



OHIO BROTHERS DEDICATE MORE THAN A DECADE TO GIVING PLASMA

BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM, brothers Samuel and Alvin Collier have donated more than 1,200 units of plasma over the last 10 years at the Biotest Plasma Center in Youngstown, Ohio. What started out as just something they both did for a little extra spending money has turned into a decade of donating their time to saving lives.

Samuel is no stranger to spending his life helping those in need. When he began donating, he was working for Gateways to Better Living, an organization that helps individuals diagnosed with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. He was 22 years-old when he learned that he could help others by donating plasma. When Samuel first ventured into the plasma center, he left without donating because he was a bit nervous and apprehensive about the process. A couple of days later, Samuel's drive to help others gave him the inspiration he needed to overcome his reservations, and he successfully donated plasma on this visit. He never imagined back then that he would still be donating plasma regularly more than a decade later.

Samuel goes on to say he equates donating his plasma to, "two hands washing each other." He explains that while he is helping someone in need, the compensation he receives can be used to pay off a bill or to help make the holidays a little merrier. While he finds the atmosphere at the center a positive one, he also enjoys the camaraderie between the staff and donors.

Alvin, Samuel's younger brother, began donating after his 18th birthday with some encouragement from Samuel. Now 29, Alvin says donating plasma gives him a good feeling, plus he enjoys visiting the center and has built relationships with the staff and other donors as well.

Both brothers have contributed to various specialty programs through the years, and added that it gave them even more satisfaction knowing that their plasma is being used for additional products.

While they had always hoped that no one they knew would experience a need for a lifesaving plasma-derived therapy, about five years ago that is exactly what happened. Their two-year-old godson grabbed a coffee pot and sustained burns over 35 percent of his body. The boy received a plasma-derived therapy to help aid his recovery. This solidified their belief that what they are doing is well worth their time and commitment.

BIOTEST PHARMACEUTICALS provided this article to The Source.