

Help Firefighter Jimmy Martinez and others fighting bone marrow diseases

REGISTER AS A BONE MARROW DONOR

Tunnel to Towers Hurricane Sandy Relief Center

Saturday, December 14th, 2013

2145 Hylan Boulevard (corner of Midland Ave and Hylan Blvd)

Staten Island, NY

Registration is from 9:00AM-4:00PM



FF Jimmy Martinez, 24 year veteran of the FDNY, is assigned to engine 157 in Staten Island. Jimmy was a 9/11 and Super Storm Sandy first responder and he is also the proud father of 3 children and has 1 grandchild. Jimmy was diagnosed with Multiple myeloma in June and he's undergone 5 separate rounds of intense chemo therapy. There hasn't been much progress and he's now in need of a stem cell transplant but must find a bone marrow match first.

Jimmy selflessly responded to Ground Zero on 9/11 and spent countless days thereafter for the rescue and recovery effort. During that time he went back to his old firehouse, engine 230 to help get the firehouse back on its feet after their loss of 6 members on that tragic day. Years later, Jimmy showed that same courage and dedication on the night of Hurricane Sandy, pushing through heavy winds and neck deep water to evacuate people from their flooded homes. Just like everything else put in front of him, Jimmy is looking to overcome his disease but needs your help.

There is a chance that you are Jimmy's bone marrow match. For anyone between the ages of 18-55 who is interested, all it takes is a simple cheek swab to join the national bone marrow registry. It may only take you 3-5 minutes to join the registry, but for patients like Jimmy it could end up meaning a lifetime.

The sole purpose of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation is to honor the legacy of love given by Stephen Siller, FDNY, who laid down his life on 9/11. They do this by following Stephen's footsteps of selflessness and love by "doing good" in his memory. Tunnel to Towers is teaming up with Delete Blood Cancer and opening up their doors in Staten Island to help Owen Hogan, Jimmy Martinez and every other patient fighting blood cancer around the world. This holiday season, you have the potential to save someone's life.



Can't make the drive?
Register online at
DELETEBLOODCANCER.ORG

FACTS ABOUT BONE MARROW DONATION

WHAT IS DELETE BLOOD CANCER?

Delete Blood Cancer DKMS is the world's largest bone marrow donor center. We lead the fight to defeat blood cancer by empowering people to take action, give bone marrow and save lives.

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

You can register to become a bone marrow donor and increase the chance that a patient can find a match and receive a life-saving transplant. The donor and patient should share at least 8 HLA tissue characteristics, but ideally having 10 in common would be a good match. With more than 7,000 known HLA types that occur in millions of combinations, finding a match is like winning the lottery. Every new donor raises the odds.

WHO CAN BECOME A BONE MARROW DONOR?

You must be 18–55 years old, in good general health, weight at least 110 pounds, have a maximum body mass index of 40, and be willing to donate to any patient in need. If you meet these requirements, you can sign up by completing a registration form and swabbing the inside of your cheeks to collect cells for HLA tissue typing.

WHAT IS MY COMMITMENT?

Registering is the first step toward saving a life. Once your HLA information appears anonymously on national registry, you must be willing to donate to anyone in need. You might be a match for someone at any point after registering, so it's important that you keep your contact and health information updated at deletebloodcancer.org. Your information will stay on the registry until you are 61 or ask to have it removed.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M A MATCH?

If you are a match for a patient, someone from Delete Blood Cancer will contact you with the great news. At that time, we ask you to complete a health questionnaire. We will arrange for you to provide a blood sample and possibly undergo additional testing to determine if you are the best possible donor for the patient. If we've determined that you are, you will be asked to donate in one of two ways selected by the patient's doctor. You must be willing to donate using either method. There are no costs to you at any point.

TWO WAYS TO DONATE

Peripheral Blood Stem Cell donation

Cells are collected via blood stream during an outpatient procedure. Blood is drawn from one arm into a machine that filters out the stem cells for the patient and then returns the remaining blood through the other arm. This procedure takes about 4–8 hours over the course of 1–2 consecutive days. On the four days before and on the day of the procedure, you will receive a daily injection of filgrastim, a synthetic protein that boosts your stem cell production. While taking filgrastim, many donors experience flu-like symptoms such as headaches, bone and muscle aches and fatigue. Most side-effects subside within 48 hours of donating.

Marrow donation

Marrow cells are collected from the backside of the pelvic bone (not the spine) using a special syringe. You will receive general anesthesia so no pain is experienced during the 1–2 hour procedure. Most donors are discharged from the hospital the next day or earlier. You may experience some pain, bruising and stiffness for up to two weeks after the procedure, however most donors are back to their regular routines within a week. Your marrow will completely replenish itself within a few weeks.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO HELP?

- Contact us to organize a donor drive in your community, office or school.
- Encourage friends and family to register at deletebloodcancer.org
- Text to Donate. Text DELETE to 20222 to donate \$5.*
- You can contribute via deletebloodcancer.org or fund raise via FirstGiving.com/DKMS

CONNECT WITH US

Like us at [Facebook.com/deletebloodcancer](https://www.facebook.com/deletebloodcancer)

Follow us on [Twitter.com/getswabbed](https://twitter.com/getswabbed)

Circle us on Google+ as [Delete Blood Cancer](#)

* A donation of \$5.00 will be added to your mobile phone bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. In addition to your \$5.00 donation, standard text messaging and/or data rates may apply. All donations must be authorized by the account holder. Please contact your wireless operator for additional information. All charges are billed by and payable to your wireless operator.

