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[Link to photos and video can be found here](#)

**BLOOD DONOR CELEBRATES 30<sup>TH</sup> GALLON BLOOD DONATION WITH  
RECIPIENT HE SAVED 24 YEARS AGO**

*Neighbors became family through the act of blood donation*

**SAN DIEGO (December 13, 2024)** Dedicated blood donor Jeff Mandel made his 30<sup>th</sup> gallon donation at San Diego Blood Bank's East County Donor Center this afternoon. It was 24 years ago that Jeff found out he was a perfect blood match for his neighbor's then 6-year-old daughter who was born with a hole in her heart.

Carly McKin, now 30 years old and living in El Cajon, reflects on the gift of life she received over two decades ago. "I'm so honored to watch Jeff reach his 30<sup>th</sup> gallon. He's become like a second father to me and the bond is something I don't have with anyone else."

Mandel, who lives in Arizona but donates blood when he visits San Diego monthly, shared why he continues to donate. "When I get an email from the blood bank saying my blood was delivered to a hospital for a patient it renews my drive for donating."

Jeff has been donating blood since 1991 and has donated whole blood and plasma and is now a dedicated platelet donor. This remarkable story highlights the importance of blood donation and the extraordinary difference it can make.

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/brokenyolk](http://sandiegobloodbank.org/brokenyolk) or by calling 619-400-8251.

**About San Diego Blood Bank**

San Diego Blood Bank (SDBB) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization also operating as Southern California Blood Bank. The Blood Bank serves hospitals throughout Southern California with more than 150,000 units of blood each year. San Diego Blood Bank's mission is to connect diverse communities to save and improve lives through blood and biotherapies. Dedicated to advancing health and wellness through medical innovation, SDBB has provided an essential service since 1950. San Diego Blood Bank currently operates nine fixed-site donation locations and 10 bloodmobiles, with blood drives running daily. For more information about SDBB, visit [www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org](http://www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org) and follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Linkedin](#).

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