



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **DKMS teams up with Amy's Army for Bone Marrow Donor Testing Drive**

*Fox Chapel drive benefits two local leukemia patients and thousands of others just like them*

**Pittsburgh, PA** (July 16, 2009) – [DKMS](#) is partnering with [Amy's Army](#) to host a bone marrow testing drive on Thursday, July 30 from 3-8 p.m. at the Fox Chapel Racquet Club, located on 355 Hunt Road in Pittsburgh. The drive is for Amy Katz and Dennis Hough and is being held in honor of a recent Fox Chapel graduate who lost his battle with leukemia earlier this month.

Every year, more than 140,000 people are diagnosed with leukemia and lymphoma. Many could be cured with a life-giving bone marrow transplant. For every 10 patients who need a transplant, only 3 will receive the transplant that can save their life. DKMS and Amy's Army encourage the Fox Chapel and surrounding communities to change these statistics and help make a difference. Every patient deserves a second chance at life.

Community members between the ages of 18 and 55 are encouraged to come out July 30 to help support both 16-year old Amy Katz of Pittsburgh and 51-year old Dennis Hough of Beasville, PA in their struggle with leukemia. DKMS, the world's largest bone marrow donor center, helps to organize the donor drives that will allow community members to be tested as a possible donor for Amy, Dennis or the 6,000 other patients who search the National Be the Match Marrow Registry each day. As a non-profit organization, DKMS relies on the generosity of individuals to help finance the \$65 cost DKMS pays to tissue type each bone marrow donor who registers.

"Cancer treatment is like a whitewater river trip," Dennis Hough reflects. "Each day may be the rapids or a calm pool. The focus is on one day at a time leaving future challenges for another day. Please register as a bone marrow donor. You can rescue someone adrift in the rapids."

Erica Cohen, Fox Chapel resident and student at Ohio University, is helping to coordinate this drive along with Libby Ernharth and Sarah Stallings. Erica organized a bone marrow drive with DKMS this year at Ohio University, and broke a World Record, registering more than 2,400 donors at a campus drive. Her dedication to help others knows no bounds.

[Amy's Army](#) 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 Be the Match Registry, and found 25 marrow donors for patients looking for a match, but none for Amy.

**DKMS** is the largest bone marrow donor center in the world with nearly **2 million** registered donors. Since its founding in Germany in 1991, DKMS has facilitated over **17,000** transplants. **DKMS** is committed to the fight against leukemia and strives to give every blood cancer patient a second chance at life by recruiting bone marrow donors from every race and ethnicity. **DKMS** helps to match its donors with patients in need of a bone marrow transplant. For more information about **DKMS**, please visit [www.dkmsamericas.org](http://www.dkmsamericas.org),

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**1-866-340-DKMS**

[www.dkmsamericas.org](http://www.dkmsamericas.org)

**1-866-340-3567**

**1-877-AID-4-AMY**

[www.AmysArmy.org](http://www.AmysArmy.org)

**1-877-243-4269**