

Every Life Is Precious

Imagine you are stranded on a desert island, hoping for a ship to come by to rescue you. You can survive on the island, but who knows for how long? Your predicament is tenuous, but simple. All it takes is one ship... just a single ship to find you and bring you back to safety. There are currently about 800 Canadians "stranded on a desert island" praying that their ship, a matching stem cell donor, will come to their rescue.

It may sound like a small number, just 800 people in a country of more than 30 million. But what if **you** were one of those 800 people whose life was in the balance? What if it was your best friend, or what if it was **your child**? Suddenly, that island would feel like a grain of salt in a gigantic ocean.

At Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association, we understand the anxiety of looking for a matching stem cell donor. Whether it's one person, or 800, or tens of thousands, the urgency is the same. Every life is precious. so we work hard to answer the distress call from those in need.

I'm proud of what our small group has achieved. We add hundreds of ethnically diverse, committed, potential donors to the registry each year through our "**swab events**". Last November, we formed a partnership with One Match Stem Cell and Marrow Network to be their official partner in the Windsor-Essex County Region. We are honoured to be the face of our cause in this corner of the country.

Our reach is not limited to Windsor-Essex. Our financial support program has helped families in several communities across the country and our research sponsorship both here in Windsor and in Montreal, has a truly global impact. We are extremely thankful for the efforts of our local MPP Bruce Crozier, who was successful in getting Private Member's Bill 80 passed last fall to make the month of November **Bone Marrow Awareness Month** in the Province of Ontario, in honour of Katelyn.

We hope you will join us at the **6th Annual Bowling for Bone Marrow**. The money raised at this event is critical to our continued success.

I offer my personal thanks to each and every one of our amazing volunteers for rolling up their sleeves and investing their time and creativity to help bring a rescue ship to someone in need.

Transplant Family Support Program

Well, it's hard to believe another year has come and gone. The Bone Marrow Transplant Family Support Program continues to grow thanks to our many generous donors. Together, you are making a difference. Thanks to you, we have been able to assist all patients who have applied to our program. This year alone, we have helped 20 families from across Canada. Every year since we introduced this program, the number of families helped has increased. This just reinforces the fact that there is a definite need for the Family Support Program. Once again, we would like to thank you, **our generous donors**.



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

Partners For Life ~ We Need Your Help!

We are very proud that the Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association is a member of Canadian Blood Services 'Partners for Life' Program. This year, KBBMA has pledged to donate 80 units of blood. One of our goals this year is to surpass this number. We need your help.

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.

If you are currently a blood donor with Canadian Blood Services, follow these steps to sign up to KBBMA's Partners For Life. Every time you donate, you will help us achieve our goal and save lives.

1. Go to www.blood.ca/partnersforlife
2. Click on the Join Partners for Life button
3. Click on the Member's Option
4. Click on the Sign me up to donate with my team
5. Complete the form and click the Submit button.
6. KBBMA's Partner ID# is: KATE007939

“Together, we are making a difference.”

It really is that easy.

If you have any questions please contact us at partners@givemarrow.net for more information.

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!**

Swabbing to Save Lives!



Since October 2009, the dedicated volunteers of the Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association has hosted 14 Swab Events where adults between the ages of 17-50 can register as donors and learn more about donating bone marrow and stem cells. At Queen's Park in the Main Legislative Building on November 4, 2011, KBBMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with OneMatch and officially became their trusted partner in Windsor and Essex County as their representative for swab events. To date **we have registered 1118 potential donors**.



These swab events encourage a little “cheekiness” as registrants complete a health assessment form and then they swab the inside of the four quadrants of their cheeks with 4 swabs that resemble a large Q-tip. The swabs are then enclosed inside a kit (buccal kit), labelled and then forwarded to OneMatch for HLA testing and ultimate entry into the OneMatch and worldwide registry.



Swab Event

Currently there are 894 patients in Canada awaiting a Stem Cell or Bone Marrow Transplant. There are 277,000 registrants in the Canadian OneMatch registry however for a variety of reasons, this is not a sufficient number of people in the registry to “find the match” for these patients. The most important factor is ethnic diversity. The registry is composed of 80% Caucasian people with the remaining 20% comprised of all other ethnic groups. The ethnic population is vastly under represented.

For this reason KBBMA is focusing on holding swab events this year that are ethnically diverse and we are targeting prospective donors within the East Indian, Black, South Asian and Chinese communities. Also there is a need for young male donors age 17-40 as a high percentage of selected donors are in this demographic group due to the strength and quality

of their marrow and stem cells.

We are committed to assisting Canadians to **“find their match”** and if we can save the life of even just one person, we feel that our mission is accomplished.

If your place of employment, college, university or organization would like us to host a swab event, **contact us at 519-564-4119 or e-mail info@givemarrow.net**.

Website Committee

The Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association's Website Committee creates and maintains the organization's web presence. The purpose of the committee is to keep our viewers informed on what is happening with our organization, provide a resource for information regarding bone marrow

donation, cord blood donation and related issues. The Website Committee is looking for volunteers. **If you are interested in helping us keep our site fresh with interesting articles and photography please email us at info@givemarrow.net.**

NEW ~ Facebook Page

"Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/givemarrow Join our Facebook page so we can keep in touch, share events, stories and discussions. Help us spread awareness to your friends.



Research Sponsorship Committee

The past year has been an exciting one for research funded by the KBBMA. Not only have Dr. Claude Perreault of the University of Montreal and Dr. Lisa Porter of the University of Windsor continued their notable work done under KBBMA grants, but the Association received credit for its contributions in no less than three academic papers, one of which was published in one of the most prestigious medical research journals in the world.

Dr. Claude Perreault and his research team gratefully acknowledged the aid and assistance of the KBBMA in their paper, "SMAD3 prevents graft-versus host disease by restraining Th1 differentiation and granulocyte-mediated tissue damage," published in Blood, the leading journal in hematology. In this paper, Dr. Perreault and his team demonstrated that the presence of a particular gene-the titular SMAD3- plays an important role in the success of stem-cell transplants for leukemia therapy, and the chance of graft rejection by the host or specific graft-versus-host diseases developing as a result of such a procedure. They further found that injection of a particular antigen (called a minor histocompatibility antigen, or MiHA) into lab mice greatly diminished the chances of either rejection or disease occurring. This work will likely play an important role in screening to decide the best therapeutic procedures for patients as well as leading to possible gene therapy procedures to improve the efficacy of stem-cell transplants. Dr. Perreault's team are now moving to the next step, of developing human MiHAs, which they hope to have ready for testing within a few months.

On the Association's home turf, Dr. Lisa Porter and her team continue to make the University of Windsor proud with their work, and the KBBMA is just as proud to help them out. Dr. Porter and the bright young researchers in her team - Dorota Lubynska, Kaitlyn Matthews and Megan Byrne-all acknowledged the Association in their recent conference papers, and Byrne won Second Prize for Oral Presentation (Cell and Molecular Biology division) of the group's paper, "Spy1 Expression in the Hematopoietic System and its Role in Induced Pluripotency," at the University of Windsor's Undergraduate Colloquium in April, and which was also presented the same month at the Laurier University Ontario Biology Day conference. Byrne's work has shown that the Spy1 protein can improve a new process of making stem cells from skin cells. This revolutionary work may enable patients to use their own skin cells as sources of healthy bone marrow in the future.

The work done in Dr. Porter's lab focuses specifically on the role of the protein Spy1 plays in cell regulation and how it affects both the proliferation of cancerous cells and the survival of healthy ones. The Porter team itself, naturally, focuses on Spy1's role in the survival of blood cells in leukemia and lymphoma patients, and is especially significant to improving bone marrow as well as stem-cell transplantations to prevent tissue or cellular rejection and disease.

The KBBMA not only extends its congratulations to Drs. Porter and Perreault for their major accomplishments of the past year, but wishes **to thank all of its donors, who have helped to contribute to this potentially life-saving research.**

Top 5 Reasons To Volunteer

- #5 ~ It is good for you ~ both physically and mentally
- #4 ~ It brings people together, teamwork and diversity towards a common goal
- #3 ~ Strengthens your community
- #2 ~ You learn a lot
- #1 ~ You make a difference. Every person counts!

Add volunteering to your list this year ~ contact us to see how you can help!

If you would like to contact us with feedback or to ask a question about bone marrow donation, feel free to send us an e-mail at the following address:

info@givemarrow.net

Katelyn Bedard Bone

Marrow Association

3064 Fairlane Crescent,

Windsor, ON

Telephone (519) 564-4119



Public Relations and Marketing Committee

QUEEN'S PARK HONOURS YOUNG KATELYN'S LEGACY

Katelyn Bedard's legacy will now be felt across the province every year in November. On Thursday, November 4, 2010, Essex MPP Bruce Crozier successfully passed his private member's bill "An Act to Make the Month of November Bone Marrow Awareness Month" in the Ontario Legislature honouring Katelyn Bedard.



Bryan and Joanne Bedard, Katie's parents and founders of the Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association (KBBMA) made the trip to Toronto with half a dozen volunteers to hear the 2nd reading of Bill 80, also known as the "Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Awareness Month Act". The Bill was so well received by all members of the legislature, that it was immediately carried to a third reading and passed unanimously, without debate. While standing before the Speaker in the legislature, Mr. Crozier stated, "In the 17 years I have been in the Legislature, I don't think I've had a day when I felt any better about something we've done." Throughout the day, members of the Legislature, their staff and the media were invited to join the Network at a swab event held at Queen's Park.



In conjunction with the passing of the Bill, the Association and One Match signed a Memorandum of Understanding making them official partners. For the KBBMA, it is an honour to be chosen as their official partner in the Windsor/Essex area. For OneMatch, it is a way of capitalizing of the grass roots efforts of our passionate volunteers.

In the coming months, KBBMA will focus on encouraging ethnically diverse, young males between the ages of 17 ~ 40 to join the registry. There is a pressing need for donors for this demographic. Efforts will be made to specifically reach out to this group and encourage them to register at swab events from home or by visiting www.onematch.ca

In the words of the MPP (Essex) Bruce Crozier, "The Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association represents the finest example of how a family can rise from a personal tragedy and provide much needed support for other families during their difficult time." (Pulse Magazine, Winter, 2011)

We hope you will join us in fulfilling this mission in 2011-2012.

Fundraising Committee



What better way to spend an afternoon in the dog days of summer than to put on some groovy bowling shoes and come out to our **6th Annual Bowling for Bone Marrow, "Throw a Strike for the Gift of Life"** on **Saturday, August 27, 2011**. It's an afternoon of family 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 website, www.givemarrow.net.

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

What: Bowling for Bone Marrow 2011

When: Saturday, August 27, 2011

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



Contact Ken
Roughton at
519-300-3173
for more details!

10th Annual John Fox Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

Proceeds to Katelyn Bedard Bone Marrow Association

Date: Saturday, July 23, 2011 @ Tilbury Golf Club

Shotgun Start @ 10:00 am

\$95.00 per person ~ includes golf, card, dinner prizes and tax receipt