

Local teen organizes OneMatch blood donation event at Georgetown Market Place

Cancer doesn't take a break at Christmas, and local teen Ashley Hill, who has teamed up with OneMatch, a program run by Canadian Blood Services, wants to bring some hope to patients and their families this holiday season.

A stem cell registration event is being held at the Georgetown Market Place Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. with the goal of growing Canada's stem cell donor registry.

In Canada, fewer than 25 per cent of patients who need stem cell transplants are able to find a match within their own families meaning 75 per cent have to rely on the generosity of volunteer donors. Right now, up to 1,000 Canadian patients are waiting for stem cell transplants to treat life-threatening illnesses such as leukemia, aplastic anemia, and inherited immune system and metabolic disorders.

Currently, there are just over 335,000 potential donors registered on Canada's network, and more are needed so a greater percentage of patients can live.

OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network is a program dedicated to registering committed volunteer donors for patients in need of a stem cell transplant. The ideal participants are aged 17-35, as their stem cells are the most viable.

Males and ethnically diverse people are also prime donors as males tend to have more robust stem cells, which have a better chance of sticking with a patient, and ethnic diversity is important as the more diverse the culture, the more difficult it is to find a match.

The potential donors are asked to fill out a health questionnaire and have the inside of

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO GIVE LIFE
Register to donate cord blood for the next day.
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

75% of people who need a stem cell transplant are unable to find a match in their own family and depend on a volunteer donor to save their life!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you are between the ages of 17 and 35, and would like to learn more about becoming a stem cell donor, please visit us at:
 Georgetown Marketplace
 Saturday, December 10th
 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

their cheek swabbed. The entire process takes as little as 10 minutes and could be the answer to a family's prayers.

Please note: registering for OneMatch does not have the same restrictions as donating blood. Even if you are not eligible to donate blood you may still be eligible to register for OneMatch.

Hill says she is hoping to get at least 50 people to register at the event.

The more people we are able to register, the more opportunities we have to save lives, she said.

For many patients, stem cell transplants are their only chance for survival. During this season of giving, please come out to Get Swabbed, and to learn more about how 10 minutes of your time may save a life.

At the event, a set of Toronto Maple Leaf tickets will be raffled off as a thank you.

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