

## ***Mazarik Serrano***

Elizabeth's baby boy Mazarik weighed a healthy 8 pounds, 6 ounces at birth. Everything proceeded normally until the following night, when her baby began spitting up blood. By 2 a.m. a doctor informed her that her newborn was now throwing up large amounts of blood and would need transfusions.

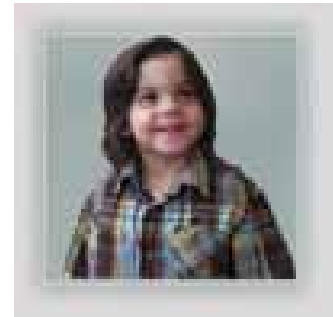
Elizabeth rushed to the nursery and was shocked to see the quantity of blood her child had vomited. Although a frightening situation, she knew that the blood transfusions would help him. Elizabeth works at South Texas Blood & Tissue Center and processes the blood her son would receive. She said, "I was at ease with him receiving it. We have good workers. We do a good job"

During the next 24 hours, Mazarik's little body had five transfusions of red blood cells and one of plasma. Once the bleeding finally subsided doctors were able to determine that he had gastritis, an inflammation of the stomach lining. Mazarik remained in the hospital 10 days, while he slowly recovered.

Today he is a healthy 4-year-old boy

Elizabeth is part of a highly-skilled team at the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center that takes a unit of donated whole blood and separates it into various high quality components for transfusion. Human blood is a complex fluid that contains red blood cells, platelets, white blood cells and various proteins. Each transfused component has a specific life-saving purpose.

Elizabeth commented further, "We tend to think there's lots of people out there donating, so I don't need to. When something like this happens, it hits home. You just never know when you or someone you love might need it. Give blood – it's that simple."



*Mazarik Serrano,  
at age 3*