



Working Together For Hope

It is very encouraging to see our association doing so many great things to help bone marrow transplant patients. We are very thankful to our many supporters and volunteers for their generous donations of time and money to our cause. Our awareness campaign is reaching far and wide and more and more people are stepping to the plate by joining the bone marrow registry or by donating umbilical cord blood.

Umbilical cord blood is a promising new source of hope for patients that cannot find a bone marrow donor. Promoting umbilical cord blood donation has been a major focus for our organization this past year. We prepared an informative brochure that explains the four options for a baby's cord blood: donate it to a public bank; pay

to store it for personal use; donate it to research; or discard it in the waste. We have partnered with Victoria Angel Registry, a public cord blood bank in Toronto and are working hard to encourage couples to donate their baby's cord blood to this bank. We are also thrilled to see Canadian Blood Services making significant progress towards obtaining government funding to establish a national public cord blood bank.

We are proud to have increased the amount of financial support we provide to bone marrow transplant patients both in the amount per family as well as the total number of families helped. The success we had with fundraising this past year has also given us the chance to

sponsor research at the University of Montreal. We are actively seeking additional bone marrow transplant research projects to support.

It is troubling that we continue to see patients struggle to find a matching bone marrow donor. Our work is certainly not finished and we embrace the challenge before us.

We hope to see you this summer at the 3rd Annual Bowling for Bone Marrow as well as at the John Fox Memorial Golf Tournament. The money raised at these events is critical to our success.

Bryan Bedard
President

Transplant Family Support Program Committee

Last year, we were able to assist six families through our Transplant Family Support Program. This year, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to assist 15 families. Our program received a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 from Green Shield Canada to help support our families in need.

We have expanded the Transplant Family Support Program and now include adults from the Windsor/Essex County area, as well as children from Southwestern Ontario. We have also received applications and have been able to assist families from other areas of Ontario and Western Canada. It proves that

there really is a need for this program. The committee members for the Transplant Family Support Program wish to extend our sincere thanks to the many generous donors whose financial support has contributed to the great success of this program. **Together, we are making a difference.**



Someone is looking for a needle in a haystack... You might be the needle!

Join the Bone Marrow Registry
Find out more at www.givemarrow.net

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JOIN THE REGISTRY TODAY

- Adults 17-50 are eligible
- Fill out an application form and send it to Canadian Blood Services.
- A simple blood test or cheek swab is all that is needed to determine your HLA type.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at
www.givemarrow.net



Public Relations & Marketing Committee

One of the main goals of the KBBMA is to raise awareness about the desperate need for bone marrow donors and to encourage healthy people between the ages of 17 - 50 to join the bone marrow registry. We can proudly say that we are making a difference!

People are recognizing who we are and what we do. The KBBMA continues to reach out within our local community by attending a wide variety of events such as information nights and fundraisers to support raising awareness about bone marrow and stem cell donations as well as cord blood donations. We have focused particularly on addressing young people of high school age and expectant moms.

We are also fully supporting the MPP for Essex, Hon. Bruce Crozier, in naming the month of November, **The Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Donation Awareness Month.**



People Who Make A Difference

Our organization is extremely fortunate to have a wonderful group of committed individuals who give of their time and talents to promote the Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association. They are:

Bryan Bedard – **President and Fundraising Chair**

Joanne Bedard – **Vice President and Family Support Chair**

Nancy Leavoy – **Treasurer**

Melba Bedard – **Secretary**

Paul Hammond - **Public Relations Chair**

Mark Ruttle - **Research Chair**

Alice Friesen - **Script Writer**

Andrea Sulyok - **Volunteer Coordinator**

Laura White - **Corporate Sponsorship Coordinator**

Nicholle Kuzniak - **Web Site Chair and Partners for Life Coordinator**

Carolyn Mayea

Jackie Leardi

Frances Hammond

Ken Roughton



Calling All Volunteers!

Do you want to be involved in our organization? Do you want to help out?

There are a few things we need help with:

- ▶ Work at our booth at community events and health fairs.
- ▶ Help organize fundraising events.
- ▶ Write articles for our website.
- ▶ Public speaking engagements.
- ▶ Graphic design, posters, brochures.
- ▶ Join our Board of Directors - a wonderful resume building opportunity!

If you would like more information about volunteering in our organization, we would love to hear from you!

Website Committee

The Website Committee creates and maintains the organization's web presence. The purpose of the website is to keep our visitors informed on what is happening with our organization, provide a resource for information regarding bone marrow donation, cord blood donation and related issues. Here are some facts on what www.givemarrow.net has achieved this year.

- Our **"I Joined"** list has grown to 121
- 675 visits per month
- 364 visits per month find us on Google
- 14.2 visitors per month found us by typing 'Bone Marrow Transplant'
- 87.8 visitors per month go to our Canadian Registry page



Research Sponsorship Committee

It's hard to believe another year has passed already and again thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have an opportunity to continue our support in the area of bone marrow and hematopoietic transplant research. As you may recall, we donated \$5,000 to L'Université de Montreal to support Dr. Claude Perreault at the Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer in his efforts to reduce the chances of a marrow recipient contracting graft-versus-host disease.

We recently received an email from Dr. Perreault outlining some accomplishments over the past year and explaining a bit of how he and his team would like to proceed over the coming months.

In his email Dr. Perreault writes:

"The financial support of the Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association helped a young clinician scientist in my group (Jean-Sébastien Delisle) to complete a very original and interesting study on graft-versus-host disease (GVHD, the most dreadful complication associated with BMT). GVHD impairs the function of bone marrow cells and of the immune system. Therefore patients with GVHD suffer from cytopenias (anemia, low platelet and white blood cell counts) and are highly susceptible to infections."

We will share additional details of this research once they have been published.

Looking forward to this year, Dr. Perreault and his team are again under consideration for our continued financial support. We have also looked at research being conducted here at the University of Windsor, and although groundbreaking strides are being made in cancer research, none of these studies relate to bone marrow transplantation. We are also looking to London and Children's Hospital of Western Ontario where several of our board members have direct relationships with researchers on staff. If anyone has information regarding research sponsorship opportunities you think we should consider, please contact the Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association and give us the information.

Once again, this research support would not be possible without the continued efforts of the Fundraising Committee and the generous contributions from the community. We thank everyone who has contributed and look forward to many more great opportunities to further research in this area.



WHAT DOES OUR ORGANIZATION DO?

Awareness

Raise Awareness about the desperate need for bone marrow donors and encourage people to join the bone marrow registry and to donate umbilical cord blood.

Family Support

Provide financial support to patients undergoing a bone marrow transplant through our Family Support Program.

Research

Sponsor bone marrow transplant related Research in hopes of finding better alternatives for patients faced with bone marrow transplant.

**Someone is Looking for a Needle
in a Haystack...
You Might be the Needle!**



Partners For Life Program

We are very proud to be a member of Canadian Blood Services 'Partners for Life' Program.

Partners for Life is a nationwide program that is designed for corporate and community organizations. By joining the program, our organization made a commitment to save lives by donating blood as a team. The need for blood is ongoing, and patients that are treated for such things as leukemia, surgery, other cancers, and trauma depend on a stable supply of blood year round, which is why Partners for Life organizations have the power to save lives!

Patients that undergo a bone marrow transplant need a large number of blood transfusions before and after their transplant as well as during their initial treatment. Including their pre-transplant treatment, it is not uncommon for a transplant patient to need over 100 transfusions. These patients cannot survive without the support of blood donors in their community. We feel this is another excellent way to help patients faced with a bone marrow transplant.

KBBMA has pledged to donate 50 units of blood in 2008. If you would like to help us achieve or surpass our pledge please contact us at partners@givemarrow.net for more information.

Fundraising Committee



It's time to dust off that bowling ball, put on some groovy bowling shoes and come on out to our 3rd Annual Bowling for Bone Marrow, "Throw a Strike for the Gift of Life" on Saturday, August 23, 2008. It's an afternoon of fun with games for kids, great prizes and of course bowling, all for a good cause. Be sure to register early to guarantee your spot. To register, phone 519-564-4119 or fill out the registration form on our web site, www.givemarrow.net.

Lane sponsorships are available at a cost of \$100 per lane.



What: Bowling for Bone Marrow 2008

When: Saturday, August 23, 2008

Check-in: 12:00 pm

Bowling: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Where: Bowlero Family Fun Centre

Address: 675 Tecumseh Rd West Windsor

All ages welcome



Fore! Our good friends from the John Fox Memorial Golf Tournament are generously donating the proceeds from this event to the Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association again this year. The tournament will be held on Saturday, July 12th at the Tilbury Golf & Curling Club.



For more information, phone 519-564-4119.



Last year, Bowling for Bone Marrow **raised over \$17,000** and the John Fox Memorial **raised over \$4,000**. The money raised at these events is critical to our success and allows us to carry out our awareness campaign, provide financial support to bone marrow transplant patients and sponsor research. We truly appreciate your continued support and hope to see you again this year at these wonderful events!

MONTHLY MEETING

Second Tuesday of each
month

7:00 PM

CAW Local 1973

3719 Walker Rd, Windsor,
ON

**Everyone Is Welcome
To Attend**

**If you would like to contact us with
feedback on this web site or to ask a
question about bone marrow donation,
feel free to send us e-mail at the
following address:
info@givemarrow.net.**

Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association
3064 Fairlane Crescent, Windsor, ON N8W 4Y6

PASS IT ON

**Please feel free to pass this
brochure along to
co-workers, family members
and friends.**