

Shortly after Wright Duffel was born, his doctor discovered that he had a complex combination of four heart defects. In order to save Wright's life, surgery was necessary.

Before the surgery, Wright's mother, Nikki, organized a blood drive for her son, which she plans to make an annual event. All of the donors that gave blood were first-time donors. Even though Wright's surgery went well, he still received more than six blood and two platelet transfusions.

"If it hasn't affected you personally, you just always assume that there is enough blood," said Nikki. "You think that plenty of other people donate so you don't need to. Now I know that isn't the case."

Today, Wright is a happy toddler who loves to play with his big brother, Reese. He has fully recovered from his surgery, but may require further treatment later on. "Blood donors are truly heroes. I only wish they understood what a big impact they have; every time they give blood they really do save lives."

