

## ***Vanessa Servin***

*"Tragedies happen all the time. Let's not wait."*

Vanessa Servin understands the urgency of having blood available. On Vanessa's fifth wedding anniversary, August 16, 2001, an automobile accident nearly took her life. As they rounded a sharp curve, her brother's car swerved to avoid another car, hit a telephone pole injuring her brother and 4-year-old son. Vanessa, the most seriously injured, was airlifted to a trauma hospital. She flat lined while in the helicopter, and after arriving at the hospital, her family was notified to rush to the ICU.

Her right femur and pelvis were shattered, and her internal injuries included a ruptured spleen and bladder. Her face was crushed, and a crack on her skull and the swelling made her unrecognizable. Placed in a medicated coma for days, Vanessa received countless units of blood during all her surgeries.

Even if she did survive, doctors thought her serious head injury might cause severe mental disabilities. But Vanessa surprised everyone by making a rapid physical and mental recovery. She worked diligently at her physical therapy, determined to get home and care for her son.

Vanessa now has a titanium rod from her knee to her hip. Extensive reconstructive surgery repaired her face. She returned to care for her family and was even able to give birth to two more children.

She says, "I thank God every day that I was able to recover so quickly. How many others are going through what I went through? You can show you care by giving blood. You'll help get them through it."

Vanessa used to donate blood in high school and at her company blood drives. After recovering from her accident, she resumed her blood donation habit as a community service. "We show love through our actions," she added. "We're all in this together."



*Vanessa Servin is grateful to all those who donated blood.*



*Thanks to blood donors, Vanessa is able to be with her family and raise her children.*