

# The Fight of His Life



## *Blaine Stanley*

Two-year-old Blaine Stanley is just one of the thousands of lives touched by the Coastal Bend Blood Center. Diagnosed at birth, Blaine suffers from TAR Syndrome, a congenital abnormality that is marked by low blood platelets and the absence of the radius bone on both arms. Blaine's parents, Holly and Brian Stanley, had no warning prior to Blaine's birth in February of 2004.

Immediately they had to deal with an urgent need for Blaine to receive blood platelets. In the beginning, Blaine's body rejected a variety of donors. But in April of 2004, Blaine began receiving platelets donated by his dad each week through the Blood Center's apheresis program. Blaine endured platelet transfusions twice a week for nine months. Each Monday morning became a ritual at the Blood Center, with staff competing for the chance to hold and play with Blaine while his dad donated. At the end

of the nine-month period doctors determined that Blaine's platelet count was finally in the normal range.

Today Blaine is on track, accomplishing all the milestones of children his age. He's mastered walking and is "talking up a storm," although not always in a format that everyone can understand. He loves baseball, Spiderman and trips to the beach.

His parents continue to closely monitor Blaine's platelet count. However, they know he will face a new set of challenges as he grows older and they plan to focus on helping him gain the self-confidence he will need to deal with any obstacles that come his way. And with Blaine's platelet count stabilized, his Blood Center family loves to fuss over him when the Stanleys stop by to update everyone on his progress.



**Coastal Bend Blood Center**

*Giving so that others may live*