

SAVE A LIFE

Bone Marrow Donation & Registration

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Each year over 17,000 people, ages birth-74, in the U.S. are diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses, according to Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Every year, people of all ages die from certain blood cancers and other serious blood diseases. Healthy bone marrow may be life-saving for a person with one of over 70 such diseases.

The National Cancer Institute defines bone marrow as a soft, sponge-like tissue in the center of most bones. A transplant surgically takes bone marrow from a healthy donor and replaces unhealthy bone marrow in another person.

The best outcome happens when blood type and other protein markers closely match the person in need.

If you want to help, registering to be a bone marrow donor is the first step in helping individuals diagnosed with certain blood cancers and other serious blood diseases.

There are two organizations that collaborate to register individuals in the bone marrow registry, Be the Match and DKMS. The Be the Match registry process asks questions about medical history to see if you meet basic requirements. If you do, a cheek swab, or buccal swab, is needed to sample your DNA. The kit will arrive from Be The Match in about seven business days. Swab your cheek and mail the sample back to complete registration. If you are under the age of 45, your kit is free. DKMS, a bone marrow donor center, has a similar process and eligible registrants receive free buccal swab kits.

It may be weeks, months or even years before you are contacted to donate. If you are called, be ready! You are the patient's best match. If you are thinking about bone marrow donation, get the facts. Learn more or to register to be a bone marrow donor visit:

- BeTheMatch.org
- DKMS.org or call 212.209.6700



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