



“HE WHO SAVES ONE LIFE, IT IS AS IF HE HAD SAVED THE ENTIRE WORLD” - TALMUD

VOL 1 • ISSUE 1

SHEVAT/ADAR 1 5765

FEBRUARY 2005

In This Issue:

From the Executive Director 2

Campus Recruitment Adds Thousands of Young Donors 3

Jay Feinberg Honored with Prestigious Charles Bronfman Prize 3

Ethnic Diversity within the Jewish Registry 4

Partners for Life Salutes Donors, Recipients and Supporters 5

Steps to Becoming a Donor 6-7

Bar Mitzvah Student Organizes Fundraiser 8

Marrow Courier Shares Her Experience 9

White House Celebration 10

Cord Blood Program to Launch 11

Heroes, Hotdogs and Homeruns



Hall of Famer, Tom Seaver (l), introduced Brian and Mark to their heroic bone marrow donors at Shea Stadium.

August 29 was a bright, sunny day in Queens, New York. It was not only a perfect day for a ball game, but a perfect day for Gift of Life to celebrate its success by introducing two young boys to their heroic bone marrow donors. The setting was a luxury suite, high above the field at Shea Stadium, as the New York Mets faced the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Gift of Life was happy to reunite Brian (age 9) and Mark (age 11) one year after they both underwent bone marrow transplants at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute at Children's Hospital in Boston. Hall of Fame pitcher, Tom Seaver, made the emotional introductions of the boys to their life-saving bone marrow donors.

Brian's donor, Adam, is an eye surgeon who lives in New York with his wife and two young children. Mark's donor, Samuel, joined Gift of Life's registry during a recruitment drive at Rutgers University Hillel during the Fall semester of 2001.

According to Adam, "Giving the gift of life to this young boy is the one *mitzvah* (good deed) that only I was able to do. I'm very lucky to have been given the chance to help

save this terrific young man's life."

Upon meeting Mark for the first time, Samuel said, "I don't know how to describe the elation I am feeling." He continued, "I think Mark is really great. He is going to grow up to be

fun, athletic and energetic."

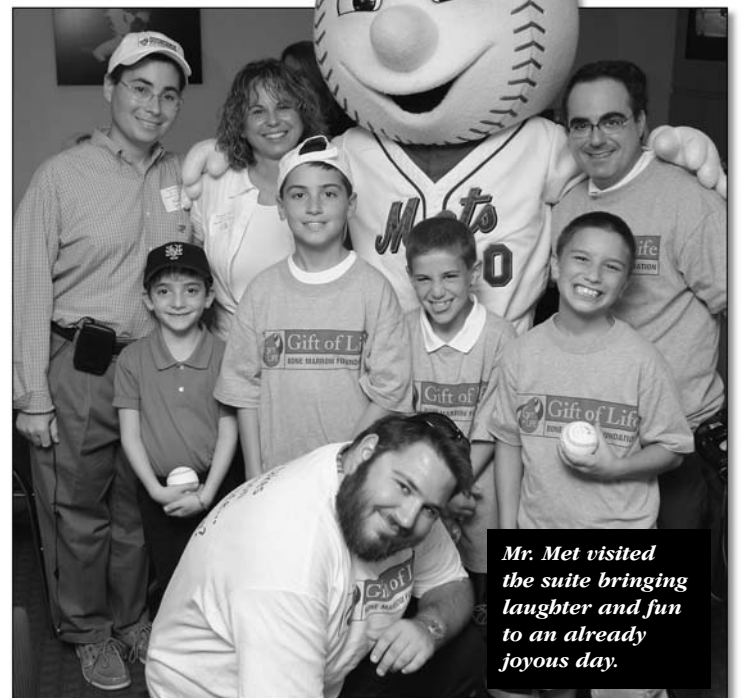
According to Gift of Life's Executive Director, Jay Feinberg, "It is enormously gratifying to see the positive outcome of our work." He continued, "We are very grateful to the New York Mets for providing us with such an exciting venue for this happy occasion."

August 29 was Jewish Heritage Day at Shea Stadium, a special recognition of Jewish Mets fans held in conjunction with International

Week, a celebration of New York's cultural diversity hosted by the Mets.

Jeff Wilpon, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the New York Mets said, "It's heart-warming that such a reunion can take place at Shea Stadium. We are thrilled that the young boys will get to meet the people who saved their lives."

Though both transplant recipients were young children, their expressions of gratitude to their donors were poignant and sweet. Brian called his donor, Adam, a savior to children. "It was a very nice thing he did for me." Mark says that his donor Samuel, "will always be known as a person who gave bone marrow and a second chance to a kid. He saved my life."



Mr. Met visited the suite bringing laughter and fun to an already joyous day.



Gift of Life Presents Foundation Newsletter



Welcome to the first issue of *The Life Saver*, the new annual newsletter of the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation. You have received this publication because you are a friend of Gift of Life. You might have joined our registry of volunteer donors years ago, made a financial contribution, or coordinated a donor recruitment drive in your community. Whatever the reason, we are glad that you are part of our extensive network that spans not only North America, but the world.



From the Executive Director

The year 2005 marks the 10 year anniversary of my own bone marrow transplant. I am amazed to see how much Gift of Life has been able to accomplish in that time. Just as I was united with my miracle match years ago, I now have the privilege of working with a team of professionals who make other donor/recipient connections possible every day.

It has been a busy year at Gift of Life, filled with happy events and important accomplishments. I was truly honored to be awarded the Charles Bronfman Prize in its inaugural year. This recognition is a testament to our remarkable network of volunteers, and lends tremendous prestige to Gift of Life, its mission and vision.

Other achievements include the establishment of landmark recruitment partnerships with Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, and Alpha Epsilon Pi, a national Jewish fraternity. These, and other exciting new initiatives such as our umbilical cord blood program, are featured in this issue of *The Life Saver*.

I want to extend my heart-felt thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time, resources, and of course bone marrow and

blood stem cells, to help Gift of Life carry on its mission and achieve its goals. Each life that is saved is truly an immeasurable reward that we can all share. I am confident that the next decade will bring us even more hope for the future. With wishes for a very happy and healthy New Year, please enjoy this premiere issue of *The Life Saver*.

Sincerely,

Jay Feinberg
Executive Director



Gift of Life staff outside
our headquarters in
Boca Raton, Florida.

Celebrate Gift of Life's Achievements in 2004

Donors
recruited
at community
drives:
16,052

Volunteers
requesting
online donor
testing kits:
240

Transplants
facilitated:
69

Donors
requested for
confirmatory
typing:
659

Recruitment
drives held:
168



Cord Blood: An Insurance Policy for the Jewish Community

Since its inception in 1991, Gift of Life's registry of volunteer donors has improved the chances that Jewish patients needing transplants will find genetically matched donors. Now, Gift of Life is expanding its registry to include a bank of donated umbilical cord blood. This exciting initiative will allow Gift of Life to save more lives than ever before and is slated to begin in 2005.

Blood from the umbilical cord is usually discarded but it is valuable because it is so rich in stem cells. After a baby's birth, this blood can be collected and frozen for potential use in the future. Gift of Life's bank of donated units of cord blood will give patients who are unable to find a suitably matched bone marrow or blood stem cell donor another source of stem cells available for transplant and a viable option for survival. The bank can be thought of as an insurance policy for the Jewish community, as it presents yet another opportunity for a successful transplant outcome.

Cord blood has a unique tissue type which is inherited and genetically determined by the baby's ancestry. Units will be listed on Gift of Life's registry and made available to patients all over the world. If a patient's tissue type matches a unit of stored cord blood,



the unit will be sent to the patient's hospital where the transplant will take place.

Jews remain under-represented in worldwide donor registries, therefore, it is important that Jewish couples strongly consider donating their babies' cord blood so that patients will have a better chance at finding their miracle matches.

Gift of Life's Cord Blood Program is named in honor of the life of Dr. Barry Mishkin. A devoted husband and father of three, Barry was chief resident of internal medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx before he became ill. The search for a donor for Barry resulted in the recruitment of thousands of volunteers in the New York area. Many lives have been saved as a result of this effort, and many more will follow in the future.

Donating umbilical cord blood to Gift of Life is free. It is also an extraordinary gift which may help save a life. If you would like more information about this program, please contact Gift of Life at 1-800-9MARROW.

Focus on Patients

Gift of Life is helping the families of the following patients in their searches for life-saving donors:



Judy Jacobs

Judy is from Houston, TX and is a lifelong member of Hadassah. She has worked for over 30 years to help children with mental health problems and their families. Judy was diagnosed in January 2004 with acute myelogenous leukemia, a disorder of the bone marrow that affects the body's ability to produce healthy, mature red and white blood cells and platelets.

Andy Joseph

After a career in public service that spanned three decades, Andy served until recently as Deputy Comptroller for Budget for New York City. He was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome, a condition that causes a progressive deterioration of the bone marrow. He lives with his wife in New York and enjoys traveling.



Amy Katz

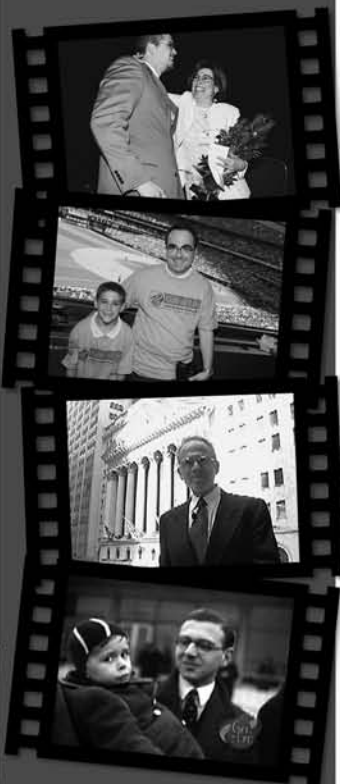
Twelve year old Amy lives in Pittsburgh, PA. Her diagnosis of chronic myelogenous leukemia is rare for a child her age. Numerous recruitment drives have been held in the hopes of finding Amy's miracle match, but a donor has not yet been found.

Please help us spread the word about the importance of joining Gift of Life's registry. You or someone you know could save the life of one of these special people.



Please visit www.giftoflife.org to locate a donor recruitment drive in your area or to request an "at home" testing kit. For information on how you can coordinate a donor drive in your community, please send an email to info@giftoflife.org or call 1-800-9MARROW.

**Gift of Life's
Video Library**



Now, you can view our full library of 16 videos at www.giftoflife.org. Witnessing the many heartwarming and exciting stories come to life is a fun reminder of what makes Gift of Life, our donors and volunteers so special.

**Gift of Life Celebrates
Hanukkah at the White House**

Jay Feinberg and his bone marrow donor, Becky Faibisoff were among the honored guests who attended a *menorah* lighting ceremony and reception at the White House on December 9, the third night of *Hanukkah*.

When they were greeted by the President and First Lady, Mrs. Bush remarked that she liked Jay's Gift of Life lapel pin. Luckily, he had an extra one ready just for her! President Bush added that Becky was a "good soul" and had a beautiful smile.

The New York Times quoted White House press secretary, Scott McClellan, who explained that the president spoke of

progress in the fight against terrorism, the administration's relations with Israel and effort to fight anti-Semitism. This was the third *Hanukkah* reception hosted by President Bush, who is the first president to host such an event and

the first to light a *menorah* in the White House. Jay said, "Becky and I were thrilled to participate in such a special celebration, and we wish to thank President and Mrs. Bush for their hospitality during the Festival of Lights!"



Jay and Becky with the President and First Lady at the White House Hanukkah Party.



We may not be in the fashion business,
**but we can tell you
which *genes* fit**

**Family Relationship Testing
HLA Tissue Typing
Paternity Testing**

**As the world's most experienced Identity Lab,
we specialize in Bloodless Specimen
Collection and Rapid Results.**

**800-533-1037
Fax: 336-584-4894**

LabCorp
Laboratory Corporation of America

Put Us to the Test
www.LabCorp.com

Thousands of Donors Recruited on College Campuses

For students across North America, back to school meant more than a return to the dorms, books and midterms that make up the college experience this Fall. Thanks to landmark partnerships with organizations such as Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, Kedma and birthright israel operators including Canada Israel Experience, Gift of Life has added over 2,000 young, healthy volunteers to its registry of donors in only one semester.

The response to the program has been astounding. Students on college campuses across North America and those studying in Israel have embraced the opportunity to raise awareness on their campuses about the life-saving potential of bone marrow transplants. Jay Feinberg said, "By providing educational outreach on campus, we are reinforcing the concept of *tikkun olam*, repairing our world, and recruiting young, committed donors who will remain in the registry for many years."

An integral part of the program is education and empowerment. Students work with Gift of Life to take leadership roles in setting up donor drives on their campuses and develop marketing plans to recruit and educate fellow students. Through their

participation, students also explore issues of Jewish medical ethics, such as views on organ donation and *pikuach nefesh*, saving lives.

"We want every college student to understand that he or she has the power to save a life by



participating in a bone marrow registry," explains Hillel International President Abraham Infeld. "Hillel is pleased to be playing a leading role on campus in promoting bone marrow registration."

For more information, contact Debbie Rauh at draub@giftoflife.org.

Hero of Our Generation

Jay Feinberg was recently awarded the prestigious Charles Bronfman Prize in its inaugural year. The Prize is a humanitarian award that pays tribute to an individual whose endeavors are emblematic of the values for excellence in the Jewish world and who inspires the emerging generation of Jewish people through his or her accomplishments and achievements.

The Prize was established by Mr. Bronfman's children, Stephen Bronfman, Ellen Bronfman Hauptman and Andrew Hauptman, in honor of his 70th birthday. It celebrates the

vision and talent of individuals under 50 years of age who, through the excellence of their achievements, have distinguished themselves as leaders of the future.

The announcement was made at an award ceremony held on April 28 at the New York Historical Society. The cocktail reception was followed by a private dinner hosted by the Bronfman family in Jay's honor.

"I am particularly honored to receive this Prize because of the man for whom it is named," said Jay in his acceptance speech. "Through his dedication and leadership, Charles Bronfman has projected a vision that has made the Jewish world a better place to live.



Pictured from left to right: Andrew Hauptman, Ellen Bronfman Hauptman, Shirley Baerwald, Jay Feinberg, Stephen Bronfman, Claudine Blondin Bronfman, Andrea Bronfman and Charles R. Bronfman

He has proven that one person can make a difference."

Jay was selected by an internationally recognized panel of judges, each of whom represents the highest human and Jewish ideals. The blue ribbon panel included James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, Dan Meridor, former Israeli Minister of Justice, and Madame Justice Rosalie Abella, Justice of the Ontario Court of Appeal, Canada.

"Even as his own survival was in question, Jay sought out ways to save others. I could not be more honored than to have Jay as the inaugural recipient of this prize," said Charles Bronfman. "Through his endeavors, he truly is an inspiration and a hero to the emerging generation of Jews and indeed to all those seeking to make a difference." To view a video about the Charles Bronfman Prize and Jay Feinberg's selection, please visit www.giftoflife.org.



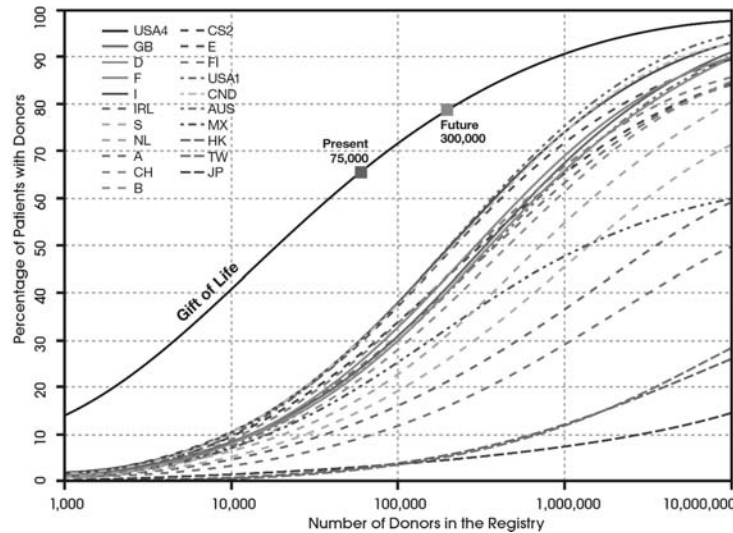
Ethnic Diversity within the Jewish Registry

In a landmark study by Carlheinz Müller, MD, PhD, Medical Director and CEO of the German National Bone Marrow Donor Registry,

Eastern European Jewish background. Patients of Sephardic Jewish descent, whose ancestors came from Spain, Portugal, the Middle

donors identify themselves as Sephardic Jews.

The need for increased participation of Sephardic donors was highlighted this summer when 38-year-old Shahin Assil of New York was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia. This husband and father of two young children found himself in immediate need of a transplant from an unrelated donor. Recruitment drives were held at Persian synagogues in New York and California, adding an astounding 4,143 new donors of Sephardic descent to the registry in one month.



Graph reprinted with permission from *HLA Diversity in Donor Registries*, Carlheinz Müller, MD, PhD, Medical Director and CEO, German National Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

Gift of Life was identified as one of the most homogeneous registries in the world, along with those of Finland and Japan. This statistical evidence highlights the significant role of ethnicity in matching patients with donors and suggests that increasing the size of Gift of Life's registry will have a more direct and measurable impact on the ability to match future donor-recipient pairs compared to other, more heterogeneous registries.

The vast majority of Gift of Life's volunteer donors are of Ashkenazi,

East and North Africa, still face tremendous challenges in finding genetically matched donors. Currently, less than five percent of Gift of Life's

Gift of Life will now draw on a recruitment strategy that has proved successful within Ashkenazi communities to target donors of Sephardic background. For information on how you can participate in this important campaign, please send an email to info@giftoflife.org.

"...increasing the size of Gift of Life's registry will have a more direct and measurable impact on the ability to match future donor-recipient pairs compared to other, more heterogeneous registries."

The Gift of Giving E-GREETINGS

FREE E-GREETING!

Designed exclusively for Gift of Life by a team of Israeli illustrators, e-greetings are the perfect way to commemorate special events such as birthdays and holidays.

E-greetings sent via Gift of Life's website normally require a contribution of at least \$18, but with this coupon, you can send one for free! So, give it a try and brighten someone's day while spreading the word about Gift of Life!

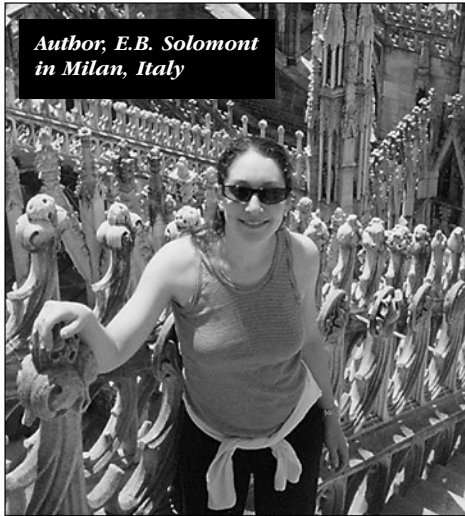
Enter this code when prompted for payment: *lifesaver*

Visit www.giftoflife.org to send your e-greeting today!

Expires March 15, 2005



Transporting Marrow, Delivering a Lifeline



Author, E.B. Solomont
in Milan, Italy

By E.B. Solomont

The cooler was white and blue plastic, and frankly looked like the type you would take to the park, a ballgame or the beach. The fact that it was marked 'Human Bone Marrow' on one side was probably inconsequential to my seatmate on the plane, the security technicians at the airport and everyone else I encountered as a courier for Gift of Life. For the person on the other end, though, it was a lifeline.

Two weeks earlier, I was interviewing Jay Feinberg when his BlackBerry® vibrated mid-conversation. Seconds later, his phone started humming. The symphony of noise in his pocket prompted me, a journalist, to interrupt myself: "Sounds like someone really wants to reach you," I said.

Apologizing, Jay picked up the phone and after some excited murmurs told me that Gift of Life had just found a match for a patient in Milan. Still in interview mode, I exclaimed in awe at the scope Gift of Life had

"Do you want to be the courier?" Jay asked me. Of course I did.

For me, this was a new experience, but for Gift of Life, the trip would mark another one of some 1,000 matches it has made over the past decade. Two weeks later, I was packed and thrilled to go.

Nervousness was not part of the equation: I was not the patient; no needles would invade my body. The significance of my cargo did not hit me until the day I left, several hours after I retrieved it from the donor.

At the airport, an emotional security technician was touched by my journey and broke down crying as I opened the cooler to show her its contents. A friend who had leukemia had recently passed away, she told me. My patient in Milan was lucky, she said. I nodded in agreement as I found myself speechless at the thought that this murky brown liquid would save someone's life within hours.

And alas there was some drama at the airport. Unprepared as I was for what the marrow would look like hours after settling in the plastic packing, I thought I somehow had ruined the crop, which had turned colors and shifted since it was packaged in the hospital. Hysterical, I phoned Gift of Life, who to their credit did

not laugh at the "crisis" I imagined; what I noticed was normal, they told me, throwing in a compliment on being so conscientious. At this point, the weight of my charge heavy on my shoulders, I just wanted to deliver the marrow as fast as possible.

Every country has different rules for allowing patients and donors to meet, and the Italian standards dictated the rest of my trip. In Italy, patients and donors (including representatives like me) never meet. My transferring of the marrow subsequently took

place without fanfare in the gray morning light of a Milanese morning, in the reception area of the airport's international arrivals. Two local doctors shook my hand, signed several legal forms, and bade me a nice visit to their country.

And then I was done.

Since then, I have thought of my trip often and tell friends and family about it whenever I can. I also think about the Italian patient often—whoever and wherever they are—wondering and hoping that the transplant was successful. For my part, I have no scar; I did not donate of my body. All I really have is a scrapbook of a balmy week in June and a stamp in my passport. Some people misunderstood when I said I was couriating marrow to Italy. They thought I was donating marrow of my own, and nodded, somewhat unimpressed when I explained I was just the conduit.

And a simple intermediary is what I was. Except I know that for someone across the world, my trip was an instrument they couldn't live without.

For me, this was a new experience, but for Gift of Life, the trip would mark another one of some 1,000 matches it has made over the past decade.

You can order free copies of any of Gift of Life's many publications and videos by sending an email request to info@giftoflife.org.



Bar Mitzvah Project Teaches Healing and Tzedakah

“As the time for the bone marrow donation grew nearer, people would ask me why I was doing this, to which I’d answer ‘Because I can. There is someone out there in need and I’m the only one who can help. Why wouldn’t I do it?’”

When Mitchell Zack of Silver Spring, MD became a *bar mitzvah* last Spring, he explored a phrase from his *Haftorah* portion, *Refa-ani Adonai Ve-ayrafay*, which means “Heal me, Eternal One; only then shall I be healed.” In his speech, Mitchell spoke about the different kinds of healing; emotional, spiritual and physical.

His experience with physical healing went beyond getting better from a cold or a sore throat. Just a few months before Mitchell’s *bar mitzvah*, his father, David, learned that he was a match for a 20-year old woman with leukemia who needed a transplant. Without hesitation, David agreed to try and save the life of a total stranger and donated his bone marrow.

David said, “As the time for the bone marrow donation grew nearer, people would ask me why I was doing this, to which I’d answer ‘Because I can. There is someone out there in need and I’m the only one who can help. Why wouldn’t I do it?’ From the time I was first contacted, I never gave it another thought. I will admit that I was a little nervous in the days leading up to the collection. Then I would think what my patient was experiencing and realized my minor discomfort was nothing in comparison.”

Like many donors who have participated in this life-changing process, David was profoundly moved by his experience, and wanted to do more to further Gift of Life’s mission. His desire to help led Mitchell to

coordinate a fundraising event for Gift of Life as part of the preparation for his *bar mitzvah*. Drawing on his love of basketball and with the help of his parents and close friends, Mitchell organized “10,000 Layups for Life” at a local high school. For a donation of \$10, participants helped Mitchell reach a goal of making 10,000 lay-ups in one day.

The event raised \$2,000 which was donated to Gift of Life and the American Cancer Society.

Through this experience, Mitchell learned that in some ways, playing basketball allowed him to help heal others. By supporting organizations that help cancer patients, some will be healed physically. He lifted others’ emotional spirits by providing a special opportunity to do a *mitzvah* (good deed). Mitchell’s act of kindness led others to a spiritual healing by reminding us all of

the importance of *tzedakah* (charity) in our daily lives.

Mitchell explained, “The ‘Layups for Life’ fundraiser was fun. A lot of people came and helped me shoot baskets and many more donated money. My friends and I get together all the time to play basketball or football and we have a good time but this event raised money for a good cause. Sure, I was tired but it felt good to help someone out.”

Today, becoming a *bar mitzvah* (literally, son of commandment) is more than a big party. Students and their families are taking the responsibility of becoming a Jewish adult seriously, and along with that goes recognizing that we as Jews are commanded to participate in socially responsible acts on behalf of others in our communities.

Gift of Life encourages volunteers of all ages to participate in our life-saving mission. There is no limit to the ways you can help spread awareness and raise critically needed funds. For information on how you can support Gift of Life by doing a project for your *bar/bat mitzvah*, or any other time, please call 1-800-9MARROW.



Wedding Day Donor Drive

When Asher and Kimberly Peskowitz were married in September 2003, they wanted to begin their marriage with a special act of loving kindness; so, they held a donor drive at their wedding reception. Ninety-one new donors joined Gift of Life’s registry that day. According to Asher, “A wedding is the perfect place to have a drive. You already have a room full of people, and you have their attention.” He continued, “People will tell you that if need be, they will go to the ends of the earth to save a life. We just made it easy by bringing the opportunity right to them. Sometimes a little push is all it takes.”



Annual Gala Salutes our *Partners for Life*



Medina Trincher (left) as she meets her life-saving donor, Rachael Hirsch for the first time.

Each year, Gift of Life presents the *Partners for Life Gala*, an unforgettable celebration of our work. The highlight of this event is the introduction of transplant recipients to the heroes who saved their lives, their bone marrow and blood stem cell donors. *Partners for Life 2004* was so unique, it could not be contained within the confines of one evening!

The day began bright and early as many of Gift of Life's staff headed to the New York Stock Exchange to see Alan Snyder meet his heroic blood stem cell donor, Sharona Rosenberg. Their introduction occurred just minutes before the opening bell signaled the beginning of trading on one of the most famous floors in the world! *Partners for Life 2003 Honoree*, Howard Jonas, made the introduction. This was especially meaningful for Mr. Jonas, as Sharona is an employee at DSPi, an animation company in Israel which is a subsidiary of the company founded by Mr. Jonas, the IDT Corporation.

Partners for Life 2004 went into full swing later that evening when hundreds of guests arrived at the Grand

Hyatt. Tony Award winning actor, Ron Rifkin was the Master of Ceremonies and began by presenting the Solomon Weill Volunteer Award to Daniel Rosenfield. Daniel had worked tirelessly to find a donor match for Bracha Naomi, a young girl who shared a hospital room with his daughter, Chani, in Israel. Though Chani would not benefit from a transplant, Daniel's selfless determination in the face of his own personal struggle showed us

all just how much we can do to help others. This was followed by the emotional introduction of Chaia Kleist, a Holocaust survivor and transplant recipient from Israel, to her donor, Yocheved Berger. As the women sat onstage hand-in-hand it

was clear that a special bond existed between them. Up next was Dr. Ruthie Spector, *Partners for Life 2004* Honorary Chair, who introduced another transplant recipient from Israel, Medina Trincher, to her life-saving donor Rachael Hirsch. Medina's emotional words of thanks brought tears to many in the room.

The dramatic finale was a video about Sharona's heroic efforts to save a life in New York City on September 11th, 2001. Alan Snyder and Suzie Katz Snyder were presented

with the *Partners for Life Award*, Gift of Life's highest honor, and the evening ended on a high note. When the lights came up, no one in the ballroom moved. It was as if everyone wanted more! We will just have to wait until the next *Partners for Life Gala*, scheduled for May 5, 2005, when more brave donors and their grateful recipients meet for the first time! If you would like to participate in this extraordinary event, please send an email to gala@giftoflife.org to be added to our mailing list.



Donors and recipients unite at the annual Partners for Life Gala.

Remembering Alan Snyder z"l



Pictured from left to right: Alan and Suzie Katz Snyder, Sharona Rosenberg, Ron Rifkin and Jay Feinberg on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

It is with great sorrow that we announce the loss of our dear friend Alan Snyder on September 28 in Palo Alto, CA. Just four months before his passing, Alan and his wife Suzie met his blood stem cell donor, Sharona Rosenberg at the New York Stock Exchange on the morning of the *Partners for Life Gala*. Gift of Life was pleased to fulfill Alan's dream of meeting his donor at this important landmark which held special meaning for him.

What you Should Know About Becoming a Donor

Becoming a bone marrow or blood stem cell donor is a serious commitment. It is critically important that all volunteers are well informed about the donation process. Whether you joined Gift of Life's registry recently or many years ago, please take a moment to review the information on the next two pages.

What happens if I am a match for a patient?

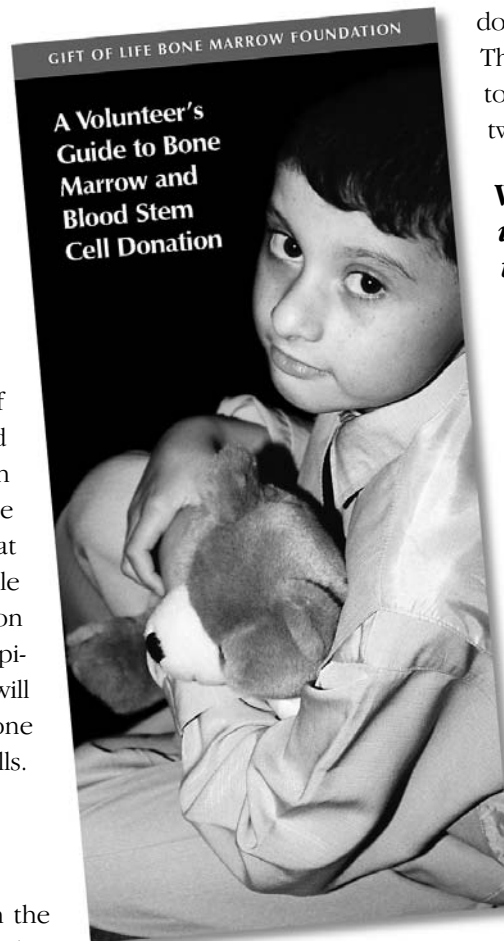
You will be contacted by a Gift of Life representative and asked to give a blood sample. This will help the transplant center determine if you are the best possible match for the patient. If so, you will be counseled in person on the donation process. You will also be screened to ensure that you are medically eligible and that your donation poses no risk to the recipient. If all goes well, you will be asked to donate bone marrow or blood stem cells.

How is bone marrow collected?

Bone marrow is found in the hollow cavities of the body's large bones. It is withdrawn from the pelvic bone in an area called the iliac crest. The procedure is performed in a sterile hospital operating room with needles and syringes under either general or regional (i.e. spinal or epidural) anesthesia. Marrow regenerates completely within four to six weeks. Donors should anticipate taking a few days off after the collection to recover.

How are peripheral blood stem cells collected?

Although stem cells are produced in the bone marrow, small amounts are found in



circulating blood, but not in quantities sufficient for a transplant. In order to increase the number of stem cells in the blood, donors are given injections of a medication called filgrastim. Blood stem cells are collected through a procedure called apheresis, which requires a needle to be placed in each arm. Blood is removed from one arm, filtered through a cell-separating machine that collects the stem cells, and returned to the

donor through the other arm. The collection usually lasts up to five hours on either one or two days.

What information will I be given about the recipient?

The donation process is anonymous. The only information you will receive is the recipient's age, sex and diagnosis. In some cases, donors and recipients are permitted to meet one year after the transplant. Patients' ethnic or religious backgrounds are not available to the registry.

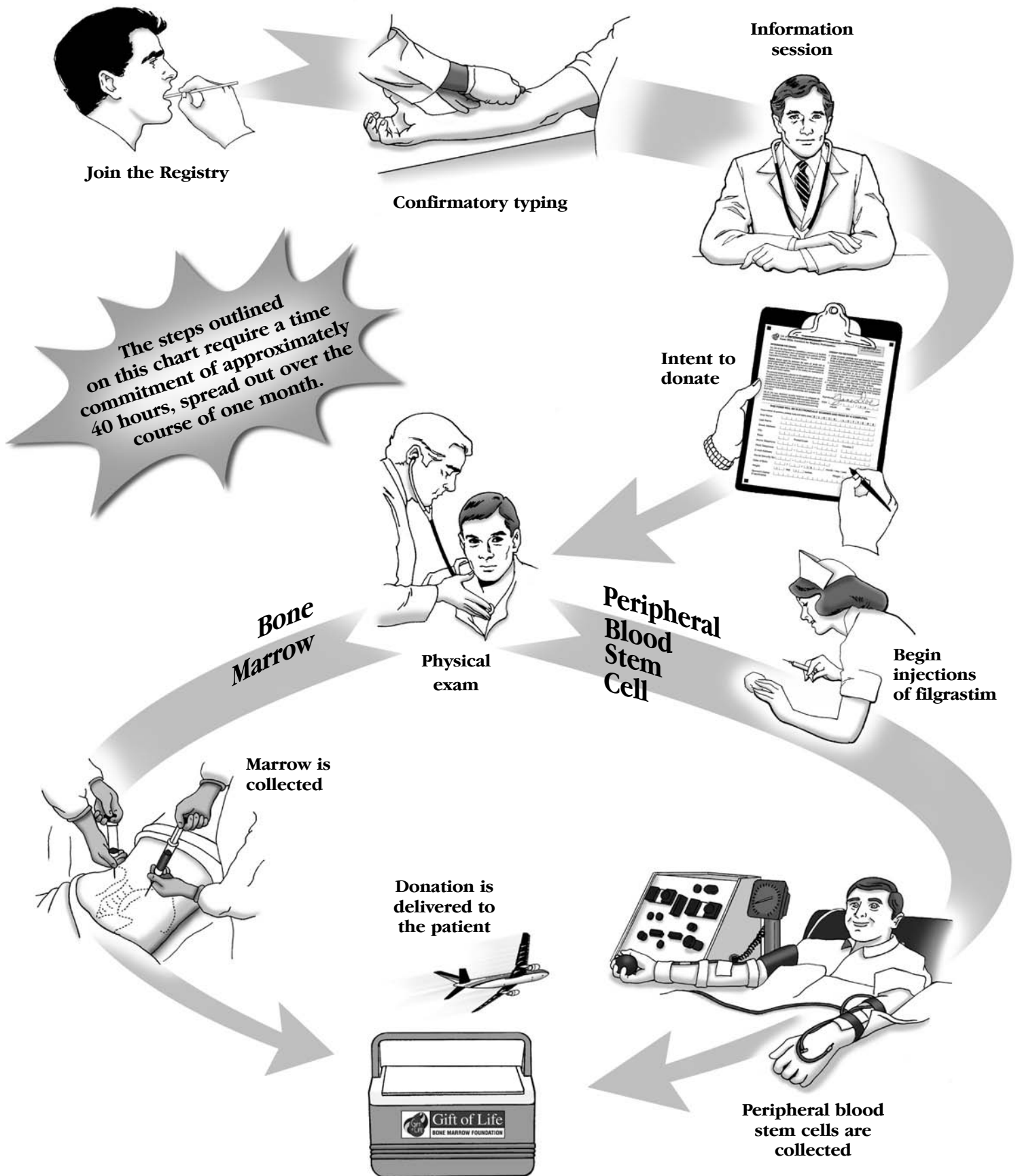
Gift of Life has a wealth of educational materials about becoming a donor. If you have not had a chance to review the brochure

entitled *A Volunteer's Guide to Bone Marrow and Blood Stem Cell Donation*, we will be happy to send you a copy. You can request this and other publications by calling 1-800-9MARROW. You can also view a video about the donation process on our website, www.giftoflife.org.

Reminders :

- ☆ The donation process is anonymous
- ☆ You could be a match for ANY patient needing a transplant
- ☆ Follow-up steps involve needles

Steps to Becoming a Donor



Update Your Information!

Have you moved or changed your last name or phone number since joining Gift of Life's Registry? Let us know! The success of our registry depends on maintaining an accurate database. If you are a match for a patient needing a transplant, we must be able to find you. You can update your information easily by calling 1-800-9MARROW or sending an email to donors@giftoflife.org.



7700 Congress Ave., Suite 2201 • Boca Raton, Florida 33487
Ph (561) 988-0100 • Fax (561) 988-0140 • www.giftoflife.org

Mission Statement

Gift of Life's mission is to facilitate bone marrow, blood stem cell and umbilical cord blood transplants for children and adults suffering from life-threatening illnesses. Since tissue type is inherited, a patient's best chance of finding a genetic match lies with donors of similar ethnicity. Gift of Life strives to increase the representation of Jewish donors in the registry in order to overcome the devastating effects of the Holocaust, which severed bloodlines.

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
Paid
Boca Raton, FL
Permit No. 490