

The Mason Shaffer Public Cord Blood Program – Press Conference

- Thank you for having us here today
 - I am Sarah Shaffer, this is my husband Marc and our sons Reilly and Mason
 - Without the unselfish act of cord blood donation, our son Mason would not have been saved
 - MSF is proud to be a part of the collaboration between Main Line Health and Community Blood Services to bring the first public cord blood program to Philadelphia
 - We know The Mason Shaffer Public Cord Blood Program will save lives
- Both of our children were born right here @ Lankenau
 - We never knew about cord blood donation
 - We never considered private banking because of the associated costs
- During the first few months of Mason's life he experienced a multitude of medical issues which at the time seemed unrelated
 - However, @ 5 ½ months, after a follow-up visit with Dr. Lou Gianguilio, Mason was express admitted onto the Hematology-Oncology Unit @ A.I DuPont Hospital for Children
 - We first thought Mason had leukemia; however, we quickly found out Mason suffered from a potentially worse diagnosis, Malignant Infantile Osteopetrosis, an autosomal recessive genetic bone marrow disorder
 - Mason could not be treated solely with any medication, radiation or chemotherapy....his only chance of survival was a stem cell transplant
- Private cord blood banking would not have benefited Mason due to the genetic nature of his disorder
 - Reilly would have been the best option for bone marrow transplant; however, he was not a match
 - Mason's only chance of survival was a transplant from an unrelated donor
 - Because somebody else stepped up to the plate and decided to donate their baby's cord blood, our son Mason had hope....he had the chance to survive
- Many families come out of a traumatic situation like this with the desire to do something to benefit others
 - We are unbelievably fortunate to have come in contact with the appropriate people that were able to work side by side with us to make this dream a reality
 - This program never would have seen the light of day without the following AMAZING people whose vital contributions made this program possible
 - Dr. Andy Kolb – not only did you save our son, but you inspired us to do something more. Our family admires your commitment to your patients and your patients' families. You are not only one of Mason's doctors, you are our friend.

- Dr. Lou Giangulio – facilitating Mason’s care to the appropriate specialists was so much more than a justification for years of education, training and clinical practice...it was the first step in saving our son’s life. Your unwavering support and influence within Main Line Health was instrumental in making this program a reality
 - Dr. Nancy Roberts – you believed in the merits of cord blood donation from the very beginning. You have been a champion for this program within Main Line Health and without your countless efforts the Mason Shaffer Public Cord Blood Program would not have been possible
 - Misty Marchioni and Kendall Massett – Without your amazing generosity and the experience of Community Blood Services we would not have had a Public Donation Program to develop.
 - Finally...Our Children – your combined strength throughout Mason’s diagnosis, treatment, and recovery has taught us so much more than we could ever hope to teach both of you...many people have come together to inspire us to start the Mason Shaffer Public Cord Blood Program, but in the end it has always been about how the two of you inspired us to give other families hope
- Over the past few weeks as the Mason Shaffer Public Cord Blood Program became a reality and in the years to come as the program continues to grow, a core group deserves the utmost recognition
 - We would like to applaud all of the nurses and doctors within Main Line Health
 - From the very beginning, everybody has welcomed the concept of a public cord blood program
 - The Mason Shaffer Public Cord Blood Program could not succeed without your support...and for that we are forever thankful
 - Everyone associated with the Mason Shaffer Foundation looks forward to many more years of collaboration with Main Line Health and Community Blood Services and eagerly awaits not only the first life; but the second, 10th and 20th life, that is saved as a result of donated cord blood which was collected right here in a Main Line Health hospital.
 - We The Shaffer Family Thank You!!!!!!!!!!!!!!