



Southeast Community Engagement Volunteer Newsletter

July 2014



What can you accomplish in 100 days? If you can bike, skate or board, you could do some amazing things this summer!

Introducing By The Mile for Be The Match. It's a 100-day campaign to raise funds to help save lives. This summer, thousands of families, friends, neighbors and co-workers across the country will be hitting the road on their bikes, rollerblades and skateboards to show support, raise money and most of all, have fun!

Why 100 days? It's the critical milestone for marrow transplant patients. Once they cross the 100- day threshold, their chances of a healthy recovery increase dramatically. By The Mile for Be The Match is a show of solidarity and support for these brave patients and their courageous donors. Visit the [By The Mile](#) website today and get your team started!

July Wraps-up African American Bone Marrow Awareness Month



Throughout the month of July Be The Match recruitment efforts have focused on adding more African American donors to the registry. Here in the SE District there are approximately 242,000 African Americans who have already joined the registry, but there is still much work to be done to ensure that all African American patients receive the life-saving transplant they need.

As a Be The Match volunteer, we welcome your ideas and input regarding additional ways we can reach out to the African American community in your area. Please contact your Be The Match Community Engagement Rep listed on page 9 to share your thoughts.



Robin Roberts with Be The Match Volunteers, Patients, Donors and Staff

A Visit With Robin Roberts

On June 22nd we had the opportunity to hold a donor recruitment drive as Robin Roberts of "Good Morning America" spoke to over 13,000 people at the Society For Human Resource Management's (SHRM) conference in Orlando, Florida.

Roberts is a transplant recipient who took the opportunity to visit with Be The Match patients, donors, and volunteers.

Our sincere thanks to all the volunteers that came out to help type over 200 new registry members and help raise awareness of the work we do.
Together...we are helping to save lives!



Transplant Recipient
"Hannah"
with Robin Roberts



Searching Patient "Katie"
with Robin Roberts

*Read more about Hannah and Katie (pictured here with Robin Roberts) on pages 3 & 4.



Hannah From Early Diagnosis Through Transplant

Hannah's Story... Journey to a Cure

In June 2008, Hannah woke up one morning with a severe nose bleed, lots of bruising and petechiae (purple and red spots) all over her body. She was sent to the ER and they discovered that her liver was shutting down, she had an enlarged spleen and all her blood counts were critically low. Hannah had just hours to live.



After many lab tests, plus a biopsy of her bone marrow and liver, Hannah was diagnosed with a disease called Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis, also known as HLH. She was one of the lucky ones because of the early diagnosis. In July 2008 she was admitted to the hospital didn't respond to the treatment. Her only chance for a cure would be to have a bone marrow transplant.

Unfortunately Hannah could not find a match within her family, so the search began to find a donor. One donor was found out of 14 million donors who was Hannah's perfect match.

Hannah's transplant took place the day before her 6th birthday and was followed by 18 months of isolation. She went back school in March 2010. Just two years later, in March 2012, Hannah had the opportunity to finally meet her donor who came all the way from Germany to surprise her. Because of her donor's gift, Hannah will be celebrating her 6 year transplant anniversary in September!

Hannah...5 Years Post-transplant

Katie's Story... In Search of a Donor Match

Katie was diagnosed with Severe Aplastic Anemia in 2011 at the age of 5. She underwent an immunosuppressant treatment for over 3 years. Katie has responded well and has been transfusion free. Katie's only hope for a cure is a bone marrow transplant, but there is currently no match for Katie on the Be The Match registry.

Katie is multi-racial, which can make it more challenging to find a donor match. Patients will likely find a donor match with someone of the same ethnic background, so individuals of multi-racial background are urged to join the registry to help provide a cure for patients like Katie.

Katie is now 8 and her family is very thankful that she is doing so well. They are hopeful that one day Katie's perfect donor match will be found. Could YOU be a match for Katie or someone like her?

Want to learn more about how you can help? Be The Match volunteer and University of Central Florida student, Abigail Hosey, joined with Katie to create this [video](#) to help raise awareness of the need for more donors to be added to the Be The Match registry.



"Princess" Katie

Hendrick Motorsports 2014 Fan Fest



Hendrick Motorsports Fan Fest 2014 was a huge success. As thousands came to Charlotte, NC for the Coca-Cola 600 NASCAR race, Hendrick Motorsports welcomed fans with open arms.

Several vendors were on hand plus a kid's zone, chance to practice tire changes on the Lowes #48 demo-car, chance to meet your favorite Hendrick driver, and the chance to join the Be The Match registry and someday save a life.

Wonder Woman Joins the Registry

In addition to registering members and other super heroes, we promoted our September Be The Match Walk+Run here in Charlotte, NC on Sept 27th and met many wonderful people from all across the country and Canada. One example was Alan Stevenson-Young, from Canada, who donated to a 45-year-old female two years ago. Don't let the lack of costume fool you—he is definitely a super hero in our book!



Allen Stevenson-Young (Donor)
and his wife, Shirley



Be The Match Intern, Sydney
Metcalf, & her Super-hero Friends

Be The Match & VCU Massey Cancer Center Partner For Annual Patient Walk

On July 16, 2014, Be The Match hosted our annual Be The Match Walk + Run Patient Walk at VCU Massey Cancer Center in Richmond, VA. The event was a huge success!

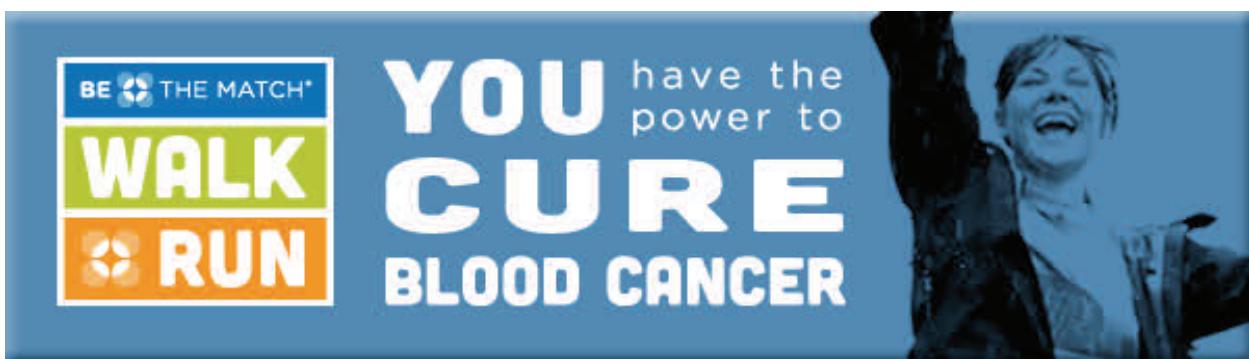
Over 75 patients, families, and transplant staffers joined in a walk up and down the corridor inside the transplant unit.

Our Be The Match Walk + Run is scheduled for July 26 on Brown's Island in downtown Richmond, VA. See page 7 for more details or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Doctors, Nurses and Patients at VCU Massey Cancer Center following Patient Walk





Join Us This Weekend For Richmond Be The Match Walk+Run!

Help patients with blood cancers like leukemia take the next step toward a life-saving marrow transplant by taking a few steps of your own.

The Be The Match Walk+Run is scheduled for this weekend, July 26th, from 8am—10am at Brown's Island, Tredegar Street & 5th Street Footbridge in Richmond, VA . The event includes a 5K, 1K and Tot Trot (for children 5 and younger).

For those that haven't already registered online, walk-ups are welcome beginning at 7am. This event is perfect for all ages and fitness levels!

If you can't attend the event, you can [register as a virtual fundraiser](#) to show your support.

We look forward to seeing you there!



(Patient "Bill" and his Donor
"Molly" at 2013 event)



Katie McElveen, a recent graduate of Coker College, made a commitment to host a Be The Match registry event on campus before graduating this past spring. With the help from members of the Student Athlete Advisory Council, Katie hosted a drive on the campus of the private liberal arts college in Hartsville, SC and recruited 10% of the student body to the registry.

Katie has been personally touched by cancer and she decided to make a difference on her campus and in her community. She worked diligently to spread the word about the marrow event across the community, including reaching out to the YMCA, local businesses and the local hospital. At the end of the event, Katie and her fellow students recruited 109 new members to the registry.

Katie has graduated from Coker College but her impact continues. The local hospital in Hartsville, Carolina Pines, is currently organizing another marrow registry event due to Katie's outreach and enthusiasm for Be The Match. Katie is moving to Columbia, SC to continue her studies at the University of South Carolina, but luckily she will become part of the Be The Match on Campus chapter at USC.

College volunteers like Katie are the future of Be The Match, as they bring a connection which will help continue to extend our mission on college campuses throughout the country.



Katie (far right) along with Be The Match SC Community Engagement Rep, Ashley Collier, and the Coker Cobra

A special note of thanks to all of our fabulous kit-makers who have been working hard to help us get stocked up on donor recruitment kits for the busy fall season! We appreciate all you do!



*Volunteers don't just do the work ~ **they make it work.***
-Carol Pettit

Why Is It Important to Enter Volunteer Hours Online?

Earlier this year Be The Match launched a new volunteer portal at www.bethematchvolunteer.org to help us provide our volunteers with a quick and easy way to enter their volunteer hours online.

Be The Match is required by the U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services' **Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)** to report volunteer hours on a monthly basis.

By entering your hours online by the end of each month, you help us to meet our HRSA requirement and ensure that we keep our records up-to-date for volunteer recognition and other volunteer opportunities.



Southeast Community Engagement Contacts

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