



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your interest in helping **Shari Ichelson Silverman** in her fight to “**Kick Cancer**” Shari is a 34 year-old single mother of an 11 year old daughter, Ashley-Ann Silverman. Early in July, 2009 Shari was diagnosed with AML – Acute Myeloid Leukemia - a deadly blood cancer. Chemotherapy, numerous blood and platelet transfusions have kept Shari alive, but her survival is dependent on a bone marrow transplant.

A bone marrow donor must exactly match Shari’s HLA – Human Leukocyte Antigen. *Finding the right donor is like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack.* Our search starts with screening events where we ask people to do a **simple and painless swab** of the inside of their cheek (Buccal Swab). The swabs are then analyzed in a lab and the resultant ten HLA markers are entered into the OneMatch database.

OneMatch is part of the Canadian Blood Services and is responsible for maintaining the donor database in Canada. This database is part of a worldwide system of databases. When a doctor requires a bone marrow transplant for a patient, they will first ask OneMatch. If no Canadian match is found, OneMatch notifies all of the other databases in the world to determine if they have a match.

We have formed a new organization, **Shari’s Mission**, to help Shari and the other 833 Canadians, who desperately need this life saving procedure. How can you help to save lives?

- ❖ **Have a Buccal Swab of your cheek.** Donor must be 17 to 50 years-old, in good health and willing to donate. There is a simple questionnaire to fill out at the time of your swab to determine if you can be a likely donor.
- ❖ **Volunteer your time** to help make our screening drives successful.

The first three events are:

- ❖ **October 20, 2009** at the National Council of Jewish Women located at 4700 Bathurst Street, event time: 3:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- ❖ **October 31, 2009** at Hillcrest Mall, Richmond Hill, event time: 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- ❖ **November 1, 2009** at the National Council of Jewish Women located at 4700 Bathurst Street, event time: 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

If you can volunteer to help (and hopefully get the Buccal Swab), please contact:

Lenore Ivers, Chair of Volunteer Services: lenoreivers@rogers.com .

For those of you who can’t volunteer, but plan on having the Buccal Swab, we will see you at one of the events.