The cord blood program is named after late Dan Berger, a Pittsburgh attorney who had a successful unrelated stem cell transplant to overcome cancer. In July of 2006, Dan’s heart failed. During the course of his treatment, Dan and his wife, Carol, recognized the lifesaving potential of umbilical cord blood.

In October 2007, Magee-Womens Foundation announced the creation of The Dan Berger Cord Blood Program at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC. This program gives parents an option to preserve or donate their baby’s umbilical cord blood for future health care needs, research, or to help someone in need. The goal was to become the model for all cord blood programs throughout Pennsylvania and beyond, which we have reached. The one- of-a-kind Dan Berger Cord Blood Program continues to expand with the ambitious goal of not letting any cord blood go to waste.

This program was established by a lead gift from the Berger family in partnership with UPMC Health Plan and the Highmark Foundation.

“We are so happy to be able to offer this opportunity to our patients delivering here at Magee-Womens. This is such a generous and promising service for future generations.”

-Richard Beigi, MD

Differences Concerning Cord Blood and Cord Tissue.

A baby’s umbilical cord is made up of tissue and contains blood.

Cord Blood is a rich source of powerful and unique stem cells which have the ability to regenerate the blood and immune system. Cord Blood is considered a treatment for those suffering from the blood cancers and blood diseases.

Cord Tissue contains unique and powerful stem cells that emerging research suggests may have value in the regenerative diseases. Some current research studies involved with cord tissue are neurological disease/injury, skeletal disease/injury, heart/vascular disease and others.

Understand, that there is no guarantee that treatments being studied in clinical trials will be available in the future.

For more information, speak with your doctor or visit www.danbergercordblood.org

Or contact:
Mary Wiegel
MWiegel@vitalant.org
412-209-7479 (office) / 412-327-8025 (cell)
www.givecord.org
When her son, Tristin Ross, was 3 years old, he was diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma. His treatment included a bone marrow transplant. Then, at the age of 5, Tristin developed acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) - a fast-growing cancer of the blood and bone marrow. In the past five years, he has received two cord blood transplants. Today, Tristin is a healthy, active boy with no restrictions, who likes to ride his bike and play outside from dawn to dusk.

Tristin’s family will forever be thankful to the generous mothers who chose to donate their babies’ cord blood to potentially give someone, in this case Tristin, a second chance at life.

TIFFANI HODGES IS A Grateful MOTHER

For more information, speak with your doctor, visit www.danbergercordblood.org, or contact Mary Wiegel at mwiegel@itxm.org, 412-209-7479, or 412-327-6025.