

# Become a Bone Marrow Donor & Save a Child's Life



Sara is one tough little 6-year old girl. She has been receiving a series of chemotherapy and radiation treatments for leukemia since February 2004. Her doctors and nurses marvel at her strength, resilience and willingness to do whatever it takes to fight the cancer cells that have invaded her body. She is not ready to give up the fight now.

Her parents, Ginger and Robert Ruehling of Three Rivers CA are not ready to give up either. They have been with Sara every step of the way as she has received treatment at Children's Hospital Central California in Madera and Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. They are now searching for bone marrow donors for Sara because a bone marrow transplant is Sara's last hope for life.

Sara was adopted as an infant from an orphanage in Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province, China. Because of this, Ginger, Robert and sister Kelsey are not able to donate their own bone marrow as they so desperately wish to do. They are reaching out to the Chinese community for help - as only a close tissue match is suitable for a bone marrow transplant.

The first step in helping Sara, or another child like her, is donating a blood sample that will be typed and listed in the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry. Due to the great need for Asian and other minority donors, testing is free. Call the Central California Blood Centers at 559-224-2900 or 1-800-404-2566 for an appointment at any one of their centers in the San Joaquin Valley. There are Blood centers in Fresno, N. Fresno, Visalia and Porterville. To get complete information on the donor experience, go to [www.marrows.org](http://www.marrows.org) or call **1-800-marrows2**.

To register you need to:

- . • Be between the ages of 18-60 years old and in good general health
- . • Give consent to be entered on the NMDP Registry which is searched internationally
- . • Bring your social security number and driver's license number with you
- . • Provide names, addresses, and phone numbers of two close contacts who do not live with you
- . • Give a small sample of blood

*You might be the "miracle match" that will save Sara's life.*

**Please call 559-224-2900 or 1-800-404-2566 now and make an appointment to become a bone marrow donor.**