

PRESS RELEASE

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Contacts: Chris Whitman, Director of Community Relations, Orchard View Schools at 231-760-1988
Joan Warnaar, Orchard View Cardinal Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher, at work: 231-760-1771 or home: 231-773-4599 or onsite cell: 231-736-8976

Photo: Orchard View Teacher Joan Kent Warnaar seeks bone marrow donor for 28-year-old son Phillip Kent

Local teacher seeks bone marrow donor for son

Orchard View Teacher Joan Kent Warnaar has added one more item to her list of things to do to close out the school year: find a bone marrow donor for her 28-year-old son Phillip Kent. On Monday, June 8, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Cardinal Elementary, where Warnaar teaches, a bone marrow drive will take place in Phillip's honor. The elementary school is located at 2310 Marquette Avenue in Muskegon. A swab of the inside of a person's cheek is all that is needed to locate a match to meet Phillip's need for a bone marrow transplant. The preliminary screening is free for a limited time and requires no blood sample. Typically the lab fees for the screening cost between \$50 and \$100.

Kent, a graduate of Orchard View Schools and Baker College, has been treated for Hodgkin's Lymphoma Cancer at the University of Michigan and is presently at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas. According to Warnaar, doctor's say a bone marrow transplant is urgently needed and no family members are a match. The National Marrow Donor Program® has been unable to find an unrelated match in the bank of 12.5 million donors on file.

Additional free bone marrow drives will take place on Monday, June 15, 2009, and Wednesday, June 17, 2009, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. both days at the Omni Fitness Club located at 40 East Norton Avenue in Muskegon.

Those who wish to access the screening online can do so by joining the free on-line registry from June 8 – June 22, 2009, at www.marrow.org/join using the Promo Code: CARDINAL, or may contact Eric Trosko at the National Marrow Donor Program® at (800) 471-3020, Ext. 101.

Warnaar said "Since our search began we have learned of many more people, including infants, who are in need of bone marrow transplants. Even if those tested are not a match for Phillip, thousands of others need this miracle, too! By becoming a part of the national online registry, bone marrow donors may be identified so that they can save the lives of others." ###