



I Need You *to become* **Bone Marrow Donors** **Age 18-60**

Please register your bone marrow type with
the National Marrow Donor Program by
having a simple blood test at the

Please help me
or others like me.
kailee wells
www.KaileegetWells.com

My name is Owen Wells, Daddy of Kailee, 7, who suffers with very severe Aplastic Anemia, bone marrow failure. On February 6, Governor Bill Richardson proclaimed February as National Donor Month in New Mexico and encouraged our efforts. My family, with assistance of many wonderful people, has helped organized bone marrow donor drives.

One person can make a difference. Our first drive has already found two perfect matches! One for a 15-year-old girl, who had a transplant recently, and at last report, is doing well. Another for an 8-year-old girl who has yet to have her transplant. Our family's mission to save as many lives as we can.

Several months ago, our doctors told us that Kailee may have one month to live. She may have one year. The Medical Director, Gene Sanders, at Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Medical Center called Kailee a "walking time bomb. She will die of an infection we cannot cure or of a hemorrhage we cannot stop!" We take life one day at a time and cherish every day that she is with us. I pray to God that Kailee has the time we need to find her a perfect match. With a perfect match, our doctors say she has a 50/50 chance of surviving a bone marrow transplant.

Between hospital stays, Kailee had her seventh birthday on January 4. She wanted pink frosting on a chocolate cake. Pink is her favorite color. As they were baking her cake together, Kailee said "Mommy, I am going to miss you when I die." Mommy gulped and had the presence of mind to say, "Sweetheart, mommies usually die before their little girls and I will miss you terribly."

Healthy adults, aged 18 to 60, may become bone marrow donor volunteers. Fill out the Registry form and get a simple blood test. In the United States there are 3,000 people who will likely die without a transplant. There are 70 diseases that benefit from bone marrow donors. The Registries, including NMDP, have 8,500,000 donor volunteers. We are especially seeking minorities, because they are the least well represented. Asians are more likely to help Kailee, although anyone could become a match for our daughter, just the odds are much lower. If you are lucky enough to match someone (the odds can be as bad as one million to one), then you will be asked to provide another blood test for high resolution HLA typing. Should you become a donor, blood will be taken from one arm, the stem cells are harvested and the remainder of your blood is returned to your other arm. Your body will replenish the marrow within two to four weeks. This effort is a small price to pay to save a person's life!

Please help us save Kailee and others like her!
Sincerely, Owen Wells, Daddy of Kailee