

YOU CAN BE A SUPERHERO! JOIN THE MARROW REGISTRY!

Join the Marrow Registry for FREE Online! Register at DKMS Americas and receive the cheek swab testing kit in the mail. www.dkmsamericas.org

My name is Deena Alansky, and I lost my brother Rand to leukemia on Feb. 18, 2004. A matching marrow donor was his last hope for survival, but I was not a match, and NOT ONE PERSON in the world's marrow registries was a match for him, either. Siblings have only a 25% chance of matching, so the majority of patients needing a bone marrow transplant must rely on the kindness of a total stranger to save their life! *As more people join the marrow registry, more lives will be saved.*

When you join the National Bone Marrow Registry, you become part of a world-wide network of volunteers with the potential to save a life if you are ever found to be someone's miracle match! Every year, approximately 35,000 people are diagnosed with leukemia and other blood-related diseases, many of whom could benefit from a bone marrow transplant, but only about 10% will receive one.

You can join the marrow registry FREE ONLINE at: www.dkmsamericas.org. Register online, and they will send you the cheek swab testing kit in the mail. Swab your cheek at home, mail back the kit, and you're in the registry! It's never been easier to join, and someday you might truly help save a life! DKMS provides FREE testing kits for anyone in good health between the ages of 18-55. You can still join if you're between 56-60, but you will have to pay for testing. (Since DKMS pays for thousands of these tests a year, they must limit the free kits to those under 55 in order to minimize costs.) You are removed from the registry on your 61st birthday.

In Pittsburgh, you can join the marrow registry for FREE any time you donate blood through the Central Blood Bank. Anyone in good health between the ages of 18-60 can join. The test is just a cheek swab, and if you're ever found to be someone's lifesaving match, *you might be the only matching donor found in the entire world-wide registry!* Call the Central Blood Bank to schedule an appointment at: 800-310-9551 or visit: www.centralbloodbank.org.

Minorities can join the marrow registry for FREE, whether they donate blood or not. The Federal Government subsidizes minority testing because they are so dramatically under-represented in the world-wide marrow registries. Since tissue type is inherited, people are more likely to find a matching donor from someone who shares their same ethnic background.

Imagine being someone's MIRACLE MATCH! Imagine being a marrow or stem cell donor and knowing that you might have just saved someone's life, *and you might have been the ONLY MATCH in the entire world! YOU CAN BE A REAL LIFE SUPERHERO!*

If you are unable to join the marrow registry due to age or health restrictions, you can still help in a really big way by spreading the word about the registry! Education is the key to saving lives.

The more people know about the registry, the more lives will be saved! People can't join unless they know it exists. I know that sounds simplistic, yet I myself had never heard of the registry until my brother was first diagnosed with leukemia in 2003. Education is vital to increasing the number of people in the registry, and that will translate into more lives being saved. Together, we can help to educate our family and friends. Together, we can make a difference in this world! Thank you for reading about the marrow registry.

Deena Alansky, Candidate
2010 Man & Woman of the Year Campaign
to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
www.wpa.11sevent.org/alanskyd
www.deenasfriends4acure.org

Learn more about the Marrow Registry at:

www.dkmsamericas.org . www.marrowsdonation.org . www.marrow.org
www.charitybarcrawl.com/marrowvideos.html

In Loving Memory of My Brother, Rand. E. Alansky



"HE WHO SAVES ONE LIFE, IT IS AS IF HE HAD SAVED THE ENTIRE WORLD." -From the Talmud