

Age 18-60

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

Los Angeles Donor Drive

**Saturday April 24 & Sunday April 25
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.**

**99 Ranch Market
140 W. Valley Blvd.
San Gabriel, CA 91776**

**99 Ranch Market
17713 Pioneer Blvd.
Artesia, CA 90701**

On Saturday April 24 & Sunday, April 25, 2004, Southern Californians will have the chance to give the gift of life to a young Chinese American girl. In the United States there are 30,000 new cases diagnosed each year and if a match can be found a bone marrow transplant provides the best hope of life. The marrow drive will occur at the 99 Ranch Market, 140 W. Valley Blvd. San Gabriel, CA 91776 and 99 Ranch Market, 17713 Pioneer Blvd. Artesia, CA 90701 from 1 pm to 4 pm.

This marrow drive, organized by the Asian American Donor Program and the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP), will help Kailee, a bright-eyed, loving 7-year-old girl, adopted from China -- and more than 3,000 Americans like her with aplastic anemia, leukemia and approximately 70 other life threatening diseases who are in need of a life-saving bone marrow donor transplant. Volunteers are needed to distribute flyers announcing the event and to help facilitate the drive at the Tzu Chi Health Fair.

The Wells family has coordinated national and international events to raise the general awareness of the life saving benefits of bone marrow donation. "Though we would be overwhelmed with joy by the possibility of finding a donor for our little girl, the need for bone marrow donors has opened our eyes. If our efforts can help save one person's life, this will be worth it," said Linda Wells.

In January of 2002, Kailee's hemorrhaged for five hours through nose, eyes and mouth. The doctors in her intensive care unit said she lost half of her blood. They diagnosed Kailee with aplastic anemia, a rare blood disease from unexplained failure of bone marrow to produce blood cells. To extend her life, she has received extensive chemotherapy and blood transfusions at the Children's Hospital of Milwaukee. Described by one doctor as "a walking time bomb," she is very vulnerable to fatal infection and hemorrhages.

Kailee, like many people with blood diseases, could die within months if she does not find an exact match bone marrow donor. A patient's most likely marrow match is a sibling. Because she is adopted, Kailee does not have a marrow match from her birth family. Kailee must find an unrelated match donor, most likely from the same ethnic background.

Signing up for the national registry is simple. Registrants complete a short form and have a simple finger prick blood test. Donors should be in good health and between ages 18 and 60. If registrants are fortunate enough to be a match, there are two possible medical procedures to donate your marrow both allow the marrow to replenish within the donor's system within two to four weeks. Registration is free for persons of ethnic minority ancestry including persons of Asian, Latino/Hispanic, American Indian and Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and Black and African ancestry. Caucasians may be asked to contribute to the cost of tissue typing to join the Registry.

Kailee's mother, Linda Wells, traveled to China twice in 2003 with hopes of finding a match for Kailee and to spread the message to the Chinese about registering for bone marrow donation. She succeeded in creating significant awareness that resulted in tens of thousands of Chinese being tested and becoming registry donors. The Wells' story has been told in venues throughout the world including Parents Magazine (Nov. 2002), CNN, German television (Pro Sieben), and the South China Morning Post. (MSN Search Kailee Wells, www.scmp.com).

In the marrow search, the Wells have made a significant addition to the international bone marrow registry. In Albuquerque, N.M., a donor drive set a 10 year record for United Blood Services with 543 donors. A nationwide drive with the Red Cross Society of China in February, 2003, created 53,000 new donors and a World Donor Drive in November, 2003, added an additional 50,000 donor registrations. Matches were found for a 15-year-old girl, who has a successful transplant, and one for an 8-year-old girl, awaiting her transplant now. Another match was announced at the Santa Fe NM drive in February, 2004.

For information on the Los Angeles bone marrow drive, contact Sharon Sugiyama at the Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (www.AsianMarrow.org 888--236-4673).