

Blood Cancer Patients Need the Basque Community!

Jaialdi may only come around once every five years, but we have a special opportunity to save lives in conjunction with this year's festival.

Every day, members of the Basque community are diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma and other blood diseases. And unfortunately, Basques are also dying from these diseases every day. But a cure for blood cancer exists...through marrow transplants. Patients can't receive these potentially life-saving transplants, though, without willing donors. And because marrow is genetic, patients and donors are most likely to match when they share a common ancestry. In short, Basque blood cancer patients need Basque marrow donors.

Be The Match®, the world's largest marrow donor registry, will be at this year's Jaialdi festival to help educate festival-goers about marrow donation and transplant, and to allow them to join the Be The Match Registry® as potential marrow donors. It's easy to join the Be The Match Registry®. All it takes is a little paperwork and four quick cheek swabs! To join the Be The Match Registry® at Jaialdi, a person must:

1. Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States,
2. Be between the ages of 18 and 44,
3. Be willing to donate to any patient in need (Basque or not), and
4. Be free of certain medical conditions that could put either the marrow donor or recipient at risk.

Individuals between 18 and 60 may also join the Registry online at <http://Join.BeTheMatch.org/Basque>. Younger marrow gives patients the highest likelihood of survival, so registration costs will be covered completely for new registry members who are most likely to be selected – those who are between 18 and 44. Potential donors between 45 and 60 will be asked to cover the \$100 cost of processing their own registration, as the likelihood of being selected as a donor decreases with age. All Registry members will remain on the Registry until their 61st birthday.

International members of the Basque Country can find information about joining the marrow donor registries in their home countries at <https://www.wmda.info>.

As you might imagine, saving lives isn't free. Be The Match® will also be accepting financial gifts (cash, check, debit or credit) from willing individuals to help provide much-needed assistance to transplant patients and their donors. All donations are tax-deductible in the United States.

If you are unable to come to Jaialdi in person, you can...

Join the Be The Match Registry® online at: <http://Join.BeTheMatch.org/Basque>. (Promo code = Basque)

Make a tax-deductible financial contribution online at: <http://bit.ly/1LBPqgU>.

For more information, please contact our Be The Match® Representative:

John Philpott

John.Philpott@nmdp.org

(801) 520-1383