



October 6, 2016

A Message from the CEO of Blood Bank of Alaska, Bob Scanlon

Dear Blood and Apheresis Donor,

I hope this communication finds you well. I thank you for your dedicated efforts in working to save lives with your blood donation, as well as allowing Blood Bank of Alaska (BBA) to be your partner in that effort.

As you may be aware, there are some very negative accusations being printed, and televised in the media about Blood Bank of Alaska. We are saddened, and disappointed with the accusations being made. It is an unfortunate situation. We are gratified and honored that an overwhelming majority of Alaska's blood donors are supporting and encouraging the blood bank's efforts to serve Alaska. Together, through your generosity, we continue to save the lives of Alaskans each day. Though I cannot comment on the accusations specifically at this time; there being an investigation underway to determine their veracity, I did want to communicate with you, and hopefully in some respects; set your mind at ease.

As a former Infantry Officer in the United States Marine Corps, I understand the concept of "Special Trust & Confidence". I understand what that means, and the awesome responsibility that I, and each staff member of BBA has to you the donor, our partner hospitals, and the end user of your gift of life; the patient. I can assure you that the Blood Bank of Alaska is an honorable, and moral organization, which conducts its business of saving lives with the highest ethical standards. I understand the responsibility I have to you, and every Alaskan in the State.

Since its founding in 1962, the Blood Bank of Alaska has been an Alaska centric organization whose primary mission is to assure the well-being of Alaskans. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization that works hard each day to maintain faith with our fellow Alaskans, and especially you the Donor. The Blood Bank of Alaska is a fully sovereign organization that answers to an all Alaskan, volunteer Board of Directors, and you the Donor. Your blood bank is an institution reliant on your trust that we will use your gift in a manner best able to assure a life is saved. I can assure you, we work hard each day to maintain your trust, and ensure your gift has that opportunity to save a life. The individual Alaskans that work at your blood bank are highly trained, and motivated blood banking professionals. In that regard, it should be noted, we are a federally licensed organization.

Our mandate under the Federal Code of Regulations is to assure a "Safe, Pure and Potent" blood supply is available to the people of Alaska. A minimum of once each year, the blood bank submits to an unannounced, intensive on-site audit by an Agent of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Code of Federal Regulations, enforced by the FDA and U.S. Federal Department of Justice, sets the standards to which we as the Blood Bank of Alaska, and every other blood bank in the Country must adhere. It is mandatory, and it is Federal Law. As "Responsible Head" of your blood bank, I am personally held accountable by the Federal Government to assure the "Safety, Purity and Potency" of the Alaska blood supply. Our most recent and successful audit was March of 2016. We also are inspected on a regular basis by AABB, our industry standards organization, which grants certification to our program of service. In addition, your blood bank is financially audited each year by an independent auditor. We publish, as required by the Federal Government, a Form 990 report each year, which I invite you to review. Your Blood Bank does not work in a vacuum as I believe is currently being



Blood Bank of Alaska
Helping Alaska patients in need

1215 Airport Heights Dr. • Anchorage, AK 99508 • Tel: 907-222-5600 • Fax: 907-222-5683 • www.bloodbankofalaska.org

represented. The Blood Bank of Alaska is a professional, highly trained, technical, regulated and inspected organization. We have detailed and voluminous regulations and guidelines we must follow each day.

Now let's discuss how your gift is used. To start, I wish each of you could see what I have seen as regards the power of your gift. I have seen the lifesaving glow return to individuals as they are transfused. I have seen the flutter of eyes as consciousness returns to an otherwise unresponsive human being. Witnessing events such as this is what got me into blood banking, a career that started in 1994. It is a mission of life for me. But I am no different from you, the BBA staff and Board. Each of us understands the importance of what we do in the highly complex endeavour of donation, collection, processing, testing, distribution & warehousing of blood and blood products. I can assure you that not a single unit collected is collected for the sole purpose of distribution outside of Alaska. But the fact remains, we do export late dated blood that would otherwise be discarded, wasted. Blood and Apheresis products have a short life-span. We must constantly manage the blood inventory and rotation. We work to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. It is what you as a donor expect, and what we as the Blood Bank of Alaska are morally obligated to ensure. As stated earlier, we strive to ensure your gift is used, and a life saved. That is our motivator that is why we have been here for the last 54 years, that is what we do with your donation each day. I thank you for your time, and should you have a question, please call me. I can be reached at 222-5602. Finally, I thank you for your faith and support of BBA, and I hope you have a wonderful evening.

Kindest Regards,

Bob Scanlon
Chief Executive Officer