**Melinda’s Story**

**A person feeding a baby

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

**In April 1981, when all should have been joy and excitement with the arrival of my first child, Patrick, things took a sideways turn during his delivery.  Without going into graphic detail, I ended up having to have two units of blood transfused right after delivery.  My health and welfare were in jeopardy, and to say I was terrified was an understatement.  But, thanks to the generosity of people I didn’t even know, there was blood available to meet my needs, and restore my health so that I might enjoy the excitement and joy of being a new mom.  I am, to this day, still so very grateful for those who selflessly donate the gift of life so that others might live. As a result of this experience, it led me to become a lifelong blood donor.  I even took it a step further by offering my Aggie students extra credit for donating blood, or at least trying!  My advice to others……if you are able to donate, please do……every drop makes a difference!**

**Melinda Grant**

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