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## **TEENAGER MEETS HER LIFESAVING DONOR AT GIFT OF LIFE MARROW REGISTRY EVENT IN NANTUCKET**

**BOCA RATON, FL – July 27, 2023** – Nancy Diaz, a 17-year-old transplant recipient and Detroit resident, recently united with her lifesaving marrow donor at the annual [Gift of Life Marrow Registry](#) Cocktails and Conversation event held in Nantucket, Mass. The heartwarming and emotional introduction took place on July 25, 2023.

Diaz, a high school student who was battling Glanzmann Thrombasthenia, an inherited, life-threatening blood clotting disorder, was thrilled to meet her donor, Isabel Valencia, a 25-year-old billing specialist from Dallas. Valencia learned about Gift of Life from her brother, who is also a donor, and went on to join the registry by ordering a cheek swab kit online. The pair had never met before, as transplants are anonymous for the first year under federal regulations.

"Finding a donor only took around two months and provided me with hope as the donor cells allowed me to believe the transplant was not going to fail," said Diaz.

"I decided to join the registry because I wanted to be able to help someone who needed it," said Valencia. "I was excited to give Nancy the chance to live a fuller life and couldn't imagine being able to do this for someone and not take the opportunity."

Gift of Life is currently searching for donors for multiple blood cancer patients; approximately 20,000 Americans each year need a lifesaving transplant. Those wishing to join the registry and learn if they are a match for a patient in need may visit [www.giftoflife.org/register](http://www.giftoflife.org/register).

"For more than 30 years Gift of Life has had one mission – to ensure that every patient has a donor available at the time they are needed," said Jay Feinberg, Gift of Life Founder and CEO – and also a transplant survivor. "Every person fighting to overcome blood cancer deserves a second chance at life. Our donors tell us that saving a cancer patient's life is one of the most incredible, life-changing experiences possible."

### **About Gift of Life Marrow Registry**

Gift of Life Marrow Registry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Boca Raton, Fla. The organization, established in 1991, is dedicated to saving lives by facilitating blood stem

cell and bone marrow transplants for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood-related diseases. The registry houses its own state-of-the-art stem cell collection center, biobank, and laboratory. To learn more about Gift of Life Marrow Registry, visit [www.giftoflife.org](http://www.giftoflife.org)

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