



# LIFE-SAVING DONATION CHANGES KATHRYN'S WORLD

SELFLESS GIFTS FROM DONORS TRANSFORM PATIENTS' LIVES

Photos (front cover and above) by Liam Bruce Photography

Kathryn began having chronic health problems at age 15 and was in and out of the hospital for 2½ years. In 2016, she finally received a diagnosis of hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a life-threatening autoimmune disease.

"Receiving a diagnosis was bittersweet," says Kathryn. "It was a relief to finally have a diagnosis after so many years of not knowing, but my disease was rare and more severe than a typical case. I knew my treatment options were going to be more extreme than I had expected them to be and perhaps even completely change my life."

Kathryn completed treatment but relapsed in December 2017. Doctors told her she would need a blood stem cell transplant—the only known cure for HLH.

Not having a fully matched donor in her family, Kathryn turned to Be The Match<sup>®</sup>. Luckily, a matching donor was found.

"I was walking to one of my classes when I got the news," says Kathryn.

"It was in the middle of my spring semester of college sophomore year, and I remember thinking that whoever my donor was, they had just changed my whole life."

Most patients remain in the hospital for about 100 days following their transplant. Kathryn surprised everyone when she was released just 14 days after receiving her new cells. She has dealt with minor graft-versushost disease, but overall it has been a smooth recovery.

Today, Kathryn has returned to college and is working on finishing her creative writing major.

Kathryn says, "I think that people have a natural inclination to want to better the world in a big way, but most people don't realize the big way they've been looking for can come in the form of a simple swab kit. Becoming a donor is a small way to have big impact on someone's life. For whoever you're saving, you're saving their entire world."

### **CELEBRATING**

# TRANSPLANTS THE NEXT 100,000 STARTS NOW

-By Steven Devine, MD

We live in a world of numerical benchmarks. At Be The Match\*, numbers transcend the simple quantity they represent and instead take on a much more human and personal significance, representing the accumulated differences between the risk of death and the hope of life.

In 2019, Be The Match accomplished a feat that no one could even imagine when we began more than 30 years ago—100,000 blood stem cell transplants performed. This milestone is even more awe-inspiring when you consider only 50,000 transplants were facilitated during our first 25 years. It took just over seven years to double that number.

This is more than just a number, more than just an extraordinary achievement, each one of those 100,000 transplants represents individuals and families with personal stories. Stories of life and death, of devastating sadness and overwhelming joy, and powerful reminders of the critical nature of the work the entire transplant community is called to do.

Stories told by people like Donna, who was diagnosed with a life-threatening blood disease called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), after experiencing symptoms of fatigue. For Donna and her loved ones, all that mattered was finding a cure. Her best

option for that was a blood stem cell transplant. Fortunately, a match was found for Donna, and she became our 100,000th patient to be given a chance at life. Her story is a testament to the work we do at Be The Match and a reminder of why we need to exist.

As a physician, I do more than simply read about these powerful personal stories, I experience them firsthand through patients I have treated. I understand all too well that life or death for a patient I am treating can come down to finding that one donor who gives them a chance to embrace life and the love of their family.

As we celebrate this impressive benchmark, we honor the individuals and families who make up those 100,000 blood stem cell transplants and the doctors, nurses, medical professionals and caregivers who are such an important part of this process. We also celebrate the visionaries who came before us who, when told a national registry would fail, never gave up hope. Their vision became a reality, and we can now say that 100,000 volunteer donors have stepped up to help a stranger and millions more have joined the Be The Match Registry\*.

On behalf of Donna and the other 99,999 patients who have received their transplants and for the next 100,000 whose survival depends on cellular therapy, thank you for your support.

We will continue to urgently work to meet patient needs and strive to facilitate equal outcomes in the hopes of delivering precious tomorrows for all.

Steven Devine, MD, is Chief Medical Officer for the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP)/Be The Match®

### MORE CHANCES. **MORE TOMORROWS**.

Dear friends,

At Be The Match<sup>®</sup>, our obligation to patients drives us forward every day as we work to save lives through cellular therapy and provide equal outcomes for all.

We have to urgently focus on meeting the needs of our patients because **every three minutes someone is diagnosed with a life-threatening blood cancer**—for which a blood stem cell transplant from an unrelated donor may be the best, or only, hope for a cure.

To facilitate those cures, Be The Match registers potential donors and coordinates the collection of blood stem cells for transplants to these patients. The Be The Match Registry is the world's largest registry. Every search through our registry provides patients with access to more than 35 million potential donors and nearly 783,000 umbilical cord blood units worldwide. In essence, **the registry holds within it the hope of the promise of more tomorrows for patients who so desperately need life-saving treatments**.

Please join us in learning more about our patients, donors, contributors and partners—we're excited to share these stories with you on the pages of this annual report. It is an inspiring snapshot of the impact our work had in 2019 as we focus on the goals ahead of us to support research (and data collection) in cellular therapy to improve patient outcomes and increase survival.

Without the steadfast commitment of partners, contributors and donors like you, this work is not possible. Our resolve to deliver life-saving and life-changing cellular therapy has never been stronger—thank you for joining us in delivering more hope and life to our patients.



Amy Ronneberg
Acting Chief Executive Officer
National Marrow Donor Program®
(NMDP)/Be The Match®



Joy King
Executive Director,
Be The Match Foundation®
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National Marrow Donor Program®
(NMDP)/Be The Match®

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# **OUR MISSION**

WE WERE CREATED TO **EXPAND ACCESS TO UNRELATED BLOOD STEM CELL TRANSPLANTS** 

More than 30 years after our founding, our mission remains the same: To save lives through cellular therapy. At our core, we're called to provide access to unrelated transplants, regardless of ethnicity, gender or economic status.

We facilitate the best donor for each patient that we serve in order to provide the best possible outcomes.



## **OUR PERFORMANCE**

### **OUR EFFORTS TO DEMOCRATIZE CELL** THERAPY ARE WORKING

### 2019 proved to be the best year in our history,

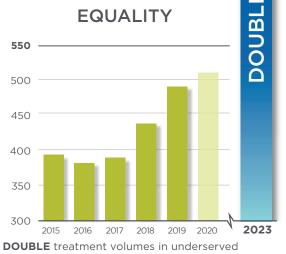
impacting 6,553 lives through transplants and Be The Match BioTherapies® services, including a 21% increase of providing 487 matched transplants to ethnically diverse patients.

Our strategic vision centers us on delivering the democratization of cell therapy to ensure anyone who needs a life-saving cell-based transplant gets one.

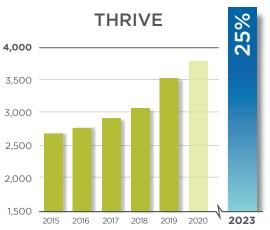
Our work is never done, and we relentlessly measure our performance against this vision.



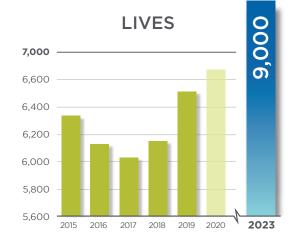
**DOUBLE** our ability to deliver what is ordered. when it is ordered



populations with no discernable differences in outcomes



25% INCREASE in event-free survival for our core



50% INCREASE in the number of people who receive Be The Match-facilitated cell therapies

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*





JJ with mom, Danielle, and dad, Anthony

JJ's mother, Danielle, was diagnosed with neutropenia (a disease marked by an unusually low count of neutrophils, a type of white blood cell) at 18 months old. Thankfully, as a teenager, she received a life-saving blood stem cell transplant from her younger sister.

Years later, Danielle and her husband,
Anthony, were excited to start a family,
but Danielle was afraid the condition
could be passed along to their child.
Despite doctors' reassurances the
disease wasn't hereditary, Danielle's
worst fears were confirmed soon after JJ
was born—he also had neutropenia.

By the time he was 6 months old, JJ was at risk for leukemia due to the high doses of medication he needed. Doctors urged that it was time to consider a transplant. Experts at the University of California, San Francisco, began searching the Be The Match Registry for a match for JJ.

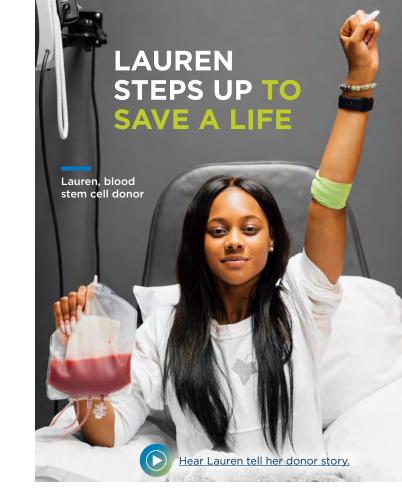
As JJ battled high fevers and infections that led to multiple hospitalizations,

the family remained hopeful and even hosted a fundraiser to encourage people to join the registry on behalf of JJ. Days after the fundraiser, good news arrived from the search front—JJ had multiple matches! The donor selected was a young man from overseas, and JJ's arduous transplant journey began quickly.

Every day brought Danielle another dose of hope mixed with heartache as she watched JJ endure chemotherapy. A transplant procedure followed chemo, and then JJ experienced a relatively quick recovery and hospital discharge after seven weeks.

"Not being able to hold your baby the way you want—it was pretty brutal,"
Danielle says. On top of that, Danielle was self-employed and not making any money when she took time off to be with JJ. A grant from Be The Match helped cover some of the extra expenses like gas to get to and from the hospital, parking and meals. "Those were the things I was worried about—the little expenses people don't even consider," she says. "That's where Be The Match really helped."

Today, JJ is an energetic preschooler who loves gymnastics. The family tries to live life to the fullest and not take anything for granted. They know JJ's Be The Match donor gave JJ a healthy future and the opportunity to be together as a family to experience the ordinary—and extraordinary—moments of everyday life.



Lauren joined the Be The Match Registry after hearing about the need for more African American donors during a class at Prairie View A&M University in Texas.

Six months later, the biology major received a call that she was a match for a young boy. Without hesitation, Lauren immediately said she would honor her commitment to donate. She donated blood stem cells in the hope that her donation would restore his health and provide the life-saving cure he so desperately needed.



Meet St. Louis Blues super-fan and hometown hero, Laila. She made national news after receiving her life-saving blood stem cell transplant and cheering on the St. Louis Blues onto their first Stanley Cup.

It was inspiration all around as Laila's zest for life—and hockey—brought her entire community together last year for the inaugural St. Louis Be The Match Soiree, where Laila met her life-saving donor, Kenton, for the first time.

The power of Laila's story helped raise an incredible \$640,000 and spread critical awareness of the Be The Match mission. Event attendee Priscilla Hil-Ardoin was particularly moved by this incredible gathering and donated \$30,000 in memory of her son, Aaron, who lost his battle with sickle cell anemia at age 23.

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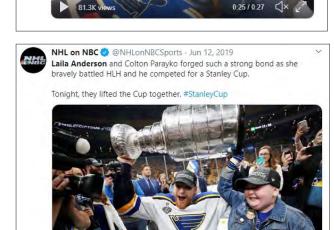
There wasn't a dry eye in the house when Laila and Kenton embraced onstage. "What can you possibly say to someone who saved your daughter's life?" says Laila's dad. "All I can say is thank you."

Laila, blood stem cell transplant recipient





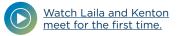












# CELEBRATING THE HOPE OF *TOMORROW*

Seven-year-old Lucy likes ballet, going to the library, riding her bike with friends and playing Uno® with her family. "Lucy just likes being around people, especially younger kids," says her mom, Anne. "She has a great sense of humor and loves to make people laugh."

Unfortunately, life hasn't always been so carefree for Lucy. When she was just 6 months old, she developed a persistent high fever and nodules in her skin that were found to contain leukemia cells. Lucy's diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) meant she needed to begin treatment right away at the University of Michigan.

The first round of chemotherapy beat the cancer, but it returned a few months later. Lucy's doctor said a blood stem cell transplant would be needed to save her life. Everything went smoothly on transplant day, but she experienced acute graft-versus-host disease of the skin and spent 50 days in the hospital (220 days total) recovering.

"Lucy was the sickest she had been during those 50 days after transplant," Anne says. "This was a really difficult time for our family, I asked myself 'Will she ever be well enough for us to leave—will it always be like this?' "

Today, Lucy is happy and healthy and enjoys playing soccer. "We have so much to be thankful for," Anne says. "We celebrate every milestone, big and small."

See the back cover for Lucy's special thank you.



# **SEARCHING** FOR A MATCH AND A CURE

When Briana was a pre-teen, she often would wake up at night with intense stomach pain. After visiting the hospital, she was diagnosed with aplastic anemia. Doctors said she would need a blood stem cell transplant.

Without a fully matched donor in her family, Briana turned to Be The Match. Fourteen years later, she's still waiting to find a match.

As an African American, the likelihood of Briana finding a matching donor is only 23%. Currently, there aren't enough African American donors on the registry to help African American patients.

Today Briana, 26, continues to live life the best she can as a mother, daughter, student and photographer. "I'd like to work in family counseling with a goal to work for the school system," she says. "But more importantly, I just want to be around for my son."

The reality is, Briana is sicker than she's ever been. She battles debilitating pain due to her illness and is constantly at doctor appointments. Briana needs to find a match—soon.

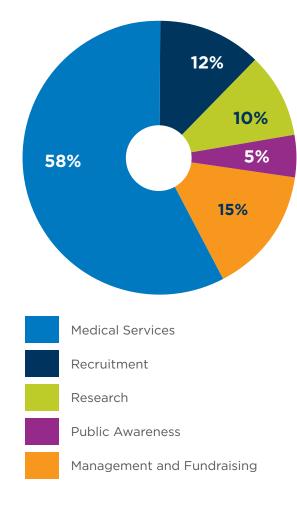
"Blessings come in so many different forms," she says.
"A stranger could come and save my life."

By giving to the Be The Match Foundation®, you will help add new potential life-saving donors to the registry, giving patients like Briana a greater chance of finding their match.



Briana, searching patient, and her son, Tabiaz

### **HOW WE SPEND** EACH DOLLAR



### **FINANCIALS**

NATIONAL MARROW DONOR PROGRAM AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 (IN THOUSANDS)

ASSETS	
Current and other assets	\$166,532
Long-term investments and bond reserves	119,717
Property and equipment	94,280
TOTAL	\$380,529
LIADILITIES AND NET ASSETS	

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current and long-term liabilities \$139.515 241,014 Net assets TOTAL \$380,529

### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 (IN THOUSANDS)

REVENUES AND GAINS	
Search and procurement fees	\$373,620
Federal contracts, cooperative agreements and contributions	74,399
Investment and other income	224
TOTAL	\$448,243
EXPENSES	
Program services	\$374,549
Management and general	65,830
Fundraising	2,647
TOTAL	\$443,026
Non-operating income	6,171
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$11,388

To read our consolidated audited financial statements with supplemental schedules, visit: BeTheMatch.org/audit

### **OUR GLOBAL NETWORK OF CARE**

From the moment doctors search our registry for a blood stem cell donor or cord blood unit, to the safe delivery of the life-saving cells to patients' bedsides for transplant, and for years after, we are there every step of the way. Our global Network counts on our technology, expertise and unparalleled logistical support to make blood stem cell transplants possible.

### BE THE MATCH NETWORK

Donor Centers		
Collection Cen	ters	
Apheresis Cen	ters	
Transplant Con	tors	

153

**?** Testing Labs

**67** 



24 Recruitment Groups



18 Member Cord Blood Banks





### FY2019 AT A GLANCE\*

REGISTRY

RESEARCH

PATIENT ASSISTANCE

MISSION SUPPORT



**6,553** LIVES IMPACTED IN FY2019

In FY2019, 90% of transplants used adult donors: **79%** 

PERIPHERAL BONE BLOOD STEM CELL MARROW

21%

10%

CORD

BLOOD

**NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS IN 2019** 

MORE THAN

TRANSPLANT CENTERS PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH

Likelihood of having a matched, available donor on the Be The Match Registry by patient ethnic background

African American or Black 23%

Asian or Pacific Islander 41%

Hispanic or Latino 46%

American Indian and Alaska Native 57%

White **77%** 

MORE THAN

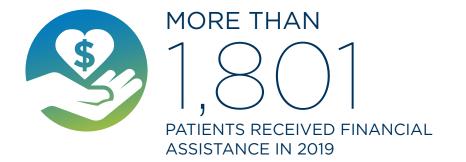
**RESEARCH STUDIES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY** 



\*These figures are for FY2019 (Oct. 1, 2018-Sept. 30, 2019)

\$4.78 MILLION

IN PATIENT FINANCIAL **ASSISTANCE GIVEN** 



We provide one-on-one support, information and resources for transplant patients, caregivers and families, including patient assistance grants to help ease the financial burden of uninsured costs associated with treatment.





17,140

CONTRIBUTORS

\$2.4 MILLION

VALUE OF **VOLUNTEER HOURS** 

COURIER TRIPS TAKEN TO DELIVER LIFE-SAVING BLOOD STEM CELLS

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Our mission: saving lives through cellular therapy

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### is one of the largest and most coveted fellowships in the field of transplantation.

**PROGRAM** 

### Tessa M. Andermann, MD, MPH Now at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (formerly at Stanford University)

Modulation of CAR T-cell therapy efficacy by the intestinal microbiome in patients with leukemia and lymphoma (clinical)



### Pavan Bachireddy, MD Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

**2019** AMY SCHOLARS

AMY STRELZER MANASEVIT RESEARCH

Be The Match Foundation has invested nearly \$9 million to support the career development of 41 emerging leaders in the field of transplant research focused on the treatment and prevention of post-

cellular-therapy complications. The Amy Scholars

have leveraged this funding to win more than \$110

million in additional funding to help more patients

live longer, healthier lives. Today, the Amy Program

Coevolution of leukemia and immune cells during GvL response and resistance (pre-clinical)



### Noha Sharafeldin, MBBCh, MSc, PhD University of Alabama

Impact of cognitive training on cognition after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation a randomized wait-listed clinical trial (clinical)



### Nathan Singh, MD Now at Washington University in St. Louis

(formerly at University of Pennsylvania) Molecular interactions between T cells and tumor cells that limit CAR T-cell cytotoxicity

The generosity of our mission supporters makes these awards possible. Together, we are advancing

blood stem cell transplant science to help thousands of patients live longer, healthier lives.

### THANK YOU INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Saving lives through cellular therapy would not be possible without our generous community of philanthropic partners. Listings represent stock, cash and pledged commitments

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### **CONSTANT CHAMPIONS**



Dod and Laura Michael's dedication and commitment to Be The Match® began the day Laura donated her blood stem cells to a transplant patient in need. "We didn't realize the extent of the network—the volunteers, medical professionals, coordinators—making this life-saving work happen until we saw it firsthand," Laura says. "We were

From there, they began participating in registry recruitment drives hosted by their local Be The Match team, and they trained to become stem cell couriers themselves. Exactly one year to the day of her donation, Laura took her first courier trip.

Nine years and 130 courier trips later. Laura and Dod are more dedicated than ever to supporting our mission. Recently, they made the decision to include Be The Match in their estate plans. They are proud knowing that their legacy will support future generations of patients receiving a cure.

Describing their personal commitment to continue delivering life-saving cells to patients, Laura says, "We have a profound sense of responsibility to bring this hope to others because we know that a cure could be possible."



delivering cures to patients."

Laura and Dod Michael

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Our corporate, foundation and organizational partners provide critical financial support to accelerate our mission and are committed to saving more lives through cellular therapy. Listings recognize cash and pledge commitments.

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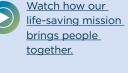
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# Humble Bundle



Giving back is woven into the fabric of doing business at Humble Bundle. The company sells games, e-books, software and other digital content, giving a share to charity. As a committed Be The Match partner, Humble Bundle has raised more than \$500,000 to support our mission.

Humble Bundle first learned about
Be The Match when an employee faced their
own leukemia diagnosis. Although a blood
stem cell transplant wasn't part of their
treatment plan, they realized how important
it would be to partner Humble Bundle with
Be The Match.

Thanks to their advocacy, the funds raised by Humble Bundle helped support registry recruitment, patient assistance and transplant research. We look forward to continuing to partner with this organization—thank you, Humble Bundle, for being as committed to saving lives as we are!

### **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS**

Last year, our incredible network of volunteers contributed 94,000 hours of their time. This investment of talent saved Be The Match more than \$2.4 million, all to better serve our patients and their families. The following amazing volunteers **gave 100 hours or more of service this past year.** 

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PIONEER, INNOVATOR, ADVOCATE, It's difficult to overstate Dr. Hartzman's role in the very existence of Be The Match, let alone the impact he's had on thousands of lives through his fierce advocacy, research and leadership. Dr. Hartzman was instrumental in securing early congressional support and US Navy Research funding, which has powered our scientific advancements since 1990. His influence helped deliver significant lifesaving breakthroughs, including the establishment of the research sample repository, research database, high resolution DNA-based HLA typing, bioinformatics research support, and the creation of the CIBMTR® (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research®). Dr. Hartzman's legacy lives on in our mission to save lives through

Contributor lists reflect giving between 10/1/2018-12/31/2019. Giving will be reported on a calendar year basis going forward.

cellular therapy.

Be The Match recognizes that some contributors do not wish to have their names published and/or wish to be recognized in a particular way and we do our best to adhere to those wishes. We have carefully reviewed this information for accuracy and apologize for any errors or omissions in this listing.

Please contact us at **(800) 507-5427** if you note incorrect information in these contributor listings.

### THANK YOU TOP ONLINE PEER-TO-PEER FUNDRAISERS

Those who fundraise on behalf of Be The Match make a tremendous impact. By engaging their personal networks, these champions raised \$5,000 or more, either personally or through a team, to directly support our mission.

2019 6th annual Charity Handgun Course - Lance Reeter, Tatiana Penners

2019 Miami Cancer Center Awareness Day

2019 Michigan Marrow Walk - Matthew Fast, Liz

2019 Missy Ginnetti Hope Gala - Pat Ginnetti

2019 The Buckeye Be The Match 5K - Lisa Maxson,

2019 Tokio Marine Next Gen Leadership Group

2019 Triad Be The Match 5K - Amy Nelson

A3M Walk+Run To Go - Asians for Miracle Marrow

Brandon Ackley

AJ Law Golf

Arlington Walk+Run To Go - Kira Aubrey

Annie Ballantine

Be The Match Tough Mudder Team - Jared Johnson, Kristi Lindstrom

Be The Match Twin Cities Marathon and 10 Mile Elicia Bechard

Because I Care - Anita Quinn

Breanna Rocks fundraiser

Gillian Brewer

Arthur Damon

Fore Leukemia Golf Tournament

Iowa State University

Kelly Lieser

Andrew Lippman

Duncan MacBride

Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Minneapolis Board of Ambassadors

Regina Murphy Memorial Golf Tournament - Kevin

Sean Crush Cancer - Sean Walsh

Senior Leadership Team - Be The Match

Rene Sigman

Michael Stewart

Saira Sufi Swab 4 Laila

Todd Teach

Team Ben - Todd Teach

Team Lifeblood 2019 - Bob Falkenberg

Team Mrun - Jamie Nielsen

Upenn Hero Walk

Roby Walls Sean Walsh

William & Marv Bone Marrow Club

Alvssa Zimmer

### **CYCLE OF LIFE**



**Bob Falkenberg was** fortunate to find a perfect match and receive a blood stem cell transplant in late 2009 after being diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. He was grateful for the opportunity to meet his donor, Jason, and calls the encounter a powerful and life-altering experience.

Bob started cycling during his recovery and formed Team Lifeblood in 2011 to raise awareness and funds for Be The Match. His first big ride was 18 months posttransplant. Team Lifeblood consists of Bob and his wife. Karen (Bob's caregiver), their daughter. Katie. Bob's transplant doctor, Dr. Amelia Langston, and several other friends and transplant recipients. Bob says that his mission is to show others that "this is what survivorship can look like.'

Since getting involved with Be The Match, he has held a Team Lifeblood campaign each year. In 2019, Bob and fellow transplant recipient Annie Lipsitz completed an epic 4,000 mile bike ride across the country, raising critical funds and awareness with the help of Perla Brett. Bob is consistently active on social media posting weekly and sometimes daily about Be The Match. Moreover, when we have a new idea about fundraising or raising awareness, the joke has become "Let's call Bob." because he is truly game for anything that might help Be The Match and all other searching patients. Since 2011, Bob has raised more than \$85.000 for Be The Match through his Team Lifeblood efforts!

### THANK YOU **BOARD OF AMBASSADORS**

Members of the Be The Match Board of Ambassadors play a crucial role in our mission, serving as representatives of Be The Match within their community. These volunteers are dedicated to identifying, engaging and building relationships with individuals and corporations in support of Be The Match Distinguished Events to advance our lifesaving mission.

### Atlanta

Perla Brett

Dr. Amelia Langston

Sarah Langville

Cara Pagels

Kate Wrammert

### **New York**

Brian Berg

John Camiolo

Karen Cohen Gary Goldberg

Bruce Manasevit

Roger Paschke Jennifer Rubel

Abigail West

### Los Angeles

Krissy Kobata Erin Van Dorn

Kristy Nguyen

Jason Labinger Eric Forstrom

Bree Forstrom

Michelle Pretlow

Chad and Kory LaMont

### Minneapolis Gala

Annie Ballentine Colleen Brady

Heidi Hovt

Chicago

Nick Jellum Andrew Larson

Kelly Lieser

Joan Maher

Kelly McQueen Mary Foster Murray

Susan Eiden

Toni Dandrea Kris Poppi

### Minneapolis Bash

Jason Ahlgren

Katie Amvs Halev Dickson

Annie Eversman

Anna Gallenberger

Katie Harris Annie Heggernes

Lisa Hellem

Alex Hubbell James Meverson

Veronica Lawrence

Lauren Tangen

Mara Wangen

### Minneapolis Employees

Amy Ronneberg

Renee O'Brien Julie Smolich

Kristi Lindstrom

Evan Babekuhl

Heidi Bohachek

Tim Tripp Pearl Wistl

Melissa Mignano

### **KEEPING UP THE FIGHT**



Krissy Kobata, transplant recipient and Board of Ambassadors member

At 25 years old, Krissy Kobata was diagnosed with the blood disorder myelodyplastic syndrome and needed a blood stem cell transplant. Being of mixed race (Japanese and Caucasian) the search was not easy. In fact, Krissy's search took 10 years before she got the news that a match was found, enabling her to receive a life-saving transplant. Since her diagnosis. Krissy has been a Be The Match champion and advocate. She has hosted multiple fundraisers, donation

drives and served as the Board of Ambassador's lead for the Los Angeles soiree. Thank you, Krissy, for your dedication and commitment to Be The Match and helping others find their life-saving match.

### From Krissv:

"I was so very lucky and fortunate to receive my life-saving blood stem cell transplant and the past 2 years have been all about recovering and getting back on my feet. I'm now free of my fatal disease and have a whole new life to plan for without the burden of worrying about whether or not I would be here.

I've received so much love and support that this truly feels like a team and that not only I went through this process, but all of you along with me. There were times that were very difficult, but knowing I had this support lifted me out of those depths. I truly am blessed and grateful to have each and every one of you in my corner!

The fight, however, does not stop with me. There are so many patients still waiting for their matches to come so that they can proceed with transplants. I can't tell you how painful it is to be in this waiting game. It's not one that you sign up for willingly and it's not one that you can control. All you can do is hope that more and more people join the registry.

My donor came from Be the Match, and I wouldn't be here without her."

Please join us to raise funds in support of the transformational initiatives and critical discoveries that are helping more patients with lifethreatening blood cancers and disorders advance to transplant, survive their treatment journey and enjoy longer, healthier lives."

### THANK YOU MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

Our monthly contributors provide reliable, consistent financial support to Be The Match. helping deliver life-saving blood stem cell transplants all year long. This dedicated group of supporters is committed to giving \$25+ each month to save lives.

Kim E. Allain, Sr. Johan Alwall John Appleby II Page Arlt Lorissa Ballinger Thomas Barbella Audrey and Brian Beharie-McGee Brian Berry Linda E. Bloom William Boatin Crystal Browning Amy M. Buege Gail Burger Roxanne Cacioppo Stephen B. Caldwell Charles E. Caldwell I Andrew M. Camelio Katherine Casey Donald Cervenka Mike Chang Mike Charewicz Garima Chaudhry W. Cheng Brent D. Christianson Jamie Lynn Citerin Donald Clasen Vincent Clausen Lynnette Clawson **Shepard Cooper** Kathy Corley Heather J. Crowlev Diane Curry

Trudy Deneff Sarah F. Derusha Blanca E. Diaz-Acosta Monica L. Dickey Mignon Dine Sarah Dipasquale James Dunn Derek Edwards Quinn Emmett Kim Erickson Thomas J. Evans Catherine Fedele Kimberly Finnigan Jason Fischer Deborah Flockton Daina A. Frame Joanna Freudenheim Allison C. Gant Justin Garofalo Douglas Gaynor Mark W. Gebhardt Hubert Gee Jeffrey D. George Tyler J. Gieseke Clint Gill Alex G. Goncalves Paul Gossman John Mark Groff

Kori L. Hall

Janet Hamilton

Tom Hanlon

Paul Hauck

Robert Guarnieri

Patricia A. Havard Joseph Haxby Uri Herzberg, PhD Todd Herzog Michelle C. Hesse Lucinda and Jerome Hey Matthew Hickey Chauntina Hill Thomas Hoey Kallai Hokanson Susan and Scot Housh Marv Huber Nafisa Husain Stacey Iofredo Mark Jean Suifen Jin Victoria Johansen Paul H. Johnson Cathy Kasmar Rvan Kellev Todd Kelting Colton Kerrigan Kiranpreet Khosa John M. King Kerri C. King David Kisicki Andrea M. Kissinger Janet Guyer Dino Klisovic

Karvn Kodama

Rebekka Koepke

Tia Kolbaba and

James Masschael

Nandana Kondui

Laura and Rodnev Hudlow Jo-Ann and Thomas Kelly

Sonny Koo Shari Kurita Michael Kuziw Jennifer Laedlein Lance D. Langston Michelyne B. Wilkins Mr. and Mrs. Sean P. Leuba Andrew Lippmann Verna Liss Sherri Little Kris and Mark R. Litzow. MD Alesa Quock Thomas Loikith John J. Mader II Heather Maggio Carolyn Martinez Sadie McCauley Matthew McDonald Katherine C. McDonough Charles and Francesca McKee James Meadows Amv Melton Lauren Messa Mary Michaud Angela Miller Birgit M. Mueller Susan Howard and Lawrence Mundy Jaime Munet Craig and Kelly Murray Tom Muzzv Debra Mvers

Eng Hooi Ng

Mai P. Nguyen

Cynthia Ockleberry

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Solange Wilvert

Mary Witte

Tracy A. Wood

Mark Zaki

Vera F. Zee

Harriet Zeiner

Darlene Zellers

Huidona Zhou

Tamara Zurbay

Kathryn Woodward

Nicholas Zehender

THANK YOU **GIFT-IN-KIND** CONTRIBUTORS

In-kind contributions allow us to allocate more resources to directly serve our patients. These supporters have given goods or services valued at \$1.000 or more to support our mission.

Katie Amvs Annie Gunn's Restaurant Boone Valley Golf Club Colleen K. Brady Bob Brinkmann Coherent Solutions Inc. Creative Color Solutions Eastside Eat + Drink Exclusive Vail Rentals, LLC Heidi and Bradley Hoyt Maren and Jeff Lang Victoria Masters<sup>†</sup> Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal Jonathan Moss Murray's Steakhouse Andy Pieteg Power Crunch Revnolds Lake Oconee Starbucks The Lexington

99 LLC

Chris D. Wright

Dr. Clyde Wylie

# YOU CAN HELP DELIVER MORE HOPE

Your contribution is crucial to our life-saving mission. May we count on you?

Go to BeTheMatch.org/2020

OR

Mail your contribution to us:

Be The Match 500 N. 5th St. Minneapolis, MN 55401

If you'd like to speak to someone at Be The Match about your gift, please call (800) 627-7692 or email foundation@nmdp.org

Mia was born with diamond blackfan anemia. The only cure for her is a blood stem cell transplant but currently, she does not have a single match on the Be The Match Registry. Until we can find her match, Mia receives a blood transfusion every three weeks.

Please consider joining the registry or supporting our mission with your contribution so patients like Mia can find their cure.







Get social with us to see how our life-saving mission brings people together.



Lee Davis

John Davv

<sup>†</sup> DECEASED

Lucy, blood stem cell transplant recipient Read her inspiring story on page 10



Hear Lucy's special thank you!

**2019** REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



1 (800) MARROW-2 1 (800) 627-7692 BeTheMatch.org







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