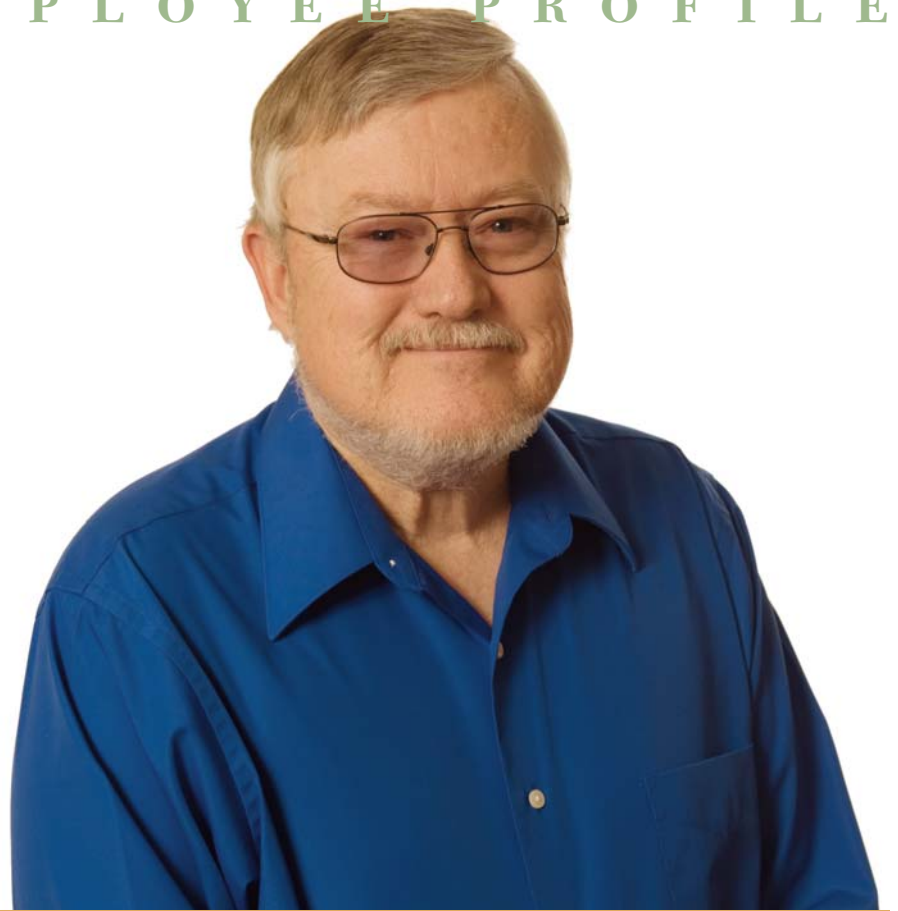


**B**ob Frisbey started working at Livingston HealthCare in 1977, not long after graduating from school as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist. Livingston appealed to him because he was interested in going back to school, and there was a program at MSU that was a good fit.

“There was a job in Livingston, and I could commute to school,” recalls Bob. “Then, it turned out that going back to school wasn’t really the right thing for me at the time.” Being in Livingston was the right thing, however. Bob met his wife at Livingston HealthCare not long after starting his new job, and they were married in 1980.

Later, Bob also found a passion for blood drives and donation through his job. It began in 1985 when he became responsible for the blood bank at Livingston Memorial Hospital. “Each person in the lab has an area of expertise or aspect of the lab that they are responsible for,” Bob explains. “I got the blood bank by default. They needed someone, and I was available.”

Bob spent the first several years learning all he could and getting the blood bank up to the standards of the day. Then, in 1997 he was asked to serve on the Board of Directors for



## Through His Job, an Employee Finds His Passion

the local Red Cross Chapter, the organization responsible for local blood drives and supplying the blood bank. At the time, Livingston HealthCare wasn’t actively involved in coordinating blood drives. That changed in 1999 when Bob started taking a more active role.

Soon, changes at the Red Cross prompted Livingston HealthCare and other hospitals in Montana to switch to United Blood Services (UBS) as their blood services provider. Bob continued in an even more active role as the blood drive coordinator. “Switching to UBS was a good decision for us,” says Bob. “We were able to contain our costs while providing what we believed was the best quality product for our patients.” The donors have responded so well that the UBS drive in Livingston has been expanded to one and half days, and last summer a record was set with 111 units drawn in a single drive.

Today, Bob works full time at Livingston HealthCare in the lab and continues to work as the blood drive coordinator. After 11 years, he is happy to continue in this role. “One in four people need a blood transfusion in the hospital setting,” he says. “We use about 400 pints of blood a year in Livingston, and each pint is helping to save a life.”

“I know many of the donors now,” says Bob. “They are some of the most compassionate people I have ever met, but we really need to continue to add donors.” Bob has several ideas about how to do this. “We are now doing drives in Mammoth and at Park High School, and we are always looking for other opportunities.” And, Bob says he encourages anyone who is coming in to consider bringing a friend. “If everyone brought a friend or committed to give three times a year, the national shortage would be alleviated,” he adds.

With tears in his eyes, Bob tells stories about people whose lives have been saved by blood transfusions, including his own father. “People’s lives are saved because donors like ours give blood, and some of the stories really tug at your heart,” he says. “Even if I retired from Livingston HealthCare, I hope I could continue to work with the blood drives in some capacity—it’s in my blood now.”

**Diabetes Education**

Livingston HealthCare’s Diabetes Education program offers comprehensive education to diabetes patients and their families. Trained diabetes educators provide information on nutrition, self-medication, glucose control, exercise, and complications. To learn more about our Diabetes Education program, talk to your physician or visit us online at [www.livingstonhealthcare.org](http://www.livingstonhealthcare.org).

