

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Time Meeting between Blood Cancer Survivor and Lifesaving Bone Marrow Donor

A Very Special Reason to Give Thanks and a Way to Help Others

Cincinnati, OH (July XX, 2015) -- Cincinnati Reds season ticket sales manager Chris Herrell was battling myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) in 2013 and his prognosis was grim. His doctors confirmed that his only hope for survival and a normal life was through a bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor. Despite difficult odds, Chris's hope became a reality when he received the news that a matching donor had been found – in Germany.

Next week, the two will meet for the first time and will use the opportunity to encourage Reds fans to join the bone marrow donor registry.

Chris and his family remained positive throughout the transplant process, buoyed up by the seemingly boundless support they received from the Cincinnati community and the Reds organization.

In the two years since Chris's successful transplant he and his family have spent their time promoting the registry and thanking their long list of supporters, with one notable exception: the man whose selfless donation saved his life.

On August 5th, 2015, Chris will finally meet his donor on the field at Great American Ball Park before the Reds vs St. Louis Cardinals game, with his donor getting the additional privilege of throwing out a ceremonial first pitch.

"Being a part of these first time, patient-donor meetings, is so special; it's a beautiful and very emotional expression of what the gift of second chance at life means to patients and their families and it can't happen without a willing donor," said Joyce Jones, Donor Recruitment Coordinator for Delete Blood Cancer.

And in honor of Chris's extraordinary journey, fans are encouraged to join the donor registry at a drive with Delete Blood Cancer DKMS on Friday, August 7th at Great American Ball Park in the FOX Sports Ohio Champions Club from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (enter at the ballpark gates by the Kroger Fan Zone)

Delete Blood Cancer encourages individuals in general good health between 18-55 to register as bone marrow donors; the process is simple and involves swabbing the inside of the mouth to collect cells to determine a match for a person in need.

Individuals who are unable to become donors but are still interested in being a part of the fight against blood cancer can show their support by visiting the Delete Blood Cancer website DeleteBloodCancer.org and volunteering to host their own donor drive or offer a financial contribution to help support the organization's mission to eradicate blood cancer.

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 50,000 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.

Contact: Press Department, 212.209.6700, press@deletebloodcancer.org

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