

## ABOUT DONATION

Saving someone's life is an amazing experience. Donation is a one-to-one transplant, with your cells going to save one specific person – your recipient.

### Blood Stem Cell

Blood stem cells are found in your blood stream and can be collected using an apheresis machine – similar to donating platelets. It takes four to six hours to collect enough stem cells to give someone a new, healthy immune system. As the cells are collected, your remaining blood is returned to you. While you are donating you can watch movies or visit with family and friends. You receive five shots of Neupogen® in the days before donating to help raise the number of stem cells in the blood stream. Some donors feel achy and flu-like while taking the shots, but the effect vanishes soon after donating.



### Bone Marrow

Bone marrow is most often collected for pediatric patients. This outpatient procedure takes about two hours while you are under general anesthesia. A syringe is used to collect marrow from iliac crest of your hip bone, where a large amount of marrow is found. You go home that day with instructions to take it easy and avoid heavy lifting for a day or two.

## ABOUT TRANSPLANT

After collection, the blood stem cells or bone marrow are carried by a courier to the transplant center. The cells are given to the patient via a transfusion through an IV line. The patient typically remains in the hospital for several weeks as the cells begin to create a new immune system and start producing blood cells – a process called engraftment. Once engraftment is far enough along, the patient can return home, and over time will be able to resume normal activities.



## DIVERSITY IS URGENT

Matches between donors and patients are based on inherited immune system factors – the human leukocyte antigens (HLA) – so the best chance of finding a matching donor is with people of common ancestry and ethnicity. Because many groups are underrepresented in the registry, their chance of finding a matching donor is very low and patients face little hope for survival. Those of mixed-ethnic ancestry have an even more difficult challenge finding donors. The need to expand diversity in the registry is urgent.

## YOU HAVE THE GIFT TO CURE BLOOD CANCER



Jamie saved Avery's life





Jay Feinberg  
Founder and CEO  
Transplant Recipient

## OUR MISSION

Gift of Life Marrow Registry is an international blood stem cell and bone marrow registry dedicated to curing blood cancer and immune disorders through transplant. Gift of Life registers volunteer donors and tests immune system factors to find matches for patients in need. More than 100 conditions can be cured through marrow and stem cell transplantation. The registry is available for search by transplant centers around the world.

## OUR STORY

Gift of Life is the only registry founded and directed by a transplant recipient. In 1991, Jay Feinberg was diagnosed with leukemia but had no matching donor in the registry, and little chance of survival without one. His family and friends would not accept that fate, and formed a grassroots campaign to find his donor.

For four years they held hundreds of recruitment drives. More than 60,000 volunteers were tested, and while many donors were found for others, no one matched Jay. As his health was failing, one last, hopeful drive was held, and as the team packed up at the end of the day one of the volunteers asked to be tested.

She was Jay's perfect match. Feeling that no one should ever have to wait years to find a donor, Jay and his family founded Gift of Life and made a commitment to find a donor for every patient in need.



## HELP US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION: SAVING LIVES

- If you are 18 to 35, join the registry as a volunteer donor and you could save a life!
- Donate funds for the laboratory processing of swab kits. Each kit costs \$60 to test for matching factors and add them to the registry.
- Volunteer opportunities are numerous and range from organizing donor recruitment drives, helping at events, and becoming involved to raise awareness in your area.
- Follow us on social media and help share our message.

## 5 STEPS TO SAVE A LIFE

- 1 LEARN, SWAB, SAVE LIVES**  
Are you aware your stem cells have the power to save lives? Simply swab your cheek to join the registry - you now have the chance to become someone's hero!



- 2 CONFIRMATORY TYPING**  
In the future, you may be called as a potential match for a patient anywhere in the world. If so, you will be asked to have a blood test.



- 3 WORK-UP**  
If confirmed as the patient's best match, we outline the process in detail. You will have a complete physical to ensure you are healthy and can donate.



- 4 THE DONATION**  
You will donate either blood stem cells or bone marrow.



- 5 THE TRANSPLANT**  
Your donation is transplanted in the patient. Congratulations - you have saved a life!



[giftoflife.org](https://giftoflife.org)



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