



Cleveland Cord Blood

Entering a new decade of possibilities

When we launched our organization in 2008, the Cleveland Cord Blood Center (CCBC) was among a small number of cord blood collection and banking centers in existence at the time.

Since our founding, we have been collecting, processing, storing and distributing stem-cell rich umbilical cord blood for transplantation in patients with life threatening disorders such as leukemia, lymphoma and immune system disorders. Our scientists, along with others around the globe, are also researching cord blood's potential as a cell therapy treatment for a variety of diseases and conditions.

As we enter a new decade, the Cleveland Cord Blood Center's dedication to quality, collaboration and integrity is positioning us as a leader and innovator in the cord blood cell therapy arena:

- CCBC researchers are exploring and advancing umbilical cord blood's untapped potential as a cell therapy treatment for diseases and conditions ranging from wound healing to Parkinson's disease.
- As one of only eight FDA licensed cord blood centers in the U.S., our quality standards and precise cord blood unit qualification processes help provide the required information and quick turnaround that transplant centers appreciate.
- In addition to our own researchers, CCBC cord blood units are being used by scientists and other collaborators in exploration of the virtually unlimited lifesaving and life-giving possibilities that cord blood holds...helping to enhance health and expand knowledge one birth at a time.

In this issue, I invite you to learn more about a special physician whose dedication has played a key role in the Cleveland Cord Blood Center story, a very special father-daughter relationship, and our foundation for future growth as reflected in the CCBC mission, vision and values.

Marcie Finney

Executive Director

Our mission, vision, values for a next generation of opportunity

Mission: We are advancing umbilical cord blood cell therapy treatments: saving lives, enhancing health, and expanding knowledge one birth at a time.

Vision: A world in which cord blood therapies enhance quality of life for all.

Values: Quality Collaboration Innovation Leadership Compassion Integrity



Save a Cord. Save a Life.

Physician leads the way for life-giving miracles

In 2008, Marcus Tower, M.D., led a successful obstetrics and gynecology practice at Cleveland Clinic's Hillcrest Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. It was also the year the now retired physician led the way in establishing Hillcrest as the first cord blood collection site for the newly established Cleveland Cord Blood Center.

"I applaud Cleveland Clinic's top management, which was tremendously supportive and embracing of the concept which takes something that would be thrown away as medical waste and instead, holds the possibility of saving someone's life," said Dr. Tower.

"As the busiest OB hospital in the area with a diverse population, I asked, 'Why not us?' Hillcrest Hospital's strong labor and delivery nursing leadership helped make it possible to offer the service to expectant parents.

"For parents, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to donate something that you won't miss, is painless, and is of no cost to the donating parents."

Feedback from donating parents indicates they are grateful to know that their baby's umbilical cord blood, donated to the



**Marcus Tower, M.D.
and Executive
Director Marcie
Finney**

Cleveland Cord Blood Center, may be used in a lifesaving transplant.

"As ob-gyns, we get to experience the miracle of life when a child is born. With cord blood donations, we're also helping make future life-giving miracles possible," said Dr. Tower.



A FATHER'S JOURNEY

When Gail McCullough, Jr., was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in 2005, his doctor explained that his condition would become critical within two years and he could not survive without a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, despite extensive searching, no match could be found.

His physician, Dr. Mary Laughlin, suggested that the Canfield, Ohio, resident might be a good candidate for a cord blood transplant.

Since his successful cord blood transplant in 2008, Gail has enjoyed good health. He has had the privilege of walking his daughter, Brooke, down the aisle at her wedding as well as attending his son Ryan's wedding. He is now the beloved grandfather to seven, and enjoys a balance of work and leisure travel with wife, Jill.



A DAUGHTER'S GIFT

When Brooke Anderson and her husband, Ryan, were preparing to deliver at Hillcrest Hospital, it was their intention to donate their babies' cord blood. This was not just an act of generosity, but an expression of deep gratitude that her dad, Gail McCullough, Jr. was alive and healthy thanks to the donation of cord blood.

At the births of her oldest son, August, in 2017 and Mack, born in 2019, each baby's cord blood was donated to the public bank, the Cleveland Cord Blood Center where her father's physician, Dr. Mary Laughlin, is founder.

"I can't imagine a world without my Dad!" said Brooke. "My family is so grateful to the wonderful donors whose actions saved his life. I hope our cord blood donations can give the same miracle for another family."