



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Photos and video footage here](#)

## **10-YEAR-OLD BLOOD TRANSFUSION RECIPIENT MEETS DONORS WHO SAVED HER LIFE**

**SAN DIEGO (April 29, 2024)** A 10-year-old girl from National City who receives blood transfusions to treat a rare form of anemia got the chance to meet several donors who personally impacted her through their blood donations at a first of its kind event hosted by San Diego Blood Bank.

Kamila Saradpon and her family thanked the donors for the blood she's received since she first started getting blood transfusions at 2-months old. To date, Kamila has received 175 blood transfusions. Kamila spends four-to-six-hour days at the hospital for blood transfusions every three weeks and will continue to need transfusions for the rest of her life.

Kamila has e-beta thalassemia, an inherited blood disorder that limits her body's ability to make hemoglobin and healthy red blood cells. Patients with inherited blood disorders like thalassemia are most often Black, Hispanic/Latino or Asian/Pacific Islanders. "Blood donors of every race, ethnicity, and background are the reason our daughter is still alive and thriving today" said Kamila's mother, Maria Saradpon.

Kamila's mom said she was emotional thinking about the opportunity to meet some of the people whose blood donations help keep her daughter going each month. "I can't even describe how it feels – these are the people who are the reason that she is here and happy, and smiling and healthy" she said. "I'm so grateful."

A few of the donors thanked San Diego Blood Bank for giving them a chance to meet Kamila. One donor, Michael Kim said "It was an amazing experience to be able to meet someone who received the donation that I gave. To be able to impact someone like that, it's pretty amazing. It means a lot to be able to see how this little donation really makes a big impact on someone."

Saradpon noted that "before Kamila's diagnosis, blood donation was not something we ever thought about. But now, our family depends on those who give blood every day. If you've never donated blood before, please consider becoming a blood donor so kids like my daughter can grow up and have the life they deserve."

Saradpon also said she expects Kamila's next transfusion — scheduled for next month — will feel even more meaningful.

To be eligible to donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health. Eligible blood donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment at [SanDiegoBloodBank.org](https://www.sandiegobloodbank.org) or calling 619-400-8251.

**About the San Diego Blood Bank**

San Diego Blood Bank is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization also operating as Southern California Blood Bank, serving hospitals throughout Southern California. San Diego Blood Bank is dedicated to community health by providing a reliable supply of blood to patients in need. Our vision is to further ensure the health of our community by simultaneously delivering related health and wellness education and services and collaborate with various partners in medical research. San Diego Blood Bank currently operates nine fixed site donation locations and 10 bloodmobiles. For more information about SDBB, visit [SanDiegoBloodBank.org](https://www.sandiegobloodbank.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Linkedin](#).

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