

# Coping with anemia

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"There's only so much you can do for your child. . . By working through the group I only hope that somewhere along the way one of those dollars I helped raise will help someone else," Susan said.

Currently 34 Michigan residents are under treatment for aplastic anemia, including a Plymouth teen. Since the chapter began, 22 people have died from the disease, two of them Birmingham residents.

On the brighter side, 24 people have beaten aplastic anemia and are considered recovered or cured, she added.

About 2,500 to 3,000 new cases of aplastic anemia are recorded every year nationwide. But Salder said she doesn't know how accurate the count is because not all states keep records of aplastic anemia patients.

The disease strikes men, women and children of all races. In most cases the causes are never known but aplastic anemia has been clearly linked to radiation, environmental toxins, insecticides, benzene-based compounds, airplane glue and drugs such as chloramphenicol. It also is believed to be caused by a virus in some individuals.

For others, like James and Scott Bradley of Rochester Hills, the disease is genetic. The brothers were born with Fanconi's Anemia, a form of aplastic anemia. Fanconi's is extremely rare, with only 350 cases reported nationwide.

James, 17, is a senior at Rochester High School and was diagnosed with Fanconi's when he was 4. It worsened last October, requiring him to receive bone marrow transplants every two weeks. Doctors decided to perform a bone marrow transplant, which took place at Harper Hospital in March.

JAMES' YOUNGEST brother, Todd, 14, donated the bone marrow. James is home now, recovering from chemotherapy and radiation treatments required prior to the transplant. He's building his strength, completes classes through a homebound school program and plans to go back to RHS at the beginning of second semester.



The Bradley family includes, back row, Diane, James and Mike. In front are Todd and Scott with the family pooch, Barney.

Scott, 22, has also lived with Fanconi's since he was a child and eventually faces a bone marrow transplant. Both James and Scott said living with their disease is second nature, joking "hospitals are our second home."

Their parents, Mike and Diane, credit their families, employers and residents in the Rochester and Madison Heights communities for providing support and funds that have helped the family through their medical emergencies.

Faith, optimism and humor has held the family together during tough times, most recently James' bone marrow transplant. "When Jimmy was going through this we knew it was risky," Mike said. "We felt helpless but knew we couldn't change what was going to happen — you just hope and pray. Now it feels like someone's handed us a pot of gold because he pulled

through. But in a way I can't get over the feeling someone's going to take it away."

Diane said the transplant was hard on the whole family emotionally.

"We're looking forward to this Christmas and the new year because it's been such a hard year. But now it's looking much, much better."

Her husband agreed. "If we didn't get another gift, it would be OK. Because we're all together."

For more information about the disease, write: Aplastic Anemia Foundation of Michigan, 528 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake 48390, or call 553-4318. The group meets bi-monthly.

## around Farmington

All announcements for this column must be mailed to Around Farmington, Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336. Deadline for Around Farmington is noon Monday for the Thursday publication and noon Thursday for the Monday publication. Requests for announcements will not be taken over the telephone.

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
Saturday, Dec. 28: Blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in St. Gerald Church Parish Hall, 21220 Farmington Road. The Red Cross urgently needs blood.

**NICOTINE ANONYMOUS**  
Saturday, Dec. 28: 12-step program to help you quit and stay quit of smoking at 7 p.m. in Botolph Hospital Administration Building, 28050 Grand River. Phone number for more information, 728-9123.

**FOOT EXAMS**  
Month of December: Initial foot examinations are given for \$1, which will be donated to Farmington Families in Action. Call Dr. Norman Branta office at 476-0500 to make an appointment. The office is at 38471 W. 10 Mile Road between Haggerty and Grand River.

**ENRICHMENT CLASS**  
Through Dec. 31: Sunshine Pre-school is taking registration now for their Enrichment Class that begins in January for children entering kindergarten in the fall of 1992. The class meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in Faith Covenant Church, 14 Mile and Drake roads. The program emphasizes math, science, language and creative art. For more information call Sheila Wade at 661-2126.

**MAYFAIR CO-OP NURSERY**  
Through January: The Mom & Tot class at Mayfair Co-op Nursery, 30450 Farmington Road is accepting applications for the January to April class. Children between the ages of 21 months and 3 years are invited to join a Monday class 12:30-2 p.m. For more information, call Debra Merriam at 626-2332.

**FREE DIPLOMA**  
Through Jan. 31: Register now for free high school completion classes at Farmington Community School, 30415 Shawasssee. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 489-3333.

**Q.E.D. PREP CLASSES**  
Through Jan. 31: Classes offered during the day, evening and Saturday. Register at Farmington Community School, 30415 Shawasssee. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7-9 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 489-3333.

**DEVELOPMENT OF JEWISH LAW**  
Sunday, Jan. 5: The Jewish Parents Institute announces a class for adults, "The Development of Jewish Law". The instructor for the class will be Rabbi Alan Blatels held in the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, Maple/Drake building at 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Room 129. For more information, call Marilyn Wolfe at 661-1000, Ext. 334.

**BALLROOM DANCE CLASS**  
Monday, Jan. 6: Beginner dance class is offered by Redford Parks and Recreation for 10 weeks for \$20.

7-8:30 p.m. Singles or couples. For more information, call 471-4168.

**PARENTING CLASS**  
Monday, Jan. 6: Session 3 begins Jan. 6 stresses motivation, underachievement, self-esteem. All sessions meet in Room 3 at 10 Mile School 7:30-9 p.m. For more information call, 489-3399 or 489-3401.

**HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE**  
Friday, Jan. 10: Low down in high blood pressure. ElderMed at Botolph are taking reservations for lunch and program. \$4 members and \$5 for non-members. Reservations are necessary.

**WINTER TRAVEL FILMS**  
Wednesday, Jan. 8: Join the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. for the winter travel film series. The first is an evening of films about Russia in the Farmington Branch Community Library, 23500 Liberty street. For more information, call 474-7770.

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