



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

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PRESS RELEASE

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St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, “Be the Match” Registry and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to Conduct Bone Marrow Drive

Battling Leukemia

Akwesasne Territory – Taylor Matt, a recent graduate of Cazenovia high school, is battling leukemia and in need of a bone marrow transplant. She is one-quarter American Indian which makes it more difficult to find a match. While the *Be the Match* Registry contains upward of 7 million donors, only 1 percent (or 80,000) of those are Native or American Indian and the most likely match is someone of your same ethnic background.

Taylor, and thousands of patients like her, need help in finding a bone marrow match for their fight against this deadly disease. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is participating in the drive to find suitable donors on Thursday, August 5th at its annual Wellness Day. This year’s event will be held at the Mohawk International Raceway.

We encourage anyone with American Indian heritage to be tested. Testing is free, quick and painless. A quick swab on the inside of the cheek with a cotton swab is all that is needed. No appointment is necessary.

To participate in the bone marrow drive you must be between the ages of 18 and 60 and in good health. Individuals can drop in anytime between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM at the Mohawk International Raceway, located on Frogtown Road in Akwesasne. (Frogtown Road is south off Route 37 at the Bingo Palace intersection). For more information, contact Kim McElwain, R.D at the Mohawk Health Services building at 518-358-3141 or call Paula Miller, Volunteer Ambassador *Be the Match* registry at 1-800-767-3282 ext. 2576.

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The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council is the duly elected and federally recognized government of the St. Regis Mohawk People.

Helping Build A Better Tomorrow

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