



Kim Cline (left) and Martha Fischer (right) discuss the firm's upcoming blood drive at Roswell Park.

## CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT

### BROWN AND TARANTINO

An Interview with Firm Administrator,  
Martha Fischer

**Why did your organization begin participating in the "Save a Life at Lunch" blood drive program at Roswell Park?**

We started in the summer of 2004 when our Senior Partner was ill with cancer and a patient at Roswell. Our original goal was to have a blood drive specifically for him.

**Can you briefly describe your group's first experience with the Donor Center?**

A Roswell physician friend put us in contact with Roswell's Blood Donor Coordinator. The coordinator worked with us to set up a weeklong blood drive so that numerous friends and colleagues, who also wanted to help Carmen, could donate blood to Roswell.

Roswell provided shuttle transportation for the donors throughout the week. Since we had a large number of people interested, we coordinated several shifts. The donation process was friendly and efficient. The blood drive coordinator ensured all the donors signed a card for Carmen, which she personally delivered to him in his hospital room.

**Why does Brown and Tarantino continue to participate?**

We were so impressed with our first experience, the idea of assisting patients with cancer and the convenience of the process, that we made it a regular practice for the firm.

**What do you like most about the "Save a Life at Lunch" blood drive program at Roswell?**

The convenience of the door to door transportation, the lunch provided, and the gratitude voiced by the blood donor staff. We find it fulfilling that we assist current patients while at the same time paying tribute to Carmen's memory.

**As the Brown & Tarantino's blood drive coordinator, do you notice anything different about the atmosphere in the office on blood drive day...prior to drive, after drive?**

Prior to the drive, there is camaraderie amongst the donors and some good natured teasing of those who are afraid of needles. After the drive, there are friendly reminders as to drinking lots of fluids and the showing off of our colorful arm wraps.

**Does Brown and Tarantino participate in other community events?**

Each year, we participate in the Ride for Roswell as Team Tarantino, Corporate Challenge, Lawyers for Learning Bowling Tournament, and the Buffalo Christmas Wishes toy drive.

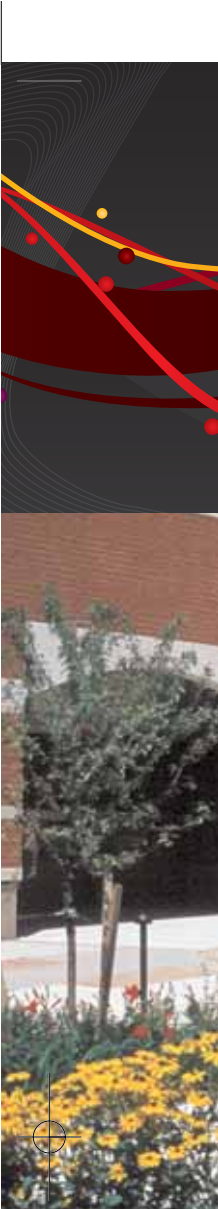
**What would you share with other organizations to encourage them to become involved in "Save a Life at Lunch"?**

We would encourage everyone to give it one try and you will want to return.

*If your business, community or civic group would be interested in setting up a blood or platelet drive please contact, Nicole Hue at 845-7667 or 845-8275.*

Roswell Park Cancer Institute  
Elm & Carlton Streets  
Buffalo, NY 14263

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**the Donor Center**  
at Roswell Park Cancer Institute  
*You're just our type!*

# LIFELINES

A semi-annual publication for friends of the Donor Center at Roswell Park Cancer Institute



## WELCOME TO THE DONOR CENTER



Left to right: Nancy Stabel, RN; Sue Barr, RN; Amanda Burtis, RN; Terry Wolf, RN; Mary Crane, RN; Rose Delecki, RN; Julia DiPiazza, RN

## A RESTFUL PLACE FOR ALL

*“In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.”*

Isaiah 30:15

Kaminski Park was one man’s vision. Waldemar Kaminski, “Mr. K” as he was known, was a humble man who wanted a place for Roswell Park patients and their families to share special moments together.

Thanks to his foresight and very generous donation, WJK Park was designed and built in 2000. To honor his request, the Park was known as WJK Park during his lifetime. Upon Mr. K’s passing in the summer of 2006, at age 88, we were honored to rename the park, with his prior consent, as Kaminski Park.


A few treasured moments enjoying the gardens is an opportunity for renewed spirit, and a time to celebrate the beauty that surrounds us. As a wonderful respite at the Institute for everyone, Kaminski Park has become a venue for lunches, community concerts and celebrations offering moments of tranquility and enjoyment to the RPCI family, its patients and the community at large.

Founded in 1898, Roswell Park Cancer Institute is the nation’s first cancer treatment and education center, and is the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in Upstate New York and one of 39 such centers in the United States.

**THE DONOR CENTER** at Roswell Park Cancer Institute was established in 1964. Founded by Dr. Elias Cohen, Roswell Park’s Donor Center is among the three oldest platelet collection facilities in the country. The Donor Center is dedicated to collecting adequate and safe blood products; respecting the value of each donor; and providing ongoing education for the patients and families we serve.

The Donor Center collections staff is comprised of all nurses, many of whom have been in blood collections for over 20 years.

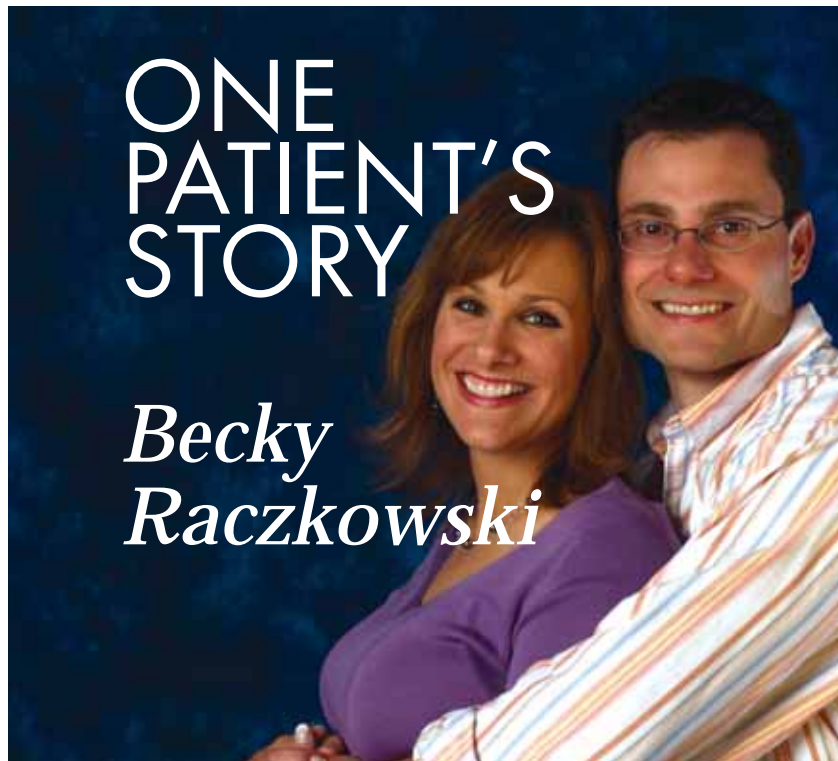
If you are interested in scheduling a donation appointment, please call 845-8275.



**CHECK IT OUT!!**

The Donor Center is looking for your feedback. Please visit our web page and select the **Post Donation Survey** tab. Whether you are a donor or friend of the Donor Center, we welcome your feedback.

[www.roswellpark.org/blooddonations](http://www.roswellpark.org/blooddonations) or e-mail us at [blooddonor@roswellpark.org](mailto:blooddonor@roswellpark.org).



It was an accidental - but fortunate - diagnosis. Becky Raczkowski, then age 28, was scheduled to have her tonsils removed. But when pre-surgical blood work showed her platelet level was dangerously low, her doctor recommended that she check herself into the hospital immediately.

"I thought I was healthy. I felt great, just a little more tired than normal. I was running regularly, I just finished my MBA, and was on a good

career track. I remember thinking, "I don't have the time to be sick right now." But she was sick, very sick. Further testing resulted in a diagnosis of myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), a group of diseases that affect the bone marrow and can progress to acute myeloid leukemia. Becky's only chance for a cure was a blood and marrow transplant.

As part of her treatment at Roswell Park, Becky needed frequent transfusions of red blood cells and platelets. Becky recalls "For a time period of about a month and half, I needed transfusions every two to three days." Becky adds, "I thought a lot about the volunteers that donated those life-saving blood products during that period in my life and often wondered what I would have done without them. Platelet and blood transfusions gave me the strength to do everyday things, such as walking up a flight of stairs, with a little more ease."

Thirteen months after her successful transplant, Becky more than conquered those stairs and actually walked 26 miles in her first Walt Disney World marathon as part of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training program. The following year, Becky ran 26 miles at Disney, and has completed a total of seven marathons and three half marathons since her transplant.

Becky is extremely grateful to the many blood and platelet donors at Roswell Park as those generous donations became an integral part of her treatment and later recovery. Becky adds, "You cannot put a price on the generosity of blood and platelet donors." Today, Becky and her husband, Tom, enjoy a busy, active lifestyle, which includes regular exercise and frequent travel. November 2008 will mark 10 years since Becky's transplant. She and Tom are exploring possible travel options, or perhaps running a marathon together to commemorate this special anniversary.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Brian Kopp, Medical Lab Technologist and Platelet Donor

#### What is your role in transfusion services?

My role in transfusion services is to process donated whole blood into plasma and packed red blood cells and process the platelets as well. I also set up blood to be transfused to patients as well as identify any unexpected antibodies a patient may have.

#### How does what you do impact patient care?

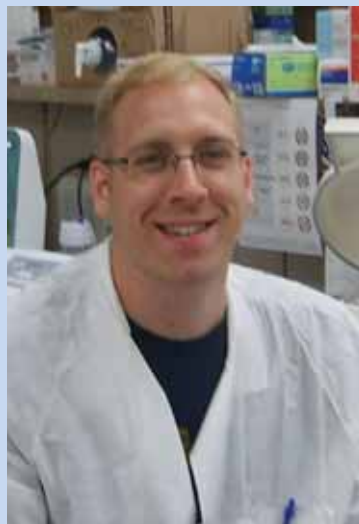
As for patient care, we are a part of the whole medical team. We support them in the overall treatment of the patients. Our role in ensuring a safe, adequate and timely delivery of blood products to our patients is one of those "behind the scenes" jobs that people might not think about. Obviously, meeting the transfusion needs of our patients is critical and we play an important role in the delivery of that service.

#### What do you like most about your job?

I like the hands on needed to work in transfusion services. In my area of the blood bank, many of our testing procedures are done manually. Knowing what we do in "real time" and how it can ultimately affect the patient is a nice feeling.

#### How long have you been at Roswell Park?

I've been at Roswell Park for four years and in this field for 11 years.



#### Have you always lived in Buffalo, and what do you like most about our city?

Yes, I have lived in Buffalo my entire life. I like the snow the best. Summers are great, but to wake up after it has snowed all night and to see the beauty that is created is something some people never get to see for themselves.

#### Do you have any hobbies?

After work, I enjoy time with my family and friends just "hanging out." I'm always up for a concert too. I enjoy live music. Fortunately, there is no shortage of that here in Buffalo.

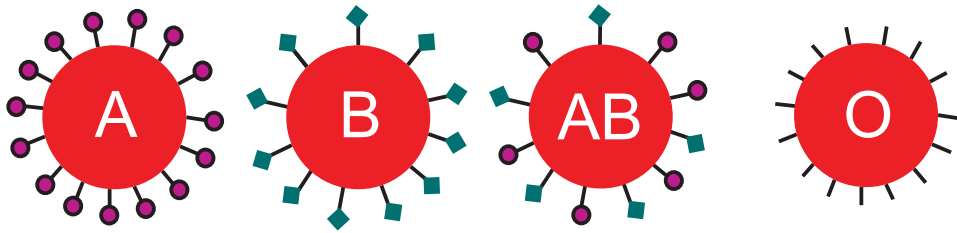
#### Do you have a favorite quote or saying?

One of my favorite quotes is actually from Benjamin Franklin, "Lost time is never found again."

#### What would you like to share with our donors/readers to encourage continued blood and platelet donations?

Mostly, that the need never goes away. There is no substitute for human blood and platelets. For the relatively little amount of time it takes to donate you will directly affect a patient's life in a way you otherwise couldn't. You are literally giving the patient a part of you. It's pretty awesome if you sit and think about that.

# How common is your blood type and what does it say about you?



○ Rh-positive	38%
○ Rh-negative	7%
A Rh-positive	34%
A Rh-negative	6%
B Rh-positive	9%
B Rh-negative	2%
AB Rh-positive	3%
AB Rh-negative	1%

Approximate distribution of blood types in the US population. Distribution may be different for specific racial and ethnic groups (source, AABB.org)

## What does your blood type mean?

A common superstition in Japan is that blood type is an indicator of a person's personality; similar to the Western belief in the Signs of the Zodiac (the Zodiac custom is also popular in Japan).

Furukawa Takeji (1891-1940) proposed the theory on the relation between blood types and temperament during the late Taisho - early Showa period (1920s). Takeji was from a family of many doctors, and was familiar with blood type, which was the newest physiological discovery of the day. Today in Japan, blood type is popularly used as a personality-type indicator. Even though it hasn't been proven to have any scientific basis, many Japanese people believe in these distinctions to one degree or another.

### Type A

Speaking broadly, it is said that people with Type A Blood are calm, composed and very level-headed and serious. They have a firm character, and are reliable and trustworthy (and hardheaded). They think things over and make plans deliberately, and they plug away at things steadily and assiduously. They try to make themselves more like their own ideal of

what they should be. A Types may look aloof or distant to others. They try to suppress their own emotions, and because they have continual practice in doing this, this makes them appear strong. Actually, they have a fragile, nervous side, as well. A Types tend to be hard on people who are not of the same type, and consequently tend to be surrounded with people of the same temperament.

### Type B

People with Type B Blood are curious about and interested in everything. That may be good, but they also tend to have too many interests and hobbies, and they tend to get all excited about something suddenly and then later drop it again just as quickly. They do manage to know which of their many interests or loved ones are the ones that are really important, the ones they should hold on to. B Types tend to excel in things rather than be average. They tend to be so involved in their own world or become so carried away with something that they neglect other things. B Types have the image of being bright and cheerful, full of energy and enthusiasm, but some people think that they are really quite different on the inside. It can also be said that they don't really want to have much real contact with others.

### Type O

Type O Blood people are said to set the mood for a group and to take on the role of creating harmony among its members. Their image is one of taking it easy, of being peaceful and carefree. They are also thought to be big-hearted and benevolent, and they tend to spend money on others generously. O Types are generally "loved by all." But, they also, surprisingly, have a stubborn and strong-willed side, as well, and tend to secretly have their own opinions on things. On the other hand,

they have the flexible, adaptable side of readily accepting new things. They are easily influenced by other people or by what they see on TV. They seem to appear level-headed and trustworthy, but they often slip and make big blunders inadvertently. It is also the point that makes O Types lovable.

### Type AB

People with Type AB Blood are said to have a delicate sensitivity. They are considerate of other people's feelings and deal with them with care and caution. On the other hand, though, they are strict with themselves and those close to them. They, therefore, seem to have two personalities: one for those "outside," and another for people on the "inside." They often become sentimental, and they tend to think too deeply about things. AB Types have a lot of friends, but they need time to be alone and think things through, as well.

Blood Type A is the most common Japanese blood type. In America, Blood Type O is the most prevalent. In Japan, schools carry out thorough physical exams, so the majority of Japanese people find out their own blood types from the results of these exams. Many Japanese are amazed to learn that a large number of Americans don't know their own blood types. "What's your blood type?" is a question heard much more frequently in Japan than, say, "What's your zodiac sign?" is heard in America. It is sometimes even used in casual self-introductions in informal situations.

Excerpt from [www.tapanime.com](http://www.tapanime.com)

## Take the blood quiz!

- 1.) Blood makes up about \_\_\_% of body weight?
- 2.) Which component of blood is responsible for clotting?
- 3.) \_\_\_\_\_ is an iron-containing protein that binds oxygen in the lungs and transports it to tissues in the body.
- 4.) \_\_\_\_\_ is the most direct therapeutic use of blood.
- 5.) What percentage of the American population donates blood?
- 6.) What month is declared National Blood Donor Month by the President of the United States?

Answers: 1.) 7% 2.) platelets 3.) hemoglobin 4.) blood transfusion 5.) 5% 6.) January