

For photos and video of the event see bottom of the release\*\*\*

## **Dallas Local Heroes Honored at Delete Blood Cancer DKMS Second Annual Awards Breakfast**

**Dallas, TX, May 15, 2015:** On Wednesday, May 13, Delete Blood Cancer DKMS, part of the world's largest network of bone marrow donor centers, presented its second annual awards breakfast at the prestigious Dallas Museum of Art. The event was hosted by journalist and philanthropist Kimberly Chandler, who, along with her husband Tyson Chandler of the Dallas Mavericks, is an Ambassador for Delete Blood Cancer DKMS. More than 120 guests attended the benefit including medical professionals, blood cancer patients, bone marrow donors and other supporters of the cause.

The awards breakfast honored three local heroes who have proved devoted supporters of the mission to register more potential bone marrow donors by inspiring people and provide more patients with a second chance at life.

Denise Diaz, Director of Communications at PepsiCo, presented the award to blood cancer awareness advocate and colleague Dave Thomas, whose 3 year-old daughter is suffering from leukemia. Thomas' effort helped fund and register more than 1000 PepsiCo employees.

Elena McMurry, mother to 6 year old patient Cline, diagnosed with a rare form of bone marrow failure and in need of a transplant, presented the award with an emotional speech to David Schechter, Senior reporter at WFAA-TV. When Cline's story was reported by Schechter last fall, his segment led to more than 5000 registrations of new potential bone marrow donors.

The highlight of the event came during Earl Young's award acceptance speech. Young, cancer survivor, bone marrow transplant recipient and track and field Olympic gold medalist, was speaking to a very inspired crowd, when Delete Blood Cancer DKMS staff, Amy Roseman, interrupted him and took over the microphone.

"Sorry to interrupt Earl, but I'm going to ask you to step aside" said Roseman in front of a surprised crowd. "We have a surprise for you today. We flew in your bone marrow donor from Germany, and she's here to meet you".

The crowd broke out in cheers as Christine Waag, his bone marrow donor, walked in the room already in tears. The pair hugged for a very long time surrounded by a teary crowd.

"Donating bone marrow was such a simple thing. Last week, in my little town in Germany, 3000 people came out to register at a drive for a little boy in need. Everybody should be on the registry" said Christine Waag, a paramedic in her home country, after the event.

"I am absolutely honored and so humbled to have hosted this years Awards Breakfast. I believe wholeheartedly in this powerful movement of saving and impacting lives by becoming a bone marrow donor. I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve people along with Delete Blood Cancer DKMS" said Host Kimberly Chandler after the event.

For more information about the Awards Breakfast, visit [Breakfast.DeleteBloodCancer.org](http://Breakfast.DeleteBloodCancer.org).

### **About Delete Blood Cancer**

Delete Blood Cancer DKMS is part of the world's largest network of donor centers. Our mission is to build the number of suitable bone marrow and stem cell donors, because we believe that no life should be lost due to an inability to find a donor match. We have registered more than 5

million potential donors and facilitated more than 49,000 transplants around the world, but we're not stopping there. We lead the fight against blood cancer by working with families, communities and organizations to recruit donors and provide more patients with second chances at life.

For more information or to register as a bone marrow donor, please visit [DeleteBloodCancer.org](http://DeleteBloodCancer.org).

**Contact:** Press Department, 212.209.6700, [press@deletebloodcancer.org](mailto:press@deletebloodcancer.org)

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Video of the surprise Donor-Patient meeting:

<http://www.wfaa.com/story/news/health/2015/05/13/marrow-donor-surprise-visit-germany-texas/27264329/>

Photos of the event:





