

Story of Hope



**American
Red Cross**

Justin & Josi | Blood recipients

A blood donation can forever change the lives of patients in need like siblings Josi and Justin Sharp. Josi and Justin were both born with congenital heart defects.

Justin had open heart surgery when he was four days old. Josi, now 10-years-old, has undergone heart surgery three times. They both depended on blood transfusions during each surgery.



Justin (right) and Josi (center) both needed blood transfusions during multiple surgeries to correct congenital heart defects. Shown with their older brother, Jeremy (left).

"I hadn't thought about the need for blood before my kids needed it," said Kari Sharp, their mother. "I would ask everyone to think about the other kids, adults and families who are depending on donors right now. You are truly changing lives when you give."

Josi and Justin are doing well today. By setting aside about an hour to give blood, donors help make it possible for others like Josi and Justin to create special memories of their own this time of year and beyond.

Their brother, Jeremy, expressed his gratitude to blood donors in a handwritten note, which reads:

"Your gift of blood has saved my brother's and sister's lives. Without your donation, who would I build Lego's with? Thank you."

