

# Fight for Sydney and others fighting blood cancer



**REGISTER AS A BONE  
MARROW DONOR**

**Saturday, November 2, 2013**

**10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Walled Lake Central High School**

**1600 E. Oakley Park, Commerce, MI**

Sydney is a 9 year old living in Commerce, Michigan. She loves making crafts, spending time with friends, playing soccer, playing piano and doing gymnastics. She lives with mom (Stacy), dad (Jason) and big brother (Jeremy – 12). All in all she lives the life of a typical 9 year old, except for one thing: Sydney has had to battle cancer twice in her young life.

After 2 ½ years of chemotherapy, hair loss, and endless medication that helped put her in remission, her doctors now say that her best chance is to receive a bone marrow transplant, but without a matching donor in her family Sydney's life is in the hands of a stranger. It takes 5 minutes to register, but it could end up meaning a lifetime for someone like Sydney.



Can't make the drive?  
Register online at  
[deletebloodcancer.org](http://deletebloodcancer.org)

# Facts about bone marrow donation!

## What is delete blood cancer?

Delete Blood Cancer DKMS is the world's largest bone marrow donor center. We lead the fight to defeat blood cancer by empowering people to take action, give bone marrow and save lives.

## How can i make a difference?

You can register to become a bone marrow donor and increase the chance that a patient can find a match and receive a life-saving transplant. The donor and patient should share at least 8 HLA tissue characteristics, but ideally having 10 in common would be a good match. With more than 7,000 known HLA types that occur in millions of combinations, finding a match is like winning the lottery. Every new donor raises the odds.

## Who can become a bone marrow donor?

You must be 18-55 years old, in good general health, weight at least 110 pounds, have a maximum body mass index of 40, and be willing to donate to any patient in need. If you meet these requirements, you can sign up by completing a registration form and swabbing the inside of your cheeks to collect cells for HLA tissue typing.

## What is my commitment?

Registering is the first step toward saving a life. Once your HLA information appears anonymously on national registry, you must be willing to donate to anyone in need. You might be a match for someone at any point after registering, so it's important that you keep your contact and health information updated at [deletebloodcancer.org](http://deletebloodcancer.org). Your information will stay on the registry until you are 61 or ask to have it removed.

## What happens if i'm a match?

If you are a match for a patient, someone from Delete Blood Cancer will contact you with the great news. At that time, we ask you to complete a health questionnaire. We will arrange for you to provide a blood sample and possibly undergo additional testing to determine if you are the best possible donor for the patient. If we've determined that you are, you will be asked to donate in one of two ways selected by the patient's doctor. You must be willing to donate using either method. There are no costs to you at any point.

## Two ways to donate

### Peripheral blood stem cell donation:

Cells are collected via blood stream during an outpatient procedure. Blood is drawn from one arm into a machine that filters out the stem cells for the patient and then returns the remaining blood through the other arm. This procedure takes about 4-8 hours over the course of 1-2 consecutive days. On the four days before and on the day of the procedure, you will receive a daily injection of filgrastim, a synthetic protein that boosts your stem cell production. While taking filgrastim, many donors experience flu-like symptoms such as headaches, bone and muscle aches and fatigue. Most side-effects subside within 48 hours of donating.

### Marrow donation:

Marrow cells are collected from the backside of the pelvic bone (not the spine) using a special syringe. You will receive general anesthesia so no pain is experienced during the 1-2 hour procedure. Most donors are discharged from the hospital the next day or earlier. You may experience some pain, bruising and stiffness for up to two weeks after the procedure, however most donors are back to their regular routines within a week. Your marrow will completely replenish itself within a few weeks.

## What else can i do to help?

- Contact us to organize a donor drive in your community, office or school.
- Encourage friends and family to register at a drive or [deletebloodcancer.org](http://deletebloodcancer.org)
- Fund our efforts. It costs us \$65 to register each donor.
- You can contribute via [deletebloodcancer.org](http://deletebloodcancer.org) or fund raise via [FirstGiving.com/DKMS](http://FirstGiving.com/DKMS)

## → Help us save more lives!

Make a \$ donation

[www.deletebloodcancer.org/donate](http://www.deletebloodcancer.org/donate)

## → Connect with us

It's a great way to help us spread the word:

Like us at [Facebook/deletebloodcancer](https://www.facebook.com/deletebloodcancer)

Follow us on [Twitter.com/getswabbed](https://twitter.com/getswabbed)

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