

Bone Marrow Drive to Be Hosted in Honor of Centralia College

Posted: Friday, November 21, 2014 8:35 pm

Bone Marrow Drive to Be Hosted in Honor of Centralia College Employee, Graduate By The Chronicle

Centralia College will be hosting the Be the Match Bone Marrow Registry Drive in early December in honor of local writer, graduate and college employee Ed Riley.

Riley recently was diagnosed with a rare bone marrow disease that will require a bone marrow transplant.

The event will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Walton Science Center on the corner of Centralia College Boulevard and Washington Avenue.

“Ed’s illness has really affected the Centralia College family and we wanted to do everything we could to help,” Centralia College President Dr. Robert Frost said. “We may not find a local match for Ed, but we could find a match for someone else desperate for a bone marrow transplant.”

Riley hopes he will be well enough to attend the drive and thank the participants who register as potential donors.

“I am truly moved by the outpouring of support from the Centralia College community,” he said. “The people are what make Centralia College so special, and why I, first as a student, and later as an employee fell in love with the college and the difference it makes in people’s lives every day.”

Staff from the Puget Sound Blood Center’s Bone Marrow Program will be on hand to explain what it means to Be the Match registry, help guests through the process, accept final contributions, and answer questions.

In order to join the registry, guests will need to provide a cheek swab. The swab will be used to match registry participants to patients.

Volunteers registering as a potential bone marrow donor must be between the ages of 18 and 44 and must be in good health. Doctors request donors in that age group 90 percent of the time. Research has shown that younger donors are best for patients because of a greater chance for transplant success.

Be the Match, a nonprofit organization operated by the National Marrow Donor Program, matches donors and patients, educates health care professionals and conducts research. For more information visit BeTheMatch.org or call 1 (800) MARROW-2.