

# Host A Marrow Donor Drive

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We appreciate your interest and willingness to involve your organization with the NMDP. There are thousands of people with fatal diseases, such as leukemia or aplastic anemia, whose only hope for survival is a bone marrow transplant. If no family members are suitable matches, a search is begun to locate an unrelated match.

We have 4 dedicated Recruitment Coordinators whose goal it is to increase the number of potential donors in the registry and give patients a better chance of finding a match. Please call a recruitment coordinator to discuss your drive plans.

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Registering as a donor is simple. Individuals fill out a form and provide us with a cheek cell sample that is tissue typed to determine tissue antigen information. Although the process is simple, the testing involved is costly. The cost of each tissue typing is \$52 per person (we may get partial funding to help cover this).

Your organization can support our efforts in meeting the testing expense in several ways:

1. Fund a marrow donor drive for your company. (It is tax deductible!) It is possible to schedule this drive at the same time as your company's blood drive.
2. Host an ethnic minority oriented donor drive. A grant has been provided to test Hispanics, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native Americans and persons of mixed ethnic backgrounds at NO COST. This fills a special need due to the small number of minority donors presently listed.
3. Host a drive at a College/University or with First Responders. Special funding has been allocated for drives at these locations.

## Donor Education

Proper education of interested volunteers will help ensure all potential donors understand the commitment they are making when they enlist in the National Marrow Donor Program. This education is an important bridge between awareness and recruitment. Donor Education is vital in the retention of potential donors.

- Every potential volunteer donor must be well-informed about the donation process.
- Potential donors must be informed that participation in the Registry is a long term commitment to all patients in need, not just an immediate availability for one particular patient.
- Volunteers must know that the donation process does not end with his or her consent and the taking of a blood sample.

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Carter BloodCare Recruitment Coordinators can provide educational brochures, videos and guides to help inform and recruit potential donors. NMDP staff are available for presentations and informational programs.

## Be the Match Donor Drives

At a donor drive, an NMDP representative will present information about marrow and stem cell donation. Depending on the potential participation, we may require stations and volunteers from your group.

During the drive, volunteer donors are screened to ensure that neither their health nor the patient's will be placed at risk if the volunteer becomes a marrow or blood stem cell donor. Donors are instructed on how to obtain the cheek cell sample.

Once the laboratory completes the HLA typing, the information is placed into a centralized computer database where donor typing is compared against the typing of anyone searching for an unrelated bone marrow/stem cell donor.

To set up a marrow donor drive, please contact an NMDP Recruitment Coordinator.

## Mobile Blood Drives & Marrow Donor Drives

**To set up a blood drive, call Carter BloodCare's Field Consultants at (817) 412-5380.**

Carter BloodCare does joint blood and marrow donor drives often. Research has found that the most committed marrow donors are already blood donors.

NMDP recruitment does not usually require much extra space. We only need a couple of tables and some chairs and the opportunity to discuss marrow and stem cell donation with the blood donors.

To include a marrow donor drive with your next blood drive, please contact one of the NMDP Recruitment Coordinators.

## Patient Specific Drives

The NMDP at Carter BloodCare regularly conducts drives for specific patients who are in need of marrow transplants. We encourage participation from family and friends and like to work with them as much as possible.

The NMDP Recruitment Coordinator can work with patients and their families to set up drives at numerous locations. Teamwork is needed to help raise awareness for the need of marrow donors and families and friends are asked to participate in donor education and recruitment.

Education for this type of recruitment is extremely important, because participation in the NMDP should be a commitment to all patients in need, not just for one particular patient.



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Often, family and/or friends are only interested in helping the specific patient and are not ready to commit to donating marrow or stem cells to an unrelated patient. This is perfectly normal.

A registered donor may obtain his or her tissue typing information 4-8 weeks after the donor drive. Testing may also be expedited upon request from the patient's family.

Contact one of the Recruitment Coordinators to set up a donor drive.