

Good Afternoon,

My name is Lisa Maxson, and I am alive today because of a bone marrow/stem cell transplant. On August 1st, 2011 I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. I was a 28 year old wife and mother of 3 beautiful children who were 16 months, 3, and 5 years old at the time. Our world was turned upside down in literally minutes. I immediately was sent to The James Cancer hospital where I stayed for 10 1/2 weeks to try to get my cancer in to remission. During that time the doctors started looking for the only thing that would keep me around to ensure I could watch my kids grow....a bone marrow transplant! The first time they searched there was no matches on the registry for me. The second time they searched...still nothing. My sister who was 8 months pregnant at the time was tested and she was only a half match, and for my condition that wasn't enough. Finally after the third search a match was found. Doctors have said that was my "saving grace" because had there not been a "match" I likely would not be here today.

Every year at the end of August we hold a 5k called "The Buckeye Donut Dash" in Troy, Ohio to raise funds that go directly to Be the Match. My father (Thomas Kendall) and I chose to do this because I will never be able to fully repay my gratitude directly to my donors as they were anonymous so we do this in honor of them! We have raised over \$60,000 for Be the Match and will continue for years to come.

Having a Bone Marrow Transplant Awareness month in August will enable us to spread more awareness, do more advocacy work in Ohio, and get more people from Ohio on the registry which is crucial. Everyone deserves their "second chance at life" and with your support we will continue to fight for that.

Thank you!
Lisa Maxson