

Donations from page A7

an employee at the club, who was just 3 when she died last June from a rare form of leukemia. A bone marrow match never was found in time for a transplant operation.

"It's important to do as much as we can and see that doesn't happen to other children," said Dr. Charles Main of Beverly Hills, chief of pediatric hematology and oncology at Oakland County-based William Beaumont Hospital.

Besides the Dec. 15 event, 77 specific blood drives are being conducted throughout southeast Michigan from Dec. 1 through Jan. 3 and six special sites are being set up in tri-county area shopping centers for holiday blood donations, including Astrelin's Jewelers in Birmingham, plus Laurel Park Place and Wonderland Mall in Livonia.

"We're trying to make this one of the best months for donations," McCarthy said. "December is one of the lowest points and its when there's the greatest need. We would like to get people to donate blood on a regular basis every two months."

This is the traditional season of giving gifts, but McCarthy said, but, "instead of money or products, this is about life."

Expensive work

The effort, though, is costly: \$200,000, he said, mostly due to the \$45 cost for every blood test done to determine bone marrow characteristics. Donors don't have to pay anything, although contributions are encouraged.

BDDO, the Southfield advertising agency, has produced public service announcements for TV and will put 1.2 million inserts in newspapers from all over the area promoting the efforts.

Of particular concern is getting minority donors. McCarthy said Caucasians have a 70 percent chance of finding a marrow match, but African-Americans and Hispanics have only a 40 percent chance.

There are 73 people in the area searching for a marrow match.

Lindsey Hunter and Jerome Williams of the Detroit Pistons have donated their blood for screening.



Hoping for match: Christopher, 7, of Birmingham has leukemia which had been in remission before he had a relapse in October. Now, the disease is in remission again.

As for regular blood donations, for some reason they always are low in December, supporters said.

"My experience is that people are so busy at this time of year they're just not able to find that little bit of time to donate," Main said. "People don't want to do something to make them tired."

Jeff Weathers, director of products and hospital service for the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the Red Cross, said it needs 1,000 pints of blood a day at this time of year and gets only about 500-600.

"There are some scary times when I come in in the morning and worry that we don't have enough blood," he said. "Then I start getting on the phone and calling all over the country to get extra supplies somewhere."

For an appointment for "Save A Life Sunday" people should call: 1-800-KARMANOS. For an appointment for other blood drive locations call: 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. For information about the Phoebe Foundation and how to get involved, call: 810-644-KIDS.

Drive to save children's' lives Dec.

Blood and bone marrow donations accepted at local sites

Save-A-Life-Sunday is a blood and bone marrow drive that will be held all day Dec. 16 at the Beverly Hills Racquet Club on Southfield Road in Beverly Hills and Karmanos Cancer Institute's Wertz Center in the Detroit Medical Center. Appointments for either location can be made by calling: 1-800-KARMANOS.

Additionally, Astrelin's Jewelers in Birmingham is donating space for the holidays for giving

blood donations and Southfield-based Schostak Bros. is donating space at five shopping centers: Laurel Park Place and Wonderland Mall in Livonia, Pointe Plaza in Grosse Pointe, Windmill Plaza in Sterling Heights and Macomb Mall in Roseville. Drive days for all those sites are Dec. 6-8, 13-14, 20-24, 26-31, Jan. 2-4. For an appointment call: 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Appointments also can be made at the same number for

regular donations any time of the year, Mondays through Saturdays, at nine Red Cross donor centers in Bloomfield Hills, Livonia, Oak Park, Novi, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Southgate, Roseville and Port Huron.

Here is a list of dates and some Oakland and Wayne County locations of holiday season community blood drives, also using the 1-800-GIVE-LIFE appointment number:

■ Dec. 5 — Meteor Photo, Troy; Milford High School; Garden City Hospital; Clarkston High School.

■ Dec. 6 — Ferndale High School; Garden City Hospital.

■ Dec. 8 — Newburg Methodist Church, Livonia.

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