

THE BCDI BEACON

THE BLOOD EXPERTS NEWSLETTER

WWW.IBCDI.ORG

NOVEMBER 2025

BCDI BLOOD
DROP SOCIETY



SHINING TOGETHER

Connecting Through Community and Care



A MESSAGE FROM **DR. TARANTINO**

BCDI Chief Executive Officer
BCDI Chief Medical Officer

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As we begin to reflect on another wonderful year of BCDI, I want to take a moment to thank our patients and families for being at the heart of everything we do. Each clinic visit, phone call, and story shared reminds us why our mission matters so deeply, to provide the best possible care and help every person living with a bleeding or clotting disorder live life to the fullest.

Inside this edition of The BCDI Beacon Newsletter, you will learn about how our staff and community have helped make a difference. BCDI Family Day was filled with learning, laughter, and a sense of togetherness that truly defines BCDI and what we aim to do. The **BCDI Food Truck Frenzy** brought together hundreds of families throughout central Illinois for a day of fun, food and connection. Our BCDI team even had the opportunity to represent the bleeding and clotting disorders community in **Washington D.C.**, sharing our patient experiences and advocating for better access to care to legislators.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about the coming months at BCDI, with our 15th Annual BCDI Trivia Night on the horizon on April 24, 2026. **Trivia Night 2026** will be themed **"Glam Factor"** and will be a night to celebrate our community. Support from events like this helps expand patient programs, scholarships, and services that directly benefit you and your families.

To all our patients and community members, I'd like to thank you for trusting BCDI with your care and for being such an important part of our family and the BCDI comprehensive care team. I hope that we can continue to work together to build a brighter, stronger future for everyone affected by bleeding and clotting disorders.



FOUNDATION
Supporting the Bleeding & Clotting Disorders Community



BEACON BUZZ

BCDI FOOD TRUCK FRENZY



On Friday, August 29, 2025, BCDI brought back the highly anticipated Food Truck Frenzy event to our parking lot at 427 W. Northmoor Road in Peoria! With over 900 guests in attendance and perfect weather, BCDI invited the community to sample 12 different central Illinois food trucks and arts/crafts vendors! We thank all of the vendors who participated and made this event a resounding success: **Cousins Maine Lobster, Mac Daddy Spuds, All Shook Up Lemonade, That Bald Guy BBQ, The Lumpia House + Truck, Mr. Hibachi Peoria, FaireCoffee, Triple Dipple's, The Queen of Squash, The Cuterie Cart, Jeweled By Jen, and Crafty Kitchen!** We'd also like to thank **Mike Stechman** from **93.3 The Drive** for hosting a live radio show from noon – 2 p.m., plus **Greens on the Go** for providing a mobile golf green chipping game for the attendees!

A portion of the proceeds from the BCDI Food Truck Frenzy event is being donated to the BCDI Foundation, to help enhance support and resources available for BCDI to improve the lives of individuals affected by bleeding, clotting or other blood disorders throughout Illinois.

Members of the BCDI comprehensive care team, including nursing, pharmacy, and physical therapy departments ran educational tables for attendees to learn more about the services we provide to our patients, raising crucial awareness for the community. Guests were also able to enter a free raffle to win a smokeless fire pit, a backpack cooler, an over-the-door Pop-A-Shot game and BCDI merchandise! Thank you to the community for your gracious support!



Save The Date! The next BCDI Food Truck Frenzy event will be hosted on May 8, 2026, at BCDI in Peoria! We will be bringing back some of your favorite food trucks from the first year of these events, plus adding some new vendors! We have some exciting additions coming, so be sure to mark your calendars!



BEACON BULLETIN

TRIVIA NIGHT 2026 SAVE THE DATE



It's once again time to start planning for the party of the year - or should we say the party of 2026 with BCDI Trivia Night! We are excited to announce details about BCDI's premier community event with the 15th annual BCDI Trivia Night, which will be held on **April 24, 2026**, at the **Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette Ballroom**! Registration will open in early 2026, so be sure to save the date and be on the lookout for when registration is available!

BCDI Trivia Night 2026 will be themed **"Glam Factor."** This year's "Glam Factor" theme is a play on words that celebrates both style and science. While guests are encouraged to dress to impress- whether in formal attire or in a rock star inspired "glam rock" vibe- the theme also nods to the blood factors that are essential for proper clotting, connecting directly to BCDI's mission statement of providing the highest quality of care to our patients.

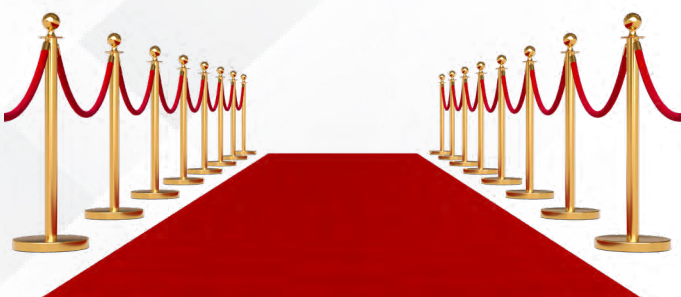
"World Hemophilia Day is in April, so this year's theme is especially meaningful as we attempt to shed light on our community," said BCDI CEO/CMO Dr. Michael Tarantino. "The word 'glam' represents the confidence and resilience that our patients and community show every day, while 'factor' reminds us of the lifesaving treatments that make our patients' lives better."

At the forefront of BCDI Trivia Night is fundraising for a terrific cause, as all proceeds raised will benefit the **BCDI Foundation**. All contributions help BCDI support our patients through initiatives such as The Green Family Scholarship, research, emergency financial assistance and other campaigns that improve the lives of our patients and their families. Your support and presence will make a huge difference and help us meet our fundraising goal of raising over **\$150,000** at Trivia Night!



We invite all trivia experts, novices, and fun-seekers to join us for one of our best trivia competitions yet! This is a team-based competition, with tables of 10 individuals playing on the same team to see which table can score the most correct answers throughout the night! Plus, all guests are invited to enjoy our **pre-event happy hour** with raffle prizes, participate in **online auctions** for premier items, play some unique **games for prizes**, compete in our **costume contest**, enjoy a **dinner party**, have access to BCDI staff members, plus a full program that highlights what makes BCDI special!

There will also be **sponsorship opportunities** available for partner companies and organizations! If you would like to learn more about BCDI Trivia Night 2026 and how you can be involved- whether as an individual, a team or as a sponsor- please contact **Jamie Cunningham** at **309-692-5337 (ext. 188)** or by email at **jamie@ilbcdi.org**!



BEACON SPOTLIGHT

LOLA ORTIZ

Every quarter, BCDI aims to highlight members of the bleeding and clotting disorders community, including patients, families, BCDI staff members and community partners. BCDI patient Dolores "Lola" Ortiz living with Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP). In a recent interview with our BCDI team, Dolores explains her experiences living with a bleeding disorder and how BCDI has helped empower her to live a "normal" life.

Question: When did you first become aware that you had a bleeding disorder?

Answer: About ten years ago, I was babysitting my nephew in Washington and getting ready to drive him to school. While I was stopped at a red light, a school bus hit my car. The bus driver gave me a business card and told me to take it to the school principal's office. When I got home, I told my husband what had happened. We went to a car shop together, and while he was getting an estimate, I received a phone call from a nurse. She told me that the doctor's office had just received my lab results, and my platelet levels were dangerously low. She said I needed to go to the ER immediately—I could bleed to death. I was 48 years old at the time, and neither my husband nor I understood the urgency, especially since I didn't feel sick at all. At the ER, they told me I needed an infusion and had to be admitted to the hospital overnight. The ER doctor referred me to a Peoria-area healthcare company, where I was eventually diagnosed with **ITP (Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura)**. I started seeing doctors there, but over time, I felt that they weren't truly interested in my care. I didn't feel seen or valued.



Q: What was your first experience with BCDI and how did you learn about our services?

A: Back then, I was working at a doctor's clinic and a nurse practitioner I trusted recommended I see Dr. Tarantino at BCDI. From the moment I walked into BCDI, I felt welcome. The front desk lady who checked me in talked about her two pet goats and instantly made me feel at home. When I met Dr. T, my anxiety disappeared. He was warm, down-to-earth, and took the time to clearly explain my ITP diagnosis to my husband and me. I saw kindness, compassion, and genuine care in his eyes. I wasn't just another patient- I mattered. BCDI has truly been a lifesaver.

Q: How has BCDI played a role in living a manageable life with ITP?

A: Everyone at BCDI is incredibly supportive and helpful, no matter what life throws my way. For example, I lost my insurance a few months ago, and Becky, Marsha, Missy, and other nurses went above and beyond to help me get my medication and ease my worries. The pharmacy staff has also been amazing- always helpful and encouraging. When I go to BCDI for my weekly infusions, it feels like home. The front desk team is always friendly, and waiting for my nurse feels like a peaceful break in my day.

Q: If someone is newly diagnosed with a bleeding or blood clotting disorder, would you recommend them to seek care at BCDI for their treatment?

A: My family is deeply grateful to BCDI and Dr. Tarantino for helping me stay alive and live a normal life. I wholeheartedly recommend BCDI to anyone with a bleeding disorder. They will never treat you differently because of your nationality, language, or culture. Dr. Tarantino and his team are truly the best thing that happened to me after my diagnosis with chronic ITP.

FAMILY DAY REVIEW

BCDI welcomed our patients and their families to our Peoria campus for the annual BCDI Family Day event on September 20, 2025! We are excited to share some of the highlights and pictures from this wonderful event that brings our community together for crucial education and a fun carnival!

The day kicked off with a delicious lunch served by our friends at **Raber Packing Co.**, ensuring our attendees were well-fed before a day full of activities! Our expert BCDI staff led specialized educational sessions, offering valuable insights for both adults and teenagers. These educational presentations covered how to prevent blood clots, an overview of evolving therapies for Hemophilia, VWD and rare bleeding disorders, access to barriers in healthcare, new findings in ITP, and a teen's sessions teaching advocacy in everyday life for independence.



The educational sessions from BCDI Family Day 2025 are available online for virtual education!

Scan the QR code to view the video presentations.





While the adults and teens were immersed in learning, the younger attendees enjoyed carnival games and activities! **Just 4 Jumps** and **Fun on the Run** provided carnival games such as inflatable football toss and can-throwing, an obstacle course and a dual-slide, plus **Rolling Video Games of Illinois** (indoor trailer of video game systems) and **Barnyard Discoveries** (educational petting zoo with farm animals) provided plenty of entertainment! Guests also indulged their sweet tooth with treats from **Kona Ice of Peoria** and **Kamaela's Creamery**. Plus the **Peoria Fire Department** brought a fire truck to the BCDI parking lot for kids to tour and take pictures! The carnival spirit was alive with face painting, a balloon artist, exciting games organized by our BCDI team, and a golf skee-ball game provided by **Greens on the Go!**



A heartfelt thank you to all the BCDI patients and families who contributed to making this a wonderful event! Your participation and enthusiasm truly embody the spirit of our community, and we look forward to seeing you at future events.



BEACON OUTREACH

BCDI IN THE COMMUNITY

Hemophilia Alliance Hill Days *October 7, 2025*

BCDI staff, patients and members of the bleeding disorders community traveled to Washington D.C. to visit Capitol Hill as part of the Hemophilia Alliance's Hill Days event. The BCDI team of **Becky Burns, Wendy Ferrill, Chris Monk, Sophia Tarantino, Matt McClain** and BCDI patient and advocate **Jim Wilson** spoke with members of Congress about the role Hemophilia Treatment Center's play for their patients and the importance of the HTC care model, about several access to care issues throughout the community, and raising awareness about the integral part the 340B program plays in providing high-quality care that is offered at HTC's. This helps to lower overall healthcare costs and most importantly, leads to optimal outcomes for patients with a bleeding disorder. We would like to thank the offices of Rep. Darin LaHood, Rep. Eric Sorensen, Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Rep. Mary Miller, Rep. Robin Kelly, and Senator Tammy Duckworth for taking time out of his busy schedule to personally meet with us!

Dr. Tarantino also presented findings from a BCDI-led project, **"Hemophilia Treatment Center Immune Thrombocytopenia Purpura (ITP) Survey – Results and Overview"** during the Hemophilia Alliance Fall Members meeting while in Washington D.C. The survey revealed that many individuals living with ITP across the U.S. are receiving some degree of specialized care through hemophilia treatment centers. These findings reinforce Dr. Tarantino's vision of building a national network of treatment centers for ITP, modeled after BCDI's own comprehensive care clinics.

Moline Educational Dinner *October 20, 2025*

Alongside our community and event partners at Bleeding Disorders of the Heartland, BCDI presented a free educational dinner in Moline on Monday, October 20 at Fifth Avenue Syndicate. BCDI CEO/CMO Dr. Michael Tarantino led an in-depth presentation focused on the crucial role of hemophilia treatment centers, like BCDI, play for individuals living with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. Thank you to the 20+ attendees who made this such a wonderful night with terrific questions - we appreciate the overwhelming support of education and the passion for optimal patient outcomes!



BEACON SUPPORT

THE BCDI PATIENT PORTAL

At the Bleeding & Clotting Disorders Institute, we're always looking for ways to better serve our patients with bleeding, clotting and other blood disorders. We understand the importance of streamlined communication and easy access to your healthcare information. That's why we're thrilled to announce the launch of our new **Prognosis Patient Portal**, designed with your needs in mind. The Prognosis Patient Portal will not only improve BCDI's commitment to providing optimal comprehensive care, but most importantly will improve experiences for you: [our patients!](#)

WHY THE PATIENT PORTAL?

Living with a bleeding or clotting disorder often requires frequent communication with your care team, timely access to test results, and managing treatment plans. Our Patient Portal simplifies these processes, putting your healthcare management right at your fingertips.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH THE PATIENT PORTAL?

BCDI patients can now use our online patient portal, allowing 24/7 access to crucial medical information, including but not limited to:



SEND A MESSAGE
TO YOUR CARE
TEAM



VIEW PERSONAL
HEALTH
INFORMATION



REQUEST
PRESCRIPTION
REFILLS



VIEW LAB AND
RADIOLOGY RESULTS



VIEW
APPOINTMENTS



FILL OUT PATIENT
FORMS



HOW IT WORKS

Getting started with the Patient Portal is simple:

- **SIGN UP:** Visit our website at ilbcdi.org and click "Patient Portal" tab on the main menu. Fill out the Patient Portal sign up form to request access to your account. If you are having problems, call BCDI at 309-692-5337. **Clinic ID: 4214**
- **LOG IN:** Access the portal from your computer or mobile device. Download the **My Health Records** app from the Apple App or Google Play stores.
- **EXPLORE:** Start managing your healthcare needs with just a few clicks!

COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING YOU

BCDI's mission is to provide integrated, family-oriented care, treatment and education for individuals with bleeding, blood clotting and other blood disorders. The Patient Portal is part of our commitment to improving your healthcare experience and making your journey with us as seamless as possible.

Experience the convenience of managing your healthcare needs anytime, anywhere with our new Patient Portal. Sign up today and take the first step toward a more connected care experience! If you have any questions or concerns during this process, we ask that you call the BCDI office at **309-692-5337**.



BEACON BUZZ

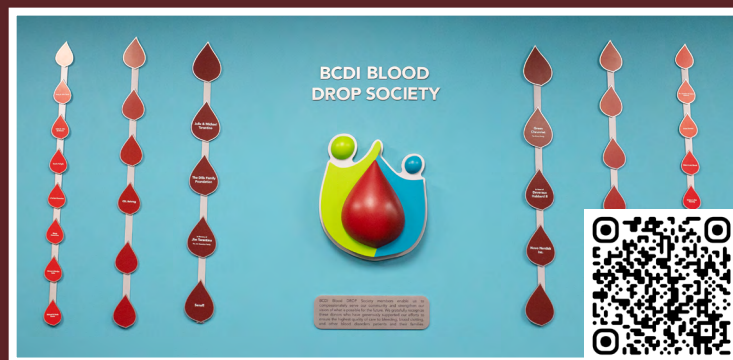
BCDI BLOOD DROP SOCIETY

November 2025 marks the first anniversary of the introduction of the **BCDI Blood DROP Society**, and we are excited to share the progress that has been made thanks in large part to our incredible community of supporters and donors! The BCDI Blood DROP Society is an honored group of individuals and organizations that support vital services, impacting the entire bleeding and clotting disorders community throughout downstate Illinois, every day, thanks to their generous contributions.



All proceeds raised by the BCDI Blood DROP Society directly benefit the BCDI Foundation - with over **\$140,000** raised in the past year. This truly remarkable achievement has empowered the BCDI Foundation to continue improving and expanding the patient services to support the community physically, emotionally, and psychosocially. This includes the newest benefit of the BCDI Foundation - **The Green Family Scholarshi** - which is now overseen by the BCDI Foundation and awards up to \$1,500 for five recipients each year to support further education.

To join the BCDI Blood DROP Society, individuals, groups or organizations must raise or donate a minimum of **\$1,000** within a calendar year. There are three different levels of support to join the BCDI Blood DROP Society, with various financial categories ranging from a one-time giving of \$1,000, to lifetime memberships.



To view the various levels of the BCDI Blood DROP Society, please scan the QR code or visit ilbcdi.org/get-involved/blooddrop-society. As a BCDI Blood DROP Society member, you will receive name recognition for one calendar year on our new BCDI Donor Wall. This beautiful piece of art has been unveiled in our BCDI patient lobby and is an eye-catching and spectacular addition to our facility.

BCDI Blood DROP Society members will also receive name recognition in every addition of the BCDI Beacon quarterly newsletter, will have exclusive opportunities throughout the year to network with BCDI providers and staff, will receive exclusive BCDI Foundation merchandise and much more!

Are you interested in joining the BCDI Blood DROP Society? Please contact **Jamie Cunningham** at **309-692-5337 (ext. 188)** or by email at jamie@ilbcdi.org for more information.

IN APPRECIATION

Lifetime Impact Members:

- Becky & John Burns
- CSL Behring
- In Honor of Deveraux Hubbard II
- The Dills Family Foundation
- Green Chevrolet & The Green Family
- In Memory of Jim Tarantino - The Jim Tarantino Family
- Julie & Dr. Michael Tarantino
- Laura & Dr. Jonathan Roberts
- Liberty Village
- Novo Nordisk Inc.
- Sanofi

Champion Members:

- Alex & Holly Edwin
- Anonymous Donor

Annual Members:

- A Perfect Promotion
- Josh & Ashley Bellamy
- Bleeding Disorders of the Heartland
- Bremer Jewelry
- Brian & Lois Marsel
- Busey Bank
- Denise & Lance Piper
- Hema Biologics
- Illinois CancerCare
- John & Nancy Machens
- Justin & Wendy Ferrill
- Kollet & John Barkhouse
- Kristen & Bob Manning
- Lyndsey & Daniel Plantamura
- Octapharma
- Peoria Heights Community Bank
- PIP Marketing, Signs, & Print

BEACON BRIEFS

GIVING TUESDAY

As a non-profit organization, BCDI relies on the philanthropy of our community and supporters to help raise awareness and crucial funds for our mission. Giving Tuesday, the global day of unity, is an opportunity for you to make a huge impact on the bleeding and clotting disorders community!

BCDI will be participating in Giving Tuesday on **December 2, 2025**, and we need your help to reach our goal of raising **\$5,000** for the BCDI Foundation! Not only do we need your support, but we also need your help spreading the word. Please tell your friends and family why you believe in the work BCDI provides and encourage them to support us, too!

BCDI truly values your support over the years and hope you'll consider lending your time and network to our mission this Giving Tuesday by fundraising on behalf of BCDI.

Here's how you can be a part of the generosity movement:

- Make a donation to the BCDI Foundation by scanning the QR code on this page. All proceeds go immediately back to support BCDI patients and their families.
- Help us spread the word! Our BCDI social media pages will be posting Giving Tuesday content throughout late November and early December—please consider sharing our messages with your friends!
- Visit **bcdifoundation.org** to learn more about the people your Giving Tuesday gift will support. We appreciate any gifts to help us provide essential services to the lives of our patients!



BCDI ACROSS THE STATE

BCDI serves patients across the state of Illinois through our ten different comprehensive care locations. During a comprehensive care visit, a patient sees a variety of expert caregivers. From hematologists to social workers, a nutritionist and everything in between – patients learn to live life to the fullest, regardless of their diagnosis. This united approach leads to a timely diagnosis, comprehensive treatment plans and optimal long-term care of patients with bleeding and clotting disorders.

- **Arthur** HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Building
525 N. Vine St. Arthur, IL 61911
- **Carbondale** SIU Center for Family Medicine
300 W Oak St. Carbondale, IL 62901
- **Champaign** OSF Medical Group – Primary Care
1405 W Park St., Suite 306 Urbana, IL 61820
- **Decatur** Crossing Healthcare 320 E. Central Ave.
Decatur, IL 62521
- **Macomb** Medical Arts Building Visiting Physician
Office 527 E. Grant St. Macomb, IL 61455
- **Moline** Pediatric Specialty Clinic 515 Valley View
Drive Moline, IL 61265

- **Ottawa** Fox River Cancer Center
1200 Starfire Dr. Ottawa, IL 61350
- **Peoria** Bleeding & Clotting Disorders Institute
427 W Northmoor Dr. Peoria, IL 61614
Women's Service Clinics, Thrombophilia Clinics, and Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP) Clinics are located at the Peoria location.
- **Rockford** OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center
5666 E. State St.
Rockford, IL 61108
- **Springfield** Office of Dr. Gregory Brandt
400 N 9th St – 3rd Floor
Springfield, IL 62701





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GET IN TOUCH



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Monday - Friday



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www.ilbcdi.org/about-us/newsletter

