

Fiscal Year 2019: Q3 (April–June)

*Sharing the impact made possible through your support.*

By giving generously to Be The Match®, you've helped save lives. You helped patients afford the uninsured costs of transplant, so that they can focus on healing. You funded groundbreaking transplant and cellular therapy research to discover new treatments. You allowed us to add more potential blood stem cell donors to the Be The Match Registry®, giving hope to patients searching for their match.

**Thank you to Quick Specialized Healthcare Logistics for supporting our life-saving work. You make a tremendous difference to so many patients and their families. Here are some recent highlights that you helped us achieve.**

## The Power of Yes

You may remember meeting Skye, the sweet, young transplant recipient who was the flower girl in her donor Hayden's wedding in 2019. Skye experienced some post-transplant complications that required additional chemotherapy, which wiped out the marrow she received from Hayden and meant another transplant was needed. Due to some regulations, they had to search the registry for a new donor, and this time Ricky was found to donate blood stem cells.

In June, Skye and her parents had the chance to meet Ricky for the first time—with a surprise appearance from Hayden. Skye's mom says, "Hayden was the bridge that brought Skye to Ricky.



*Skye (center) with her donors Hayden and Ricky*

Without you both, she wouldn't have made it... We're so grateful for people like you who get on the registry and say yes."

## Former Amy Scholar's Big Win

Among the many benefits of the Amy Scholars Program: it keeps talented physician scientists within the often-underfunded field of cellular therapy and helps these researchers demonstrate significant breakthroughs in research for additional prestigious funding.

2011 Amy Scholar Sophie Paczesny is a perfect example of this. She investigates immunotherapy treatments, which boost a patient's own immune system to destroy cancer cells, and she recently received \$4.1 million from Congress's "Cancer Moonshot" funding appropriations to continue her work.

Dr. Paczesny is focused on "checkpoint molecules," which prevent the immune system from attacking cancer cells. While her research has focused on ways to deactivate the checkpoint molecules in pediatric leukemia patients, she's hopeful that this collaborative grant will encourage a broad group of experts to explore new solutions for a variety of diagnoses.



*2011 Amy Scholar Sophie Paczesny, a groundbreaking physician scientist at Indiana University*

"We expect that this will be a big breakthrough and this will increase survivorship," she shared. "I'm a physician scientist, so the goal for me is to deliver to the patient and help save lives. We're now within a five-to-six-year timeframe in which we can actually deliver something."

## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

In Q3,  
**64,583**  
potential blood  
stem cell donors  
joined the  
registry.

We provided  
**\$690K** in  
patient  
assistance  
grants...

...to **362**  
patients in need  
of support.

And impacted  
around **1,600**  
lives through  
transplant and  
cellular therapy.

### Bryson the Brave

Bryson was just 6 months old when he was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease requiring a marrow transplant. After some difficulty finding a genetically-matched donor due to Bryson's Native American heritage, he eventually had his transplant just after his 3rd birthday.

Little Bryson has encountered some setbacks during recovery. Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) of the stomach sometimes leaves him unable to eat for weeks, requiring extra expenses for medications and nutrition supplements.

Bryson's mom, Marcy, had to leave her job to care for him, and the increase in medical expenses weighed heavily on their family of five. Bryson qualified for our Transplant Support Assistance Grant for immediate post-transplant expenses and our Camiolo Survivorship Grant for patients suffering from chronic GVHD. It's been a long road, but he is showing positive signs one year post-transplant.

Mary expressed her sincere gratitude for the grants, saying, "I appreciate the financial help, not only for our family, but for the other families going through transplant. Every dollar counts. Every dollar makes a difference."



## Prioritizing Innovation

When it became clear that the use of umbilical cord blood in transplants was declining, Be The Match recognized the need to investigate. To take a creative approach to problem solving, the organization chose six employees—out of 140 applicants—to tackle the challenge of increasing the utilization of cord blood. This group—known as the Innovation Lab—had limited prior knowledge about cord blood, but they represented diverse career experiences, ethnicities, ages, and genders and would bring a non-biased lens to the challenge.

These individuals were pulled from their regular roles and sequestered at an offsite location to avoid distractions and grow as a team. Led by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dennis Confer, they spent the next seven months investigating the cord blood experience from all angles, including interviewing many physicians, transplant centers, cord blood banks and expectant mothers.

They learned that cord blood usage has both its benefits and its obstacles. Cord blood often serves as a graft source option for pediatric and diverse transplant patients who have exhausted other options, and some studies show better long term event-free survival with cord blood as a graft source. However, it's also the most expensive graft source, and nearly 90% of cord blood banks are struggling to stay open due to decreased demand from transplant centers.

After compiling extensive research, the Innovation Lab presented their findings to Be The Match senior leadership this April, including 15 actionable recommendations to consider as we move forward with our strategic plan.

Next up: Innovation Lab 2—with an entirely new set of employees—will brainstorm ways to speed up the marrow and blood stem cell donation process while maintaining consistency and quality. Stay tuned for updates!

### A million thanks, Quick!

If you have any questions  
about giving to Be The  
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