



**DKMS** 

WE DELETE BLOOD CANCER

# Impact Report

» » 2022



# A Message from our Executive Chairwoman and Global CEO

As we reflect on the previous year, we are filled with immense gratitude for the support that YOU have given to help us realize our goals! This year has been marked by several accomplishments, including our 100,000th donation worldwide, the success of the Heroes for Dak Drive, and, as always, the remarkable generosity and selflessness displayed by our donors in helping those most in need.

Here is a closer look at what inspired us and what you helped achieve in 2022.

Best wishes,

**ELKE NEUJAHR**  
Global CEO of DKMS US

**KATHARINA HARF**  
Executive Chairwoman of DKMS US  
Chairwoman of the Foundation Board of DKMS

## >> Katie's second chance at life



Katie Amdal was only fifteen when she was first diagnosed with Familial HLH, a rare blood disorder that causes the body's immune system to attack its own organs. This potentially life-threatening condition meant that Katie was in urgent need of a stem cell transplant. Despite the low survival rate of her diagnosis, Katie and her mother, Vicky, remained optimistic in the hope of finding a match for Katie. Fortunately, a match was found in Olivia Kink, a nursing student from Memphis, Tennessee, who had registered as a donor with DKMS several years earlier. While at work, Olivia received a phone call informing her that she was a match for a patient in Arizona. She immediately and without hesitation agreed

*Thank you for looking past yourself to help somebody else that you don't even know, who lives in a different state.*

- Katie Amdal

Arizona. She immediately and without hesitation agreed to donate stem cells and completed the procedure shortly thereafter.

The Amdals were overjoyed and grateful for Olivia's kind gesture, which gave Katie a second chance at life. As a result of Olivia's life. As a result of Olivia's donation, Katie was able to return to school and pursue her dream of becoming a child life specialist.

Fast-forward to October 2022, Katie, now seventeen, was united with her lifesaving donor, Olivia, at the 47th Annual American Association for Men in Nursing Conference. The meeting was a momentous occasion for all in the room, but especially for Katie and Olivia, who were finally meeting for the first time. Both overcome with emotion, they shared a much-anticipated embrace as Katie personally thanked Olivia for her lifesaving donation and presented her with a special gift: matching necklaces bearing their respective names and transplant date in celebration of their now eternal bond.

"Thank you for looking past yourself to help somebody else that you don't even know, who lives in a different state," shared Katie with Olivia. In a heartfelt speech of her own, Olivia addressed her recipient, Katie, "I hope there's never a day that goes by that you don't see all the good things you were made for, you have changed my life. I will always cherish this moment."



## Meet our heroic donors

### Anthony, 27



A charismatic 4th year medical student from New Orleans, Louisiana, sheds light on the importance and ease of swabbing and registering. As a freshman in college, Anthony decided to help a friend with their DKMS donor drive. With little knowledge of the cause and understanding of the process, Anthony quickly learned how a simple swab could potentially save someone's life; he registered immediately! Since then, he has matched with multiple patients, and was finally able to donate his stem cells in 2022.

"This has been the fourth time that my initial swab resulted in a preliminary match and the third time that I've fully matched with a patient. In each case, I felt more excited, not only because I repeatedly beat the rare odds of matching, but also because I was given numerous opportunities to save multiple lives!"

When asked if he would be willing to donate again, Anthony shares, "Absolutely...I wanted to make sure that my name wasn't removed from the donor list after the donation... I hope I'm able to donate again soon!"

### Stacy, 27



Stacy's donation journey began on her college campus in 2014, where she stopped by a DKMS registration table, she shares "on a whim," unaware that she would eventually go on to save someone's life. She underwent the bone marrow donation process in June 2022, but it wasn't until after the donation that she felt the immeasurable impact of her decision. As a first-generation Taiwanese American and passionate advocate for mental health, BIPOC and

LGBTQUIA+ communities, with a deep understanding of the lack of diversity in the donor pool, she felt compelled to do her part to increase minority representation on the national marrow registry. With only 30% of patients typically able to find a match, she shares that it was "a privilege to have been matched and be able to show up for the other 70% of patients!"

Knowing that she helped someone in their time of need, Stacy felt a better sense of self and a renewed sense of purpose in her life. "As a donor, we have the rare opportunity to give another person a second chance at life, and if I were to be matched with another patient, I would definitely do it again," Stacy said of her willingness to donate again.

## >> Donations

We celebrated 100,000 second chances at life worldwide!

On May 10th, 2022, we celebrated an important milestone in DKMS history: **100,000 second chances at life** for patients with blood cancers and other life-threatening blood disorders. This



remarkable milestone is much more than just a statistic! At its core are the deeply personal stories of all those affected; stories of children, mothers, fathers, young and old alike. Stories of life-changing events, filled with shattering sadness and fear, but above all, stories that mark a renewed sense of hope and purpose for the future.



**71%**  
Domestic  
Transplants



**29%**  
International  
Transplants

Facilitated over **400** Donations

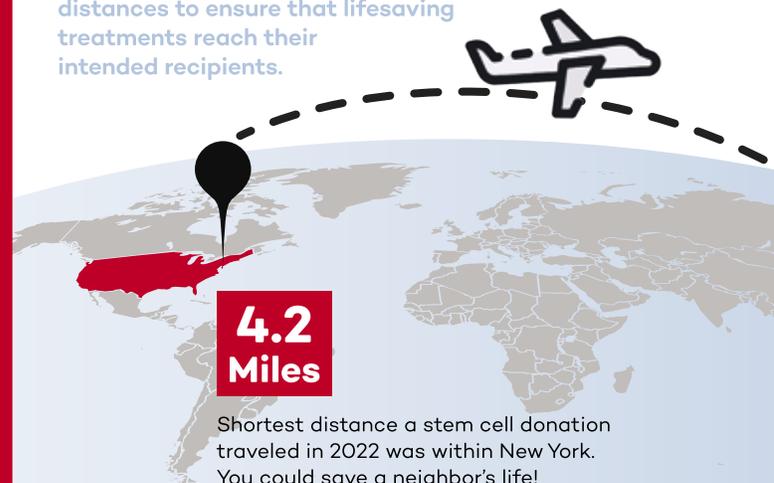


**85%**  
Peripheral Blood  
Stem Cell Donations



**15%**  
Bone Marrow  
Donations

We remain committed to our mission of saving the lives of patients with blood cancers and other blood disorders, even if it means travelling extraordinary distances to ensure that lifesaving treatments reach their intended recipients.



# >> Finding the perfect match

Dak's Story - The importance of diversity in the donor pool and why YOUR involvement matters



*"We're all so proud to be a part of everything you are doing not only for Dak, but for everyone who's in need," shared Adam Lopez while updating DKMS on Dak's condition.*

"It was the hardest thing I have ever had to deal with in my entire life," said his father, Adam Lopez, of his initial

Dak Lopez's story came to light earlier in the year when his family worked closely with DKMS in partnership with Brother Bill's Helping Hand and the El Paso Fire Department, to host registration drives in hopes of finding him a lifesaving match.

When Dak, a thriving four-year-old from Dallas, Texas, who loved playing sports and spending time with his family and friends, suddenly showed signs of extreme lethargy and a marked change in behavior, his parents knew something was wrong. It came as a devastating shock to his family and friends when, in April of 2022, Dak was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), a particularly aggressive form of leukemia, causing him to spend several weeks in the hospital.

reaction to Dak's diagnosis. Dak's treatment options were limited to a bone marrow or stem cell transplant, making his road to recovery particularly difficult. As a patient of Hispanic heritage, contending with a lack of diversity in the donor pool, Dak's chances of finding a match were made considerably more challenging.

Despite Dak's very successful patient drives, which resulted in an overwhelming show of support and registrations to join the national bone marrow registry, Dak was not able to find his perfect match. Due to the severity of his illness, he underwent a Haplo-transplant from his father in the fall. He is responding well.



**70%** Unrelated Donor



**30%** Family Member Donor

In nearly 70% of cases, a familial match is unlikely, which means these individuals must rely on unrelated donors for a lifesaving transplant. A patient's ethnic background is imperative in predicting the likelihood of finding such a match. As the tissue types used in matching are inherited and some ethnic groups have more complex tissue types than others, the need to diversify the donor pool is critical for patients like Dak to find their perfect match.



As a result of Dak's patient drives, **over 650** individuals registered as potential donors and joined the national marrow registry with the hope of finding Dak and others like him their perfect match!



Dak enjoying some time outside of the hospital

**10,512 Miles**

From New Jersey to Australia. The farthest a stem cell donation traveled last year!

# Together, we raised more than \$5 Million



From left, Guillermo Staudt, Elle Barrera, and Katharina Harf



Mario Cantone

## >> Annual Gala

We continued our lifesaving work against blood cancer and other blood disorders by coming together for our 16th Annual Gala in October.

The annual event was marked by a touching first-time donor and patient meeting, as Elle Barrera a 16-year-old patient from New York met with her lifesaving donor, Guillermo Staudt, from Chile.

The event also featured a moving performance by Aloe Blacc and a direct call to action from comedian Mario Cantone, resulting in an additional \$300,000 raised that very night!

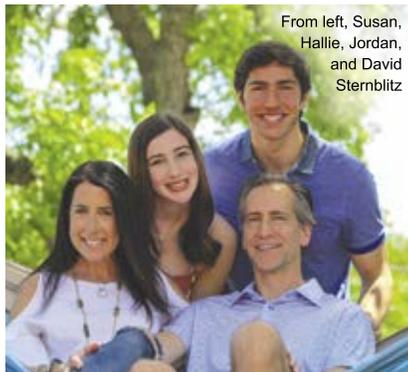
Ultimately, the Gala helped raise a record \$5.3 million, allowing us to continue our work in the fight against blood cancer and register more donors in the hopes of saving countless more lives.



From left, Elke Neujahr, Peter Harf, Katharina Harf, and Viktoria von Wulffen

## >> Dallas Awards Breakfast

The 9th Annual Awards Breakfast was held on November 16th in Dallas, Texas, honoring the Sternblitz Family for their



From left, Susan, Hallie, Jordan, and David Sternblitz

continued efforts in raising awareness, registering donors, and their tireless dedication to the DKMS mission spanning more than 10 years.

The family was recognized not only for their commitment to our cause, as they manned drives and

lead volunteer efforts, but particularly for their selflessness when David and Jordan Sternblitz were asked to donate and give two patients their second chance at life.



Bennett x Joshua

The event was marked by another touching moment as 12-year-old Bennet Williams received the surprise of his life when he was united with his lifesaving match, Joshua Coleman, who had flown in from Germany!

The event was a remarkable success and raised over \$160,000 ensuring continued support of these efforts.

## >> Find Us In Charlotte

DKMS US-Charlotte Office Opening



Local professionals, community members, and supporters joined the DKMS team for a special ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate our new location in Charlotte, on September 8th.



Jasmine Thompson shares her donation story during the Charlotte Office Open House

## >> Free Family Typing Program

Patient programs supporting communities, raising awareness, and saving lives

We understand the high financial burden of a cancer diagnosis and the complexities of the insurance system, which is why we also believe



in the importance of simplifying processes and supporting our patients in their time of need. To continue our efforts in assisting patients and their families, we implemented the **Free Family Typing Program**.

HLA typing is the genetic testing performed to identify a match between patients and donors. The closer the match, the better the chances a patient's body has of accepting the donated cells while ensuring the creation and growth of healthy new cells.

However, many patients across the United States have limited or no insurance coverage for their HLA typing and the typing of first-degree relatives (siblings, parents, and children). Through the Free Family Typing Program, we cover the costs associated with this testing and assist with obtaining and typing samples free of charge through the DKMS Life Science Lab. This program is initiated with a request for testing from the patient's medical team and results are returned within 7 to 10 business days. The program is also available for patients with family members abroad, where it can be difficult to get samples necessary for typing.

**Benefits of the Free Family Typing Program**



Available to those without insurance or for family members abroad



No delay of HLA typing irrespective of insurance status



25% probability of finding a matching donor



Quick turnaround time of DNA samples typed at high resolution

<p>Added over <b>25,000</b> new registrants to the US donor pool</p>	<p>Facilitated over <b>400</b> donations in the U.S.</p>	<p>Our impact in <b>2022</b></p>	<p>More than <b>600,000</b> new donors worldwide</p>	<p>Celebrated <b>100,000</b> second chances at life worldwide</p>
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*We turn to 2023 with the readiness to continue in our mission and excitement for what's ahead!*

Give hope,  
*save lives*

New York, NY • Charlotte, NC  
Dallas, TX • Washington, MO



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