

About Be The Match® Walk+Run – Chicago

- Be The Match® Walk+Run is a fundraising event that helps patients with blood cancers like leukemia find a marrow donor and receive a life-saving transplant.
- Every three minutes someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer. It can happen to anyone at any time. But so can a cure – a marrow transplant. **The cure for blood cancer is in the hands of ordinary people.**
- The majority of patients don't have a fully matched donor in their family and so Be The Match helps match volunteer unrelated marrow donors with those patients who need them.
- The Chicago Be The Match Walk+Run is **April 29, 2017.**
- 5K, 1K, and Tot Trot.
- Visit BeTheMatchWalkRun.org to register, fundraise and volunteer.
- 100% of event net proceeds raised help more patients afford transplant, add potential marrow donors to the registry and fund our life-saving research.

Chicago Event Details

When:	Saturday, April 29, 2017
Where:	Grant Park – Upper Hutchinson Field Balbo Avenue and Columbus Drive Chicago, IL 60601
Costs:	\$35 5K Timed Run \$30 5K Untimed Walk/Run \$30 1K Adult Untimed Walk/Run \$15 1K Youth (17 and younger) \$15 Tot Trot (5 and younger) \$25 Virtual Fundraiser
Website:	BeTheMatchWalkRun.org
Event Contact:	Angie Larson, alarson2@nmdp.org P: 763-406-4289
Media Contact:	media@nmdp.org



The Need

- Every year, more than 14,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with a disease treatable by transplant.
- Too many cannot afford the uninsured costs associated with a marrow transplant, medical complications stand in their way, or they cannot find a matching marrow donor. Most patients (about 70 percent) do not have a fully matched donor in their family. They depend on Be The Match to find an unrelated donor and receive a transplant.

More detailed information on how your gift saves lives

The Be The Match Walk+Run raises funds to support three crucial patient needs:

- **It provides financial grants to patients who need help with uninsured treatment costs.**

While a marrow transplant can be a life-saving treatment, it takes a financial toll on a family. Often there is the temporary loss of at least one income. And even with insurance, not all costs are covered.

On average, families who apply for patient assistance struggle with expenses that exceed their income by \$1,650 a month; and recovery usually takes 3 to 6 months. So, even with good insurance, many families experience a gap as high as \$10,000.

For some, insurance will not cover the cost to search for a donor. Others need help with prescription co-pays (many patients take 20 or more medications per day), transportation to and from the transplant hospital (often in another state), and temporary lodging.

After transplant, patients don't just go home from the hospital. Many must reside in a nearby hotel or apartment for several months – visiting the hospital clinic daily – while their fragile immune system heals. **This means many families must pay to run two separate households.**

- **It funds transplant research to help more patients live longer, healthier lives.**

Because of research, a growing number of diseases can now be treated with a marrow transplant. Advances continue to improve the timing of transplant and refine the science of matching marrow donors and patients. Scientific discoveries are making transplant available to more patients – with better outcomes – than ever before. But there is work to be done.

Imagine advances that would make transplant a treatment option for more diseases and prevent post-transplant complications, such as graft-versus-host disease and pneumonia.

- **It raises money to grow the Be The Match Registry® of volunteer marrow donors.**

Be The Match relies on financial contributions to help add more potential donors to the marrow registry. Every \$100 raised adds a new donor to the registry. The Be The Match Registry is the most diverse listing of volunteer marrow donors in the world. Yet, with more than 16 million on the national registry, finding a matching donor who is willing and available to donate can be as low as 66 percent for some patients.

We do not charge individuals under the age of 45 to join the registry. We ask others to *pay it forward* and contribute to help others join the registry. **Be the benefactor who saves a life!**

That \$100 pays for tissue typing each potential donor and adding their information to our national database for physicians to search on behalf of patients.

It also helps fund our Research Repository, one of the world's largest research facilities. It not only stores each registry member's tissue sample for future analysis, but also stores nearly 1 million samples from donor/recipient matches. These are used by scientists across the globe to study and advance transplant treatments.