



Stouffville's Tony Coscarella with children John Anthony, Vanessa and Natalie during a family vacation. The Toronto police officer has been battling leukemia since last fall.

# Detective optimistic donor will be found at clinic

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procedure called apheresis.

Blood is drawn and then put through a centrifuge that separates the stem cells. The remaining blood is transferred back to the donor while the stem cells are delivered intravenously to the recipient.

Last fall, the Toronto Police detective sergeant had what he thought was just a bad cold he couldn't shake.

Mr. Coscarella ended up going to the hospital where it was discovered he was suffering from pneumonia and AML.

AML starts in the body's bone marrow, which is the soft, spongy tissue inside the bone where platelets as well as red and white cells develop.

AML typically only affects the white blood cells, but it can affect the others as well.

Eventually the leukemia cells take over the bone marrow and crowd out the normal blood cells.

Mr. Coscarella said he was "overwhelmed" and "shocked" when he received the diagnosis.

"You really don't have time to sit and dwell on it," he said.

In November, Mr. Coscarella, who is married with three children, was admitted into Princess Margaret Hospital for in-patient

chemotherapy.

The leukemia went into remission and he was released from the hospital in time for Christmas.

However, in order to keep the aggressive disease at bay, Mr. Coscarella endured four more rounds of chemotherapy, but as an out-patient.

*Last fall, the Toronto Police detective sergeant had what he thought was just a bad cold he couldn't shake.*

Now, he waits.

"I'm trying to remain optimistic," Mr. Coscarella said, noting he never thought finding a match would be this difficult.

Donors can be male or female, but must be under the age of 50 and in good health.

If you cannot attend the cheek swab clinic, an online kit can be obtained from [onematch.ca](http://onematch.ca), which is operated by Canadian Blood Services.

For more information, go to <http://join-tonysfight.com/about.html>

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