

# A Legacy of Support

**From modest beginnings, BloodSource has grown into a premier blood center.**

*By Katherine Elorduy, Director of Communications, BloodSource*



*On July 15, 1947, the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement, better known now as the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society, founded the Sacramento Medical Foundation, now named BloodSource.*

*The bylaws of BloodSource make any licensed physician who is an active member in good standing in the Medical Society an automatic regular member of BloodSource. Regular members can amend, adopt or repeal the bylaws of the corporation.*

*Later this year, BloodSource will present members with proposed amendments to its bylaws. The following is historical background and current information about BloodSource.*

After World War II stimulated many new medical advances, the residents of Northern California realized they needed a community blood supply for the area's growing population. At the time, the only blood bank was at one of the Sutter Hospitals, but it was unrealistic to think that it alone, could provide enough blood to serve the entire region.

Spearheaded by members of the Medical Society, the entire community rallied behind this need to form the Sacramento Medical Foundation.

The city of Sacramento provided a site on the ground floor of the water tower on J Street, individuals donated money and labor, and several companies provided materials. On November 2, 1948, the blood center opened its doors and collected 39 units of blood on the first day. By the end of the year, it had collected a total of 5,919 units.

Many Sacramento Medical Foundation members volunteered countless hours and

resources to help ensure the success of the blood bank. Support of volunteers from the Board and area residents is still part of the culture today.

And what began as a single blood bank beneath a water tower has become one of the premier blood centers in the world.

In the spring of 2002, the Sacramento Medical Foundation changed its name to BloodSource. The name was selected to reflect the source of blood and transfusion medicine support to area hospitals; a source of advancement in blood services technology; and — thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors — the source for nearly every drop of blood used in nearly 40 hospitals in 25 counties in Central and Northern California. This year, expectations are that 225,000 units will be collected.

BloodSource employs more than 500 persons including nurses, clinical laboratory scientists and three full-time physicians. With more than four decades of combined experience, its physicians are internationally recognized for numerous contributions in blood banking and transfusion medicine.

Dr. Patricia Kopko, Executive Vice-President of Medical Affairs and Histocompatibility Laboratory Director, researched a rare, potentially fatal side-effect of blood transfusions generated from female plasma donors called TRALI (transfusion-related acute lung injury).

This led to BloodSource being one of the first blood centers in the United States to collect all-male plasma. Dr. Kopko's research led to increased safety in blood collection and testing, as well as increased recognition and treatment of this side-effect.

BloodSource also supports safe blood banking across the world and is involved with Rotary International's Safe Blood Africa Project. The Project's mission is to enable and support voluntary blood donor programs in Africa, where blood is not readily available from blood banks. Dr. Chris Gresens, Vice President and Medical Director of Clinical Services at BloodSource says, "We envision helping professionals focus on donor recruitment, hospital transfusion practices and improving lab practices."

While BloodSource was built around providing a safe and plentiful blood supply, medical and technological advancement has provided growth in new areas.

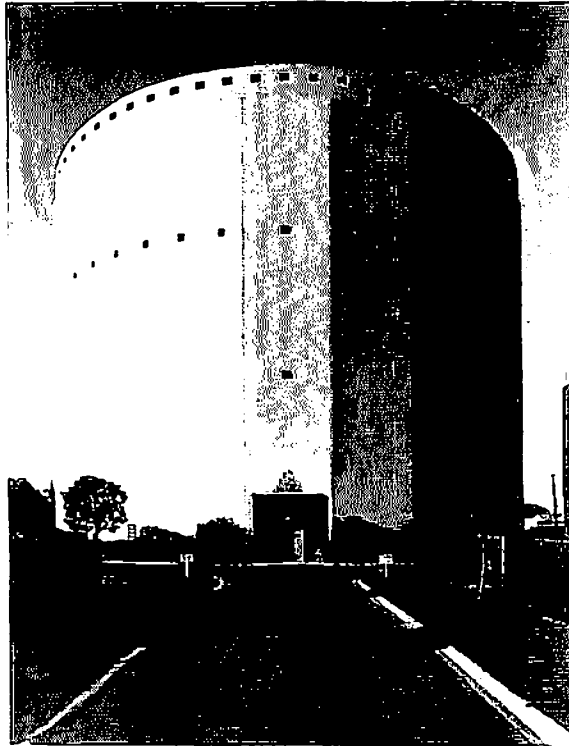
BloodSource has a high-capacity, green technology facility, built in 2008, committed to state-of-the art blood products manufacturing. BloodSource Laboratories is designed to quickly adapt to constant advancements in transfusion medicine.

BloodSource also offers the largest Donor Testing Laboratory in California and is one of only 50 accredited Immunohematology Reference Laboratories in the United States. It helps find blood donors for patients with rare and unusual antibodies.

Additionally, BloodSource runs a Histo-compatibility Laboratory providing tests for marrow/blood stem cell transplantation, solid organ transplantation, as well as HLA-matched platelets.

Despite many changes and technological advancements in blood banking and transfusion medicine, BloodSource remains a community-based, not-for-profit blood bank. Its mission is simple and purposeful: dedicated to providing blood and services to those in need.

And it is with the same community-based support instilled by original members of the Sacramento Medical Foundation that its legacy is carried on today. "We are committed to doing what's right, a simple philosophy that has helped us grow and be a player in blood banking and transfusion medicine," said Mike Fuller, BloodSource CEO.



This was the original location of the Sacramento Medical Foundation, where blood was collected "under water."

"Our very foundation will always be linked to the doctors and founding board members of the Sacramento Medical Foundation. They are integral part of who we are today."

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This is the new headquarters of BloodSource, at the former Mather Air Force Base.

