

TEAM PAPPAS - TEAM FIRST
ONE TEAM

**TEAMMATES NEWS
LETTER**

Dear Teammates,

April 27, 2006

Our enthusiasm, dedication, hard work and above all teamwork have brought us great results. We began Team Pappas on March 4, 2006, and collectively set up the following goals:



**We can win this one through our
brotherhood and sisterhood.
Teammates always,
Steve Pappas**

- 1) Find a potential marrow stem cell donor for Steve Pappas
- 2) Increase the public's awareness of marrow stem cell transplants
- 3) Increase the Ahepa Bone Marrow Registry (our goal is 20,000) in order to improve the likelihood of finding donors for Steve Pappas and many others like Steve who are in desperate need of a donor and suffer from Leukemia, Lymphoma, Aplastic Anemia, and Congenital Immunodeficiency Syndrome.
- 4) Increase the public's awareness of the desperate need of donors for other patients by sharing inspiring stories
- 5) Raise funds in order to finance blood and oral swab testing
- 6) Increase the public's awareness of umbilical cord blood donation

We began our journey several weeks ago with our first mini blood test drive (3/19/06) at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Michigan, and we had 27 donors. The following Sunday (3/27/06) at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Chicago, Illinois, we were able to test 65 donors. We learned how to run these drives, and more importantly their effectiveness. We also reached out to the medical and dental community for help and assistance. Both doctors (blood test) and dentist (oral swab) began to test free of charge at their offices. As of 4/21/06, the medical offices have tested 44 donors and the dental offices have tested 20 donors.

During the following week, we had our first major Blood Test Drive at the National Hellenic Invitational Basketball Tournament at Fenwick High School at Oak Park, Illinois. During that weekend we had (210 donors), and at the Greek Parade we had 70 donors. The following weekend (4/9/06) results were just as successful with St. George Greek Orthodox Church (61 donors), St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church (38 donors), and St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church (17donors). During these drives, it

became apparent that the church mini drives were very successful and efficient. Church mini drives took about 1 hour to complete and potentially could result in 40-70 donors.

We decided to invite individuals throughout the Chicago land community as well as leaders from each Greek Orthodox Church, physicians and dentists to attend and participate in our first orientation meeting. We were proud to have so many Greek Orthodox Churches represented at our meeting. In addition, we met many new physicians and dentists who are willing to do free testing in their offices. Since our meeting, we now have 10 physicians and 8 dentists participating.

During the weekend(4/15 & 4/16), Notre Dame High School had a major blood test drive (110 donors) and St. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church had a mini blood test drive(110 donors). On Monday (4/17) Deerfield High School had a major blood test drive (218 donors), and on Tuesday (4/18) Highland Park High School had a major blood test drive (93 donors). As of today, we have tested 1083 individuals, and we just began receiving results back 2 weeks ago! These drives continue to enforce how committed we all are to reaching our goals.

Although the big drives continue to be successful, Team Pappas became committed to having a day after Easter where all of our Greek Orthodox Churches would participate and do mini blood test drives. We are pleased to announce that **Sunday April 30** will be that day. We appreciate everyone's hard work, dedication, cooperation and teamwork in order to make this day united and successful. We will be listing all Greek Orthodox Churches with their addresses, time of mini blood test drive and Team Pappas Church leaders on our web site. We are asking and looking for volunteers to assist us during this big day. Please contact us at email for Team Pappas or call or e-mail a particular church Team Pappas leader.

We are eventually also looking to expand our mini blood drives in other countries. However, for now we are presently in the process of expanding are church mini blood

donor test program nationally. If you are a member of a church and are interested in doing a mini blood test drive at your parish please e mail us at samv5161@aol.com. We will send you the necessary orientation package by mail or electronically (e-mail files) for you to download and print. In addition, we would also send you the orientation video or DVD from our 4/4/06 orientation meeting as well as a video of recent inspiring stories of successful marrow transplants. A phlebotomist would be arranged to come and draw the blood test at your mini church drive (need a 2 week notice to schedule). We realize that the only way we will be successful is with a **national campaign** to reach our goals. Our newest goal is to have every Greek Orthodox Church have a mini blood test drive at their church by the end of the year. Remember, a patient in need of a marrow donor could come from a parish that had 100 donors or from one that had only 5 donors. Never underestimate the potential marrow donor each and every one of us represents. For instance, who knows where and who Steve Pappas' best potential donor is?

We also are working on a process of getting Greek Americans tested throughout the country. For now if you are interested in being a donor and are out of state, download the consent form, fill it out, include your e-mail, and fax it to us at 773/989-6263. In addition, anyone interested in volunteering or participating in our up incoming fundraisers please contact us at samv5161@aol.com or call us 847 258-3024.

Teammates Forever,

John Venetos M.D.

TEAMMATES FOR LIFE
www.stevepappasbasketball.com

