

Union Center Fire Company joins forces with Be the Match and Preston's League in giving people a chance to save a life thru conducting a Bone Marrow Donor Drive



Broome and Tioga County residents can take the first step to save a life by joining the Be The Match Registry. If you are between the ages of 18 and 60, in overall good health and willing to donate to any patient in need you have met the first qualifications for joining the registry. The test itself is a simple cheek swab. Please stop by Union Center Fire Company Station 1 at 1811 Union Center -Maine Highway, (State Route 26) Endicott, NY on Sunday, June 12th between the hours of Noon and 4 pm and take the opportunity to be the one that can save a life.



There will also be a benefit being held for 3 year old Preston Winslow which will include a chicken barbeque, music, raffles, chinese and silent auctions and a bake sale to help pay for costs associated with his bone marrow transplant and other related expenses. Tickets are available by contacting Dennis Hill at (607) 624-8814 or DJH33269@Gmail.com. Tickets will also be available at the door.



WHO: Preston is the nephew of Union Center Fire Captain Dennis Hill. He was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) in January of 2010 at the age of 2. He spent 155 days in the hospital enduring many rounds of chemotherapy and was declared in remission. In January of 2011 it was suspected that Preston was relapsing, it was confirmed in February and Preston has been in the hospital since that time and is currently receiving his third round of chemotherapy. The only chance that Preston has for survival is a bone marrow transplant, unfortunately as much as we all wanted to be his match; not one member of his family is a match for him. Heartfelt thanks go out to the bone marrow donors because the National Bone Marrow Registry was able to identify 3 "perfect" matches for Preston. If not for the people that have been willing to take the simple steps to place their marrow type on the registry, we would be losing this beautiful little boy. Now the doctors need to get his cancer into remission so that the bone marrow transplant can take place and hopefully be the cure for the rest of his life. For more information on how you can help or to get updates on Preston please feel free to visit his website at www.PrestonsLeague.com



About the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP) and Be The MatchSM

The NMDP operates the Be The Match Registry and partners with a global network of leading hospitals, blood centers, cord blood banks, laboratories and recruiters. As a leader in the field of marrow and cord blood transplantation, the NMDP facilitates transplants worldwide, conducts research to improve survival and quality of life, and provides education to health care professionals and patients. Since it began operations in 1987, the NMDP has provided more than 35,000 transplants to help give patients a second chance at life. For more information, visit www.BeTheMatch.org or call 1 (800) MARROW-2.

WHY: For thousands of patients with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia and lymphoma, a marrow transplant from an unrelated donor is their best or only hope for a cure. These patients, like Preston, depend on the Be The Match Registry to find a match - and a second chance at life. While many patients do find the life-saving match they need each year, there are so many that never find their match. This family has seen multiple young children die of cancer because there was no match for them. More donors are needed to help increase the likelihood that all patients will find a life-saving match. Financial contributions and volunteers are also needed to help save lives.