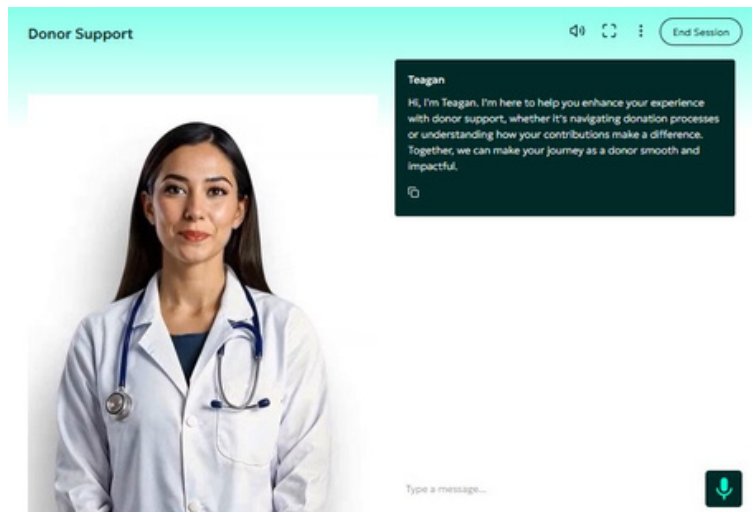


# FUELING THE FUTURE



The Medical Center

We opened Gulf Coast Blood – The Medical Center, a new donor center created with input from our incredible donors. This center symbolizes our organization's growth and our continued commitment to serving the community.



Donor Center of Tomorrow

Building on that milestone, our Donor Center of Tomorrow initiative features innovations like Teagan, our new AI avatar, who can answer questions, the new Bevi drink option, along with enhanced comfort amenities such as massage chairs and aromatherapy. Together, these improvements are redefining the donor experience by focusing on comfort, efficiency, and care—ensuring donors feel appreciated from start to finish.

# ADVANCING DONOR CARE AND IMPACT



## NO DONOR LEFT BEHIND

The new No Donor Left Behind program ensures every donor feels valued, supported, and empowered to give. This initiative removes barriers to donation and reinforces our commitment to honoring every donor's generosity.



## ADVANCING MEDICAL RESEARCH

By partnering with leading researchers, we are accelerating medical discovery and advancing patient care. These collaborations help translate donor contributions into critical insights that power innovation, improve outcomes, and shape the future of medicine.



## A1C TESTING FOR DONORS

More than 200,000 donors received A1c testing, providing valuable health insights while supporting lifesaving donations. This initiative reinforces our commitment to donor wellness and preventative health awareness.



# IN THE COMMUNITY



Through our Reindeer Brigade, Gulf Coast Blood donors, volunteers, and staff delivered Holiday Hugs Bears to children at five local hospitals and extended that care by sending teddy bears to 46 additional hospitals across our community. Each bear included a handwritten note offering encouragement and hope. These efforts reflect our commitment to compassion and the many ways we support those we serve.

Dedicated volunteers tied handwritten notes on more than 1,600 teddy bears, turning each one into a message of encouragement and care for patients. Shared through our Holiday Hugs program, these bears included notes written by generous blood donors and staff and were delivered to hospital patients.



# IN THE COMMUNITY



Our staff proudly partnered with BEAR "Be a Resource" to pack school supplies for students and prepare holiday gifts for families in need. These hands-on service projects reflect our commitment to supporting the community beyond the blood center's walls.

In partnership with The Health Museum, we brought together more than 300 high school students for an interactive workshop at The Health Museum, inspiring the next generation to learn about science, healthcare careers, and the importance of blood donation.







# A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

At our annual A Celebration of Life event, we honored over 400 blood drive coordinators and volunteers whose dedication fuels our mission. This special ceremony also recognizes the outstanding efforts of our Gold-level **Commit for Life** groups, celebrates the steadfast service of volunteers, and highlights the incredible commitment of blood donors who have reached the remarkable milestone of donating 50 gallons or more. Together, we honored those who make this lifesaving work possible year after year by hosting mobile blood drives and supporting patients across our community.

# COMMUNITY SPONSORS



With the support of more than 20 generous community sponsors, we offered giveaways and incentives to encourage donor participation and strengthen community partnerships.

# COMMUNITY SPONSORS





# MEDIA DRIVES



Through 12 media-sponsored TV and radio blood drives, we amplified our mission and reached new audiences. These partnerships helped raise awareness, inspire donations, and expand our lifesaving impact.

# HONORING 100+ GALLON DONORS



200-GALLON DONOR: MARSHA ASPLIN



100- GALLON DONOR: GENE ROCK



100 - GALLON DONOR: WILLIAM BARTONEK



100- GALLON DONOR: GARRET VANDENBELT

We proudly recognized donors who achieved the remarkable milestone of donating 100 gallons or more. Their long-term commitment reflects years of dedication and an extraordinary impact on patients across our community.

This year, we proudly recognized Marsha Asplin for reaching an extraordinary 200 gallons donated—making her the first woman to achieve this milestone. We also honored Garret Vandenberg, William Bartonek, Gene Rock, and Edward Commender for reaching the remarkable milestone of 100 gallons each. Together, these donors represent a lasting legacy of generosity and an unwavering commitment to patients in need.





## POWERING THE FUTURE OF BLOOD DONATION

Gulf Coast Blood is building on our legacy with a renewed focus on innovation, an elevated donor experience, and an expanded role in blood-based research. While our core mission remains the same, the way we deliver on that mission is evolving. As we step into the future, we remain dedicated to helping our neighbors and strengthening our community, ensuring that we continue to make a vital difference for generations to come.

