

Native American Donors Needed Urgently – Please Help!

Please Read—You may be able to save a life!

Graham Barnell is 42, lives in Melbourne, Australia and is married with two children. He has Leukaemia and needs a Bone Marrow Transplant urgently. The Red Cross in Australia has searched the International Registries since his diagnosis in April 2007 but has been unable to come up with a match.

His disease was in remission for 7 months but unfortunately, he relapsed in January 2008 and without a donor his chances of surviving are very slim. His tissue typing is mixed Caucasian/Native American and we are asking people of a similar back ground to register with the NMDP as a potential donor. You can read more at www.adonorforgraham.com.

American Indian/Alaska Natives account for only 1% of the registered donors in the NMDP registry. While Caucasian patients searching the registry have an 80 percent chance of finding a match, the odds of people of other races locating a match is between 20 percent and 55 percent. The odds for some patients, however, can be as low as one in a million. Thousands of Native Americans die each year because they cannot find a marrow donor, or they do not find a donor soon enough. This is the reason it is so important for the NMDP to recruit more minority donors including Native Americans.

Taking part in NMDP is easy and almost painless. First, you fill out a form. Then, the Red Cross will take a small sample of your blood and HLA type it. Then, you and your HLA type are entered into a national database. Then you wait. From then on, whenever you move, just update your address and phone number so they can always find you.

Registering in the NMDP does not obligate you to donate. All it does is say that, "Yes, I will consider donating if I ever match with someone." The cost of the donation is taken care of by the recipient, so it does not cost you any money. Most commonly donation is done by a Peripheral Stem Cell Collection. A hormone injection is given to over-stimulate the stem cell production and you then give blood that is filtered for the stem cells. The other method is a Bone Marrow Harvest which does cause some inconvenience and some pain, but both of those go away after a week or so. Most importantly, bone marrow transplants are truly lifesaving operations.



National Marrow Donor Program

1-800-627-7692

www.marrow.org