

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE WILLIAM G. POMEROY FOUNDATION AND BE THE MATCH TO HOST BONE MARROW REGISTRATION DRIVE IN HONOR OF 14-YEAR-OLD ALYSON STILES

NEDROW, N.Y. – [The William G. Pomeroy Foundation](#) and [Be The Match](#), in collaboration with the Nedrow Fire Department, Onondaga Nation Fire Department and [Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York](#), will host a bone marrow registration drive in honor of 14-year-old leukemia patient Alyson Stiles.

The drive will be on Saturday, March 29, at the Nedrow Fire Department, 6505 S. Salina St., Nedrow, N.Y., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia as a toddler, Alyson has been in and out of hospitals for years. Her cancer has gone into remission twice since her original diagnosis. A few months ago she learned her cancer had returned. The Stiles family, of Northern New York, stays at the CNY Ronald McDonald House while Alyson is treated at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.

Like many other leukemia patients, Alyson needs a bone marrow transplant. She is among the thousands of people in the U.S. waiting to find their match. More than 70 percent of patients that are diagnosed with life-threatening blood diseases will not find donors within their own families. In a lot of cases, finding a compatible donor is the best or only hope for survival.

Alyson is part American Indian. Racial and ethnic heritage are important factors in determining a bone marrow match. Because the markers used in matching are inherited, patients are most likely to match someone of their own race or ethnicity. Of the 10 million people signed up for the Be The Match registry, only 1 percent are Native American or American Indian. Adding diversity to the registry will increase the likelihood that all patients will be able to find the life-saving match that they need.

Join the mission to save lives and register with Be The Match. Joining the registry is quick and easy. To be eligible, you must be between the ages of 18 and 44, be in general good health and be willing to donate to any patient in need. To register at the event, you can fill out an application and have your cheek swabbed.

About The William G. Pomeroy Foundation: The William G. Pomeroy Foundation was founded by Bill Pomeroy, founder and CEO of CXtec & TERACAI, after his own diagnosis of leukemia in 2004. The Foundation's two main initiatives are to help diversify the Be The Match Registry by supporting bone marrow drives in diverse communities and to help preserve history through historic signage.

About Be The Match: For people with life-threatening blood cancers—like leukemia and lymphoma—or other diseases, a cure exists. Be The Match connects patients with their donor match for a life-saving marrow or umbilical cord blood transplant. People can contribute to the cure as a member of the Be The Match Registry, financial contributor or volunteer. Be The Match provides patients and their families with one-on-one support, education and guidance before, during and after transplant.

Be The Match is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP), a nonprofit organization that matches patients with donors, educates health care professionals and conducts research so more lives can be saved. To learn more about the cure, visit BeTheMatch.org or call 1 (800) MARROW-2.

About Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York: Ronald McDonald House Charities of CNY operates the CNY Ronald McDonald House 24 hours a day, year-round as a “home away from home” for families whose children are hospitalized with serious illnesses or injuries. For just \$20 a night per family, the House provides the convenience of a comfortable room and warm bed, a home-cooked meal, and support and compassion. The fully accessible Ronald McDonald House allows the organization to help keep even more families with seriously ill children together. For more information or to donate, visit www.cnyronaldmcdonaldhouse.org.

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