



PeaceHealth

July 1, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2000, St. John Medical Center made a well-researched and thoughtful decision to provide better blood transfusion services to Cowlitz County residents. To help ensure the adequacy of the community blood supply, I encourage local groups, churches, schools and businesses to host blood drives for the Puget Sound Blood Center.

Puget Sound Blood Center is the largest non-profit provider in the State of Washington and one of the most distinguished independent blood centers in the United States. We have found the staff responsive to our needs and have been pleased with the very valuable benefits our patients receive.

The Blood Center began in 1944 as the King County Central Blood Bank. Its research allowed blood to be stored for the present five weeks instead of two, and its partnership with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle made bone marrow transplants possible. Given this record of achievement, medical leaders in dozens of other Washington counties have asked Puget Sound to provide services to their hospitals as well.

This affiliation provides St. John Medical Center access to seven fulltime MD/PhD hematologists and transfusion specialists, available on-call 24 hours a day for additional consultation at no extra charge. In addition, the Blood Center offers sophisticated services that have been unavailable to us in the past.

On behalf of the hospital staff and all those who are cared for at St. John Medical Center, thank you for your assistance and support.

Sincerely,

Penny Cowden  
Regional VP, Public Affairs

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