



Valerie Hilliard almost didn't survive her pregnancy. In her seventh month, she experienced severe pains in her abdomen and chest. After three days of symptoms, she was rushed to the hospital. Valerie was suffering from Eclampsia, a form of high blood pressure that can lead to internal bleeding and organ failure. After delivering her premature son by Cesarean section, she began hemorrhaging, and needed an emergency blood transfusion.

Both she and her son were in intensive care. Her husband, Alfonzo, spent his days between rooms checking up on his family. With the help of 12 doctors, Valerie underwent three surgeries to stop the bleeding and had to receive nine units of blood. Finally, after kidney and liver failure, a stroke that temporarily impaired her vision and 31 days in the intensive care unit, Valerie recovered and was able to meet her son for the first time.

"We often wonder who gave the blood that was used to save Valerie's life," Alfonzo said. "We wish we could personally thank every donor and let them know that someone lived because they took time to give of themselves."

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