

Hills luncheon honors bone marrow donors

The letter Deborah Sitaraki received last Christmas was not signed and did not have a return address.

But the 33-year-old Trenton resident didn't need a return address to know it came from the heart of a stranger she had just given a chance for life. Sitaraki is one of 13 people from southeastern Michigan who in the past six years have made the decision to give their bone marrow to save the life of a patient in need.

"She (the bone marrow recipient) sent me a letter that would tear your heart out," said Sitaraki. "It said I had given her a second chance at life. That was when I realized the importance of what I had done."

On Saturday, April 23, Sitaraki and 12 others like her were honored by the Southeastern Michigan Marrow Donor Program at the Inaugural Marrow Donor Recognition Luncheon in Farmington Hills.

Oakland County residents honored at the ceremony were David Collins, Birmingham; Nancy Harmon, Southfield; and Carol Moon, Troy. The luncheon took place at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn at 38123 W. 10 Mile Road.

The identity of bone marrow donors and recipients is kept confidential about her two children, Tim, 10 and Brian, 8, and her hope that someone would make the same sacrifice for one of her children. In fact, Sitaraki's motivation for joining the National Marrow Donor Registry last April came from Timmy Mann, a friend

of her son's who was afflicted with aplastic anemia. The two boys played on the same hockey team.

In the past six years, 11,269 people from southeastern Michigan have entered the National Marrow Donor Registry in hopes of being a match for a patient suffering from leukemia, aplastic anemia or one of 60 other blood-related diseases. Unfortunately, the odds of finding a bone marrow match could be compared to finding a needle in a haystack — estimated at one in one hundred to one in a million.

Saturday's event brought bone marrow donors from southeastern Michigan together for the first time to share their experiences. Guest speakers for the ceremony were Joseph Leasna, a bone marrow recipient from Bloomfield Hills, and Lyle Sensenbrenner, of Wayne State University School of Medicine.

The event also highlighted the registration of the 1 millionth donor in the National Bone Marrow Registry, which took place within the past year.

Also honored at the event were the My Friends Care Bone Marrow Transplant Fund Inc., an organization based in southeastern Michigan which provides funds to the Southeastern Michigan Marrow Donor Program. My Friends Care will receive the Zimwani Community Award. Recipients of the award have demonstrated outstanding community leadership to further the goals of the National Marrow Donor Program and its participating centers.

My Friends Care provides financial assistance to families seeking funds for HLA typing and for expenses incurred as a result of the marrow transplant procedure such as airfare, hotel accommodations and medical expenses.

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FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Tuesday, May 17, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shilawasee, Farmington, Michigan, the Board of Education of the Farmington Public School District will hold a public hearing on the levying in 1994 of a proposed additional millage rate of 0 mills for operating purposes pursuant to 1991 Public Act 75. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony and discuss the levying of the proposed additional millage rate.

The proposed additional millage rate would increase 1994 revenues for operating purposes from ad valorem property tax levies by 0 percent (0%) over the revenues that would otherwise be permitted by 1991 Public Act 75. In the event the proposed additional millage rate is approved, the School District's millage revenues for 1994 will increase over those received during 1993 by 0 percent (0%).

The Board of Education currently has the complete authority to establish a levy of 18.0 mills for non-homestead property and 17.53 mills for homestead property in 1994 from within its authorized millage rate of 26.381 mills. These millage rates do not include the statutory State of Michigan 6-mill property tax levy on homestead and non-homestead property. The Board of Education proposes to act upon a resolution to set the tax levy for 1994 at the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 1994 at 8:00 p.m. at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center. This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

SUSAN LIGHTNER,
Secretary, Board of Education

Published May 5, 1994

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