

## **Giving when it counts – the ultimate gift**

Many years ago, a volunteer at a hospital got to know a little girl named Liz, who was suffering from a rare and curious disease. Her only chance for recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year-old brother, who, miraculously, had survived the same disease. He had developed the antibodies needed to combat the disease.

The doctor explained the situation to her little brother and asked if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister.

The volunteer saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I will do it if it will save her."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale, and his smile faded.

He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

What a powerful message on so many levels! Love, sacrifice, fear, the gift of life. It sure makes the things we think are problems become very minute and inconsequential. Let's use the message in this story to help us live above the chatter that gets in the way of us being at our "ultimate best." Let's continue to give when it counts!

Have a great week!

