

**June 14, 2008**

## **PROJECT MICHELLE – FACT SHEET**

Project Michelle is a nationwide initiative to find a bone marrow donor for leukemia patient Michelle Maykin, who was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in February 2007. She had success with chemotherapy treatment until her AML relapsed in May 2008 and now urgently needs a bone marrow transplant to survive.

### **GOALS**

- Raise awareness of the necessity for more registered bone marrow donors, especially among Asians and other minorities where there is a severe shortage of donors.
- Grow the deficient number of minorities in the donor registry through education and outreach.
- Register 15,000 new individuals as donors.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE**

- Established teams in over ten cities including San Francisco, LA, San Diego, New York, and Boston
- Enrolled 9,000 registrants over 250 drives, and generated 3,000 requests for home registration kits.
- Gained support within corporations including: Google, Amazon, KPMG, PWC, Kaiser, Nokia, and Microsoft
- Reached over 20 college campuses including: UC Berkeley, Stanford, Harvard, UPenn and UCLA.

### **ASIAN AMERICAN DONOR SHORTAGE**

- On any given day there are about 6,000 patients looking for a life-saving bone marrow donor.
- Minority patients have a 35-45% chance of finding a match compared to 80-85% for Caucasian patients.
- The Asian American Donor Program (AADP) notes that only 30-40% of Asians contacted as matches agree to donate, while for all other ethnic groups the retention rate is between 70-80%.

### **ABOUT MICHELLE**

- Currently 26 years old, Michelle was born in Texas and grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- In 2000, she served as ASB President at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill, CA.
- In 2004, Michelle graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, where she was a member of the Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity and met her husband Van Le.
- Since graduation, Michelle has been working in advisory services at KPMG in San Francisco, CA.
- Michelle is a member of ASCEND and the Institute of Internal Auditors and has also been an active volunteer for the Juvenile Detention Center in San Jose, OASES in Oakland, and Tzu Chi Foundation in San Francisco.
- She is the oldest of her siblings and has two younger sisters and a younger brother.

### **ABOUT LEUKEMIA AND BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS**

- Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) is a cancer that starts in cells that would normally turn into white blood cells, progresses quickly, and if not treated could be fatal in a few months.
- Treatment for AML typically begins with chemotherapy, using anti-cancer drugs that attack cancer cells. If AML doesn't go away, then a stem cell / bone marrow transplant may be attempted in younger patients if a suitable stem cell donor can be found.
- Today, 70% of transplants are non-surgical and can be completed using stem cells from the bloodstream through a Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant (PBSCT), while 30% of transplants are done through marrow.
- For PBSCT donors, symptoms nearly always disappear one or two days after donating. For marrow donation, donors can expect to be back to work, school and other activities within one to seven days.