

BioLife Plasma Services opens in Broken Arrow

G.B. Poindexter | Broken Arrow Ledger
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First BioLife facility in Oklahoma

Ranked No. 219 in Fortune Magazine's top 500 companies, and reporting estimated earnings of \$12 billion for 2008, Baxter International is making its first foray into Oklahoma with BioLife Plasma Services at 2301 E. Hillside Drive.

Based in Dearborn, IL, the medical equipment and pharmaceutical preparations company opened its 16,000-square-foot BioLife facility on Nov. 3.

"We have 65 plasma collection facilities throughout the U.S.," said Dominick Inzerillo, temporary acting spokesperson for Baxter. "This is our first BioLife facility in Oklahoma and we will work with the Broken Arrow community to help save lives."

Before lifesaving plasma collection began taking place, BioLife had to set up operations in a newly designed type of donation center. BioLife General Manager, Craig Lamberson explained, "This building has a side-mount design. There are only three designs of this type in our company, and it took just a bit of time to get used to the new setup."

The donations, which are processed by Baxter BioScience, are not sold to third parties, according to Inzerillo. When people come in to donate, they do so for different reasons but the donations each serve one purpose.

"People give plasma for many reasons but they know their donations do the most important thing – they help save lives," said Lamberson, a 1990 BA High School graduate. "Baxter took a lot of care in setting up this facility, which has 36 collection stations now, but will have a total of 60 once we are fully staffed and operational."

BioLife began with 36 employees and will have between 60 and 70 when it reaches full capacity. Staff includes office personnel, nurses and phlebotomists – those trained in collecting blood from donors