

Awareness

We work hard to raise awareness about donating bone marrow, stem cells and umbilical cord blood. Our volunteers speak to groups regularly and attend community events.

Donating Bone Marrow and Stem Cells

Someone is looking for a needle in a haystack and you might be the needle!

Many people suffering from a variety of diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma and blood disorders need a bone marrow or stem cell transplant to save their life. Considering what a life saving gift bone marrow is, the process of donating marrow is really not much more than a minor inconvenience. The procedure is very safe and there are no lasting effects.

Only 30% of transplant patients find a matching donor in their family. The other 70% must turn to the registry to find a donor.

The best chance of finding a matching donor is within your own ethnicity. Ethnicities other than Caucasian are vastly under-represented in the registry.

In Canada, adults 17-50 are eligible. Contact OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network at www.onematch.ca.

Donating Cord Blood

Are you or someone you know expecting a baby soon?

Umbilical cord is a promising new source of hope for patients that cannot find a bone marrow donor.

Cord blood can be donated to public banks and used for stem cell transplants.

In Canada, contact Victoria Angel Registry of Hope at www.cellsforlife.com/angel.htm

Family Support

We provide financial assistance to bone marrow and stem cell transplant patients.

Bone marrow transplant patients and their caregiver (spouse, parents etc.) cannot work for many months. With only a few transplant centers, most patients must travel to another city for their procedure. Patients are faced with increased expenses (travel, meals, parking, childcare etc.) coupled with a loss of income. The stress of this is on top of the stress they are already feeling from dealing with a devastating illness.

Our support program is currently offered at Children's Hospital of Western Ontario and Windsor Regional Hospital. Applications from any other patients in Canada are gladly accepted and processed on a case-by-case basis.

For an application form, contact info@givemarrow.net or phone 519-564-4119.

Research

We sponsor bone marrow transplant related research.

Research is the key to finding better treatment options for bone marrow transplant patients. Researchers around the world are looking for ways to provide more hope to patients that require a bone marrow transplant:

- Improved bone marrow transplant procedures.
- Alternative sources of stem cells such as umbilical cord blood.
- Partial-match stem cell transplants.