



Health Bulletin



You Can Honor Your Mother By Giving The Gift Of Life

(NAPSA)—The best way to say thank you for the gift of life may be to give that gift to someone else. That's why the Thanks Mom! Marrow Drive Donor Recruitment Campaign wants mothers and their families to honor the gift of life by donating life-saving marrow or blood cells on Saturday, May 13, the day before Mother's Day at 75 sites around the country.

The campaign is being promoted by the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP), which makes life-saving marrow and cord blood transplants possible for persons who do not have a matched donor, and by the family of Kailee Wells, a 9-year-old girl who recently received a marrow transplant after four years of searching for a match.

Also taking part in the event are The Marrow Foundation® and The National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses (NAHHH), which offers a home-away-from-home for families whose loved ones are undergoing medical treatment and also helps by hosting donor drives.

Owen and Linda Wells are helping organize the Thanks Mom! Marrow Drive because they want to assist other families searching for committed marrow donors.

"Whether your mother is 18 or 98, everyone has a mother and



After waiting four years for a marrow donor, Kailee Wells received her transplant.

every mother wants a healthy, happy life for her child," said Linda Wells, Kailee's mother. "What could be more meaningful for your mother than giving the gift of life for another mother's child?"

The NMDP helps people who need a life-saving marrow or blood cell transplant, connecting patients, doctors, donors and researchers to resources they need to help more people live longer, healthier lives.

To achieve this mission, the NMDP searches its registry, sup-

ports patients and their doctors throughout the transplant process and matches patients with the best donor or cord blood unit using innovative science and technology.

Every transplant coordinated by the NMDP begins with a search of its registry of more than six million potential marrow and blood cell donors and more than 48,000 cord blood units.

The registry offers a single point of access for all three sources of cells used in transplants: marrow, cells collected from the bloodstream and umbilical cord blood.

A patient is most likely to match someone of their same race and ethnicity. Every day, NMDP donor centers and recruitment groups work to diversify the registry, increasing donors from the communities of color. The NMDP's special initiatives such as the Thanks Mom! Marrow Drive Recruitment Campaign recruit more donors of color to improve all patients' odds of finding a donor.

With more diversity in the registry, it's hoped that in the future other patients will have the chance to live their lives, just like Kailee now does.

For more information, call (800) MARROW-2 or visit www.marrow.org/thanks, www.KaileegetWells.com or www.nahhh.org.