

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: savemichelle@gmail.com

CITY OF SAN JOSE TO FACILITATE BONE MARROW AND ORGAN DONATION

Policy Will Grant Paid-Leave to City Employees Who Volunteer for Life-Saving Acts

San Jose, CA, August 5, 2008 – Project Michelle, a nationwide grassroots initiative dedicated to increasing the number of minority bone marrow donor registrants in the national registry, celebrates the City of San Jose and its support of bone marrow and organ donation as a critical life-saving gift.

In adopting the city's June budget, the San Jose City Council agreed to pursue granting paid-leave for city employees who serve as organ donors or volunteer for other life-saving medical procedures. Currently, employees are required to use sick leave or vacation days when absent from work.

"Project Michelle brought light to the need to support those who generously donate their time and physical selves to another individual in medical need. Upon finalizing the policy later this year, we hope to promote more acts of kindness and to set a precedent for other cities and companies to offer the same encouragement in their communities." Says San Jose Vice-Mayor Dave Cortese.

San Jose's leadership in this policy initiative provides another example of state and local government supporting those who have the unique opportunity to save a life and in promoting awareness of bone marrow and organ donation needs. The State of Washington also passed a similar measure in 2002 after Randy Yamanaka, a police officer, donated his marrow and successfully saved the life of three-year old Luke Do.

Project Michelle recognizes the efforts made by the City of San Jose and the State of Washington to promote the priceless gift of life-saving medical procedures and is currently championing the measure in other cities and corporations.

About Project Michelle

Project Michelle is a nationwide grassroots initiative created to help raise awareness of leukemia and educate people of the bone marrow donation process in an effort to grow the deficient number of Asian American registrants and the broader database as a whole. To date, the campaign has enrolled over 15,000 donors into the national registry in hopes of finding acute myeloid leukemia patient Michelle Maykin a bone marrow match and eliminating the shortage of minority bone marrow donors.

About Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)

According to the American Cancer Society, acute myeloid leukemia (AML) is a cancer that starts in cells that would normally turn into white blood cells. "Acute" means that the leukemia can progress quickly, and if not treated, could be fatal in a few months. AML starts in the bone marrow (the soft inner part of the bones, where new blood cells are made), but in most cases it quickly moves into the blood. It can sometimes spread to other parts of the body including the lymph nodes, liver, and central nervous system (brain and spinal cord).

About Michelle

Born in Texas and raised in the Bay Area, Michelle has grown to become an amazing girlfriend, daughter, sister and friend to many. In 2000, Michelle graduated from College Park High School, where she served as ASB president, and then in 2004 from The University of California at Berkeley, where she joined the Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity and met her husband Van Le. Since graduating in 2004, Michelle has worked in advisory services at KPMG and has volunteered for organizations such as the Juvenile Detention Center in San Jose, OASES in Oakland, and Tzu Chi Foundation in San Francisco. In all her involvements, Michelle brings a contagious energy and spunk that people draw on for inspiration.

For more information, please visit: www.projectmichelle.com.