

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Amy's Army Advances to Bethel Park Blood Drive This Weekend Local non-profit in search of bone marrow donors

**Pittsburgh, PA** (July 8, 2009) – Amy's Army will be teaming up with MESH (Mobilize and Empower the South Hills) for a Central Blood Bank blood drive on Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Bethel Park High School. Amy's Army will be present to educate potential donors about the National Marrow Registry and let them know about the simple cheek swab test required of any blood drive attendees interested in being potential bone marrow donors.

<u>Amy's Army</u> started in 2003 to find a bone marrow donor for 16-year old Amy Katz of Pittsburgh, who suffers from leukemia. They have held drives in 12 states throughout the country, registered over 10,000 people in the National Bone Marrow Registry, found 25 marrow donors for patients looking for a match, but none for Amy.

Amy's Army encourages the local community to come to Bethel Park High School on Saturday to possibly be the one match that Amy still needs. All attendees interested in being a marrow donor must also give blood at Saturday's event. All that is required for a potential marrow donor is a filled-out consent form and a painless cheek swab test.

<u>MESH</u> is a group formed from South Hills' Obama campaign volunteers who stayed together to help the president succeed and promote progressive values locally. MESH is having a blood drive to answer President Obama's call for a National Health Care Day of Service and to show local support for national health care reform.

To make a blood donation appointment for this weekend's event, contact MESH at <u>blooddrive@bittsburgh.com</u> or call 412-860-4547. For more information on becoming a bone marrow donor, visit <u>www.amysarmy.org</u>.

Started in 2003, Amy's Army is a devoted group of volunteers dedicated to finding a stem cell donor who can help Amy get well again. The search for Amy's perfect match also enlarges the ranks of the National Bone Marrow Registry, thereby helping thousands of others like Amy who are also searching every day for their perfect match.



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