



DKMS Names 8-Year Old Patient Hallie Barnard

a Youth Ambassador to Fight Blood Cancer

DKMS & Hallie's Heroes to Participate in North Texas Giving Day September 22nd

NEW YORK (September 12, 2016) -- DKMS, the international non-profit dedicated to saving the lives of people with blood cancer, has named eight-year old Hallie Barnard a youth ambassador.

Hallie and her supporters at Hallie's Heroes have held drives which have led to over 2,200 registrations. Hallie, from Denton, TX, a suburb of Dallas-Ft. Worth, is appearing on a TV spot for DKMS which debuted recently around the country (<http://bit.ly/Hallie-DKMS>). DKMS and Hallie's Heroes will be participating in North Texas Giving Day on September 22nd. DKMS is encouraging those who would like to donate on behalf of Hallie to donate on September 22nd to <http://www.northtexasgivingday.org/npo/hallies-heroes>

"I am so excited to be an Ambassador for DKMS!" Hallie said. "My Mom (Elyse Barnard) started Hallie's Heroes as a way to find my match but after learning so many other people need matches as well, our journey just got bigger. We are determined to find matches for everyone we can. I am blessed that I can help when I know there are other kids who are too sick, who are in the hospital and can't go outside to play or have tea parties. I am their advocate."

Hallie has Diamond-Blackfan anemia, a very rare blood disorder in which the body lacks enough healthy red blood cells, making her more prone to sickness and cancer. Hallie and her family are working with DKMS to search for her match to provide her with a lifesaving bone marrow transplant.

"Our mission at DKMS is to help Hallie and others who have blood cancer or blood disorders," said DKMS US CEO Carina Ortel. "Hallie has been instrumental in registering so many people leading to lifesaving matches and it was a natural fit to name her a DKMS Youth Ambassador. Hallie's match is out there, and DKMS will continue to work with Hallie as well as every single patient to find their lifesaver."

The DKMS Youth Ambassador program focuses on educating the public on the importance of blood stem cell and bone marrow donation through speaking to the public, hosting registration drives, and raising money. YAC members provide time and hope to every patient and family in need of a lifesaving transplant.

DKMS and Hallie's Heroes will be participating in North Texas Giving Day on September 22nd. To donate to Hallie's Heroes please visit: <https://northtexasgivingday.org/npo/hallies-heroes>.

About DKMS

DKMS is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating blood cancers like Leukemia and other blood-related illnesses inspiring both men and women around the world to register as bone marrow and blood stem cell donors. DKMS is providing patients with a second chance at life, working closely with families from diagnosis to transplant and beyond. The donor journey begins with a swab of the cheek that takes less than 60 seconds and can be the action that leads to a lifesaving transplant. DKMS, originally founded in Germany in 1991 by Dr. Peter Harf, has organizations in Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. The U.S. office was started in 2004 and has registered over 800,000 people. To join the fight against blood cancer or for more information, please go to [**dkms.org**](https://www.dkms.org)