

Subject: March 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12th Ahepa Marrow National Basketball Tournament

Web Site: www.Ahepamarrow.org

The Ahepa Marrow Donor program, is a non-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization that is organizing The 14th Annual AHEPA MARROW National Invitational Basketball Tournament on March 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12th 2023. We have used North Park University, Northeastern Illinois University Facility, Mather High school, Fairview Junior High School, NorthSide Prep High School since 2009, but because of the Covid 19 Pandemic the tournament was canceled in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Because of our non-for profit tax exempt status, and our cause these institutions have waived their rental fees in the past. We are requesting a waiver. If a waiver is not granted, we would appreciate the opportunity to rent Lincoln Hall Gymnasium on the evenings of March 8, 9,10 and all day Saturday March 11th. As in the past, we would obtain a \$1 million insurance policy and would submit the certificate to you 8-10 weeks prior to the event. Lincoln Hall would be an important partner in our mission and we would not be able to have such a large national scale event without your support and all the other sites! We want to inform you how much we all appreciate your assistance and your help in assisting us to carry out our mission of saving lives!!!

The Ahepa Marrow organization operates and is located in Lincolnwood. The organization is made up of Lincolnwood residents and many individuals who graduated and attended Todd Hall and Lincoln Hall. These dedicated volunteers all volunteer their time to help us execute this yearly 5 day event. No one in the organization gets paid and everyone volunteers their time 100%, and 100% of ALL the funds go towards assisting families through BE THE MATCH Foundation which is now our National Bone Marrow Registry. The tournament gives away over 1000 T-shirts for free and educates the public and conducts drives (mouth swabs testing for individuals) to join BE THE MATCH FOUNDATION.

The Ahepa Marrow tournament has several goals:

- Promotes Education regarding the marrow transplant process
- Raises Awareness of the need for donors and the Marrow Transplant Process
- Recruits Eligible Donors During the 5 day event
- Serves as a National Fundraising Event to cover the cost of testing to join the BE THE MATCH Registry.

The tournament will primarily raise funds to cover testing of eligible donors who wish to join the Bone Marrow registry, and potentially be a life-saving match for a patient who needs a life-saving marrow transplant. We will take the opportunity during the tournament to educate the participants, spectators, and the general public on the importance of having eligible donors join the Marrow Registry and help save a life. The more individuals who join the registry, therefore the larger the donor pool, the greater the likelihood of finding donors who match for a successful transplant. The Ahepa Marrow Tournament Book will contain literature regarding the Marrow transplant process so that everyone learns how easy it is to become a donor, and also how important it is.

YOU MAY BE A MATCH TO SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE!!!!!!

The Ahepa Donor Program began in 1988, and continues to serve the public by

- Find a potential marrow stem cell donor for any individual in need of a marrow transplant
- Provide and assist in the search process for individuals in need of a marrow transplant by searching the Ahepa Bone Marrow Registry, the American Bone Marrow Registry, the Caitlin Raymond International Registry, and the NMDP

Continue to increase the Ahepa Bone Marrow Donor Registry database (our current registry has 11,539 donors and we have recruited an additional 3,302 donors for the NMDP, giving us 14,831 donors) Our current goal is to have 20,000 active donors, in order to improve the likelihood and probability of finding donors for individuals in desperate need of a match.

Continue to increase the public's awareness of the desperate need to seek out donors for patients in need of a life saving transplant, by educating and sharing their inspiring stories

Continue to raise funds in order to finance future oral swab testing

Continue to increase the public's awareness of umbilical cord blood donation process

Our Event will take place on March 8-12 2023 and the AHEPA MARROW National Invitational Basketball Tournament will raise funds that will be used to cover the cost of testing individuals who wish to join the Bone Marrow Registry. More importantly, the tournament event will allow us to take the opportunity to educate the participants, spectators, and general public during the event via a Monograph Ahepa Marrow book and a special Saturday Lecture that will serve to educate everyone about the marrow transplant process, and also raise awareness of the current changes to the Marrow Transplant process. Becoming a donor has become easier through oral swab testing, and donating has become easier and more acceptable through a process called Apheresis. The general public is not aware of these very important new developments that make the marrow transplant process much more acceptable. The public needs to be made aware of the drastic need to increase the donor marrow registry pool thereby increasing the likelihood of finding a match for patients with leukemia or lymphoma. This is particularly true for all minorities (especially for African American, Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian) who have the least likelihood of find a match because of the low number of minorities being in the Bone marrow registry. Moreover, most mothers who give birth are unaware that they can donate the umbilical cord blood of their newborn (which is rich in stem cells) for free, but instead it is unfortunately discarded because of the lack of information regarding this issue in the general public. Donating umbilical cord blood can help save future lives. We will be recruiting and doing oral buccal swab testing during our tournament on March 10, 11, and 12 2023, and will be recruiting participants and spectators in the tournament to join the Bone Marrow Registry, and potentially help save a life.

North Park University, Northeastern University, Mather High School, Northside College Prep High School, and Fairview Junior High have all been generous, and are all allowing us to use their facilities to run our tournament, and all the funds raised will therefore help pay for donor testing. Such testing is expensive \$100 per donor, and would then enable individuals to become part of the Bone Marrow registry, and be a potential match for a patient who is suffering from leukemia or lymphoma, who needs a life saving marrow transplant to survive!!

We also offer sponsorships and have had corporations, restaurants, individuals choose a gold, silver, or bronze sponsorship level with our tournament, and would be proud to acknowledge them during the tournament through The Ahepa Marrow Tournament Book, Banner Sponsorship, and our Ahepa Marrow Web site for their generous support. The Chicago local radio, television, and newspapers will be covering the event and this will also allow us to mention our supporting sponsors that have helped us promote education and raising awareness of the Marrow transplant process as well as raising funds to cover the cost of becoming a donor that ultimately makes this "A Basketball Tournament That Saves Lives".

We are always doing drives for a young and old individuals suffering from leukemia or lymphoma, in search of a Marrow match and in many cases there is no match in the Bone Marrow Registry. These families exemplify why we need to "Fight the Fight" for them and others like them in order to increase the donor pool thereby increasing the probability of finding a life saving match for each patient. Our Web site is at www.Ahepamarrow.org , and it contains more information about our organization and mission.

In summary, we need financial support for our event that will enable us to educate the general public on new developments that make being a Donor of the Bone Marrow Registry presently much more acceptable at this time. There is a need to specifically increase donors of most minority groups because of their low levels, making a patient of minority ethnicity less likely to find a match. Lastly, the use of umbilical cord is being wasted everyday. This event and the coverage via the media will give all supporting sponsors a great opportunity to help us make Marrow Donation better and more successful. The AHEPA MARROW Sponsors will be acknowledged for their financial support and assistance which allows us to continue to educate the general public and raise the awareness of the need to do so in order to help desperate families and patients who are searching for matches to save their lives. Please join us in our crusade and go to our Web site at www.ahepamarrow.org where we have more information regarding our organization. Thank you for taking your time to consider your partnership in our event, and any support at any level would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

John Venetos M.D
6520 Tower Circle Drive
Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712
samv5161@aol.com