



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MySpace Helps Save One Year Old
Bone Marrow Transplant Recipient,
The Child's Donor is a Tampa Bay Woman**

(St. Petersburg, FL: 11/30/07) A one-year-old child will be given a second chance at life after officials at the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) were able to locate the child's donor match using the popular Internet site, MySpace. Early next week, the child, who suffers from a very rare blood disorder, will receive a Tampa Bay woman's peripheral blood stem cells through a collection procedure performed locally by Florida Blood Services. Peripheral blood stem cell collections are becoming a widely accepted alternative to the traditional bone marrow surgical procedure.

Shaila Lopez, a 24 year old Tampa resident, signed up for the NMDP, but when she moved, she did not update her contact information and the NMDP initially could not locate her. After searching for Lopez using information provided by donors during initial consent and registration for the NMDP registry, officials were able to find her using MySpace. Considering the critical need for minorities being able to find this donor was even more key for this patient being afforded a chance at life. Without MySpace, the donor might have never been found in time.

As our world becomes more technologically driven, the NMDP expects to use Internet networking sites, like MySpace, to help locate possibly lost donors. Katrina Holley, Manager Marrow Donor Program at Florida Blood Services, recognizes that technology is impacting the medical field and not just on the clinical side, "MySpace is allowing us to find and retain possible donors that have matched patients who might not have a chance otherwise. Technology is not only helping save lives, but it is giving us avenues we've never had and that hopefully means that more lives will be saved."

Signing up for the NMDP Registry is just one important step. Updating your contact information is just as important so that when someone is found as a possible match, the NMDP can locate them easily, as some patients do not always have time on their side. "Not everyone is on Internet sites like, MySpace. The best thing people can do is call the NMDP or their local blood center when they move and directly update their contact information," says J.B. Gaskins, Vice President of Donor Systems.

Thousands of patients worldwide are waiting for a marrow or blood stem cell transplant as their last hope to live. People interested in registering with the National Marrow Donor Program may do by calling 1-800-68-BLOOD, Ext. 2110, for further details.

Florida Blood Services provides for the blood needs of patients at 38 hospitals in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas Counties, through the generosity of volunteer blood donors. Over 750 donations are required daily, due to the high quality of medical care in Tampa Bay that serves the most critically ill patients throughout west central Florida. You can also visit Florida Blood Services' MySpace site at www.myspace.com/IAmABloodDonor

Generally, healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can be blood donors. Identification is required prior to donation. For further information, please call 1-800-68-BLOOD.

Additional blood supply information is available at www.fbsblood.org

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