

Emma's Story

Just two weeks after starting college in New York, Emma became ill with an unknown disease. She spent five terrible weeks in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Mt. Sinai with mysterious lung masses and ARDS. She was on a ventilator, had a lung biopsy, a tracheostomy, and almost lost her life. Emma recovered just enough to be transferred to UCSF in California, near her home town. But her story was just beginning.

For many months she was kept on high-dose steroids, but she remained chronically ill, so sick that she rarely left the house. Emma then developed widespread brain lesions, and was admitted back to UCSF. Again many tests were done, including a brain biopsy, but still no etiology was found for her illness.

Finally, after eighteen long, hard months of a variety of treatments, including chemotherapy, steroids, and repeated tests, Emma now has been diagnosed with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis, known as HLH.

HLH is extremely rare, and affects only one in 1.2 million people, mostly children.

Emma is receiving chemotherapy again, and will need a total Stem Cell Transplant, (Bone Marrow Transplant) as soon as a match can be found for her.

She needs your help. Please see if you can be the Match! Go to BetheMatch.org, where you can learn more about the process, targeting ages 18-44 years of age, and also about donating cord blood from your baby after delivery.

A donor drive will be scheduled here at Beaumont.
Please bring your driver's license and support the drive.

Beaumont Hospital Troy Campus
April 3rd and 4th, 2017
7a-7pm
across from Starbucks

It only takes a simple swab of your cheek, for you to enter the donor bank and save a life.

This drive is in honor of Emma, but not just for her. By doing this you can help one of many more who are facing the need for a life-saving transplant. Your swab will help fill the bank!

Thank you!
Dr. Lynn Frikker

EMMA

Be the Match

One year follow up 5/2/2018

BeTheMatch was successful in finding a match, not just for Emma, but for several people. The Match Bank was filled with over 150 swabs through the efforts of Beaumont Hospital and the Leukemia Cup High School Regatta. Emma's match however was found in Europe, we believe Italy.

After preparing for her Stem Cell with many weeks of chemotherapy, her gift of life arrived on her mother's birthday. The day of her transplant took place the following day, and is Emma's new birthday.

Emma rang the bell as all patients who are leaving the hospital do, and she continued her recovery at home in isolation for many months.

Today, Emma is happy and healthy. She will be starting her college studies once again at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design in the fall of 2018.

Please support , BeTheMatch, the Leukemia Cup Foundation, and the team efforts of everyone who make life saving efforts for people like Emma happen.

Dr. Frikker