Over the last 18 months our family has been reminded of the importance of blood donation time and time again. At the age of 2.5 months our daughter River was put on life support. Her body was breaking down and she was fighting hard. However, it was not until she received blood products and her 1st transfusion that she began to stabilize. She received 4 units of blood over 3 days. Then on April 25, 2016, at 4 months old, she was in heart failure and was taken to the operating room for an open chest surgery to help stabilize her again. During this surgery blood products were again used and she was then given 2 more units over the next 3 days to help her little body fight. Now just 4 short weeks ago, at 17 months, she underwent her first full open heart surgery. During her heart repair several units of fresh whole blood were used while she was on a heart lung by pass machine to sustain her while they operated.

It was during this past year that I realized I had not even donated in the last 10 years enough blood to even come close to what River needed in those 12 months!! My child was being saved by other people's generosity and giving. And I know without these blood drives we would have been lost.

So in honor of River's survival and strength and as a reminder to the importance of giving blood we are holding this blood drive. River is O+ which is a very much sought after blood! I am challenging all of our friends, family and community who match to give blood on Sept 16th. Even if you don't match, your blood can still save another child's life.   I am asking and pleading with all eligible donors that you come give!

Maybe it has been 10 years? Maybe you are afraid? Maybe you have never given? Well this is the time! I will be there and I will hold your hand if you want. We will have lots of yummy food, some great giveaways and I am working out a good prize too! And everyone will get a special River thank you if you come try to give blood!

So mark it on the calendar, setup an appointment so we can have plenty of help on hand, then show up for your appointment, and GIVE  the GIFT of LIFE!