

STEPHANIE'S STORY

Stephanie and Hal Mead dreamed of adding a daughter to their family. Their two sons Dallon and Michael brought such joy into their lives. When they received the news that Stephanie was pregnant they were elated. During one of their early doctor appointments they were told that Stephanie had a condition called placenta previa. Stephanie would need a c-section, but the doctor was hopeful that the complications would be minor.



The day arrived for the birth of their baby girl, Carolyn. The surgery was going as planned until Stephanie began to feel weak. Stephanie Mead, "I realized something was not right when I had just seen my daughter and she was beautiful and great and they pulled her off to the side. All of the sudden I felt very nauseated and weak and I heard the doctor say we need to do an emergency hysterectomy right away. We can't get the bleeding to stop." Hal was rushed out of the delivery room while doctors tried to save Stephanie's life. Hal remembers, "Those few hours were the longest of my life. My little kids needed a mom and I needed a wife. I didn't want to lose my best friend." Finally a nurse came and explained the situation to Hal. She told him that Stephanie had experienced extreme bleeding during the birth of Carolyn and was in surgery.

She would need **32 units of blood**. Blood donors saved her life and their family is forever grateful. Stephanie and Hal are blood donors themselves now and know the importance of donation - **Just ask Stephanie.**
#everydayheros