



Blacksburg Rotary Club

Rotary International
District 7570

May 2011

Rotary Club of Blacksburg participates in Rotarians at Work Day

Rotarians At Work Day is an annual world-wide community service day on the last Saturday in April. Each year, clubs around the world identify a hands-on project that members can participate in to help their local community. The Rotary Club of Blacksburg participated in two projects where 22 Rotarians volunteered: a bone marrow registration drive and an interchange cleanup.

At the Be-the-Match bone marrow donor registration drive the group educated the community on the need for bone marrow donors and encouraged participation. We signed up 72 new marrow donors by setting up a booth at town's annual Fork & Cork wine festival.

"At the event, a Virginia Tech student stopped by in our booth who had registered at last year's drive," explained Rotarian Karin Clark. "He was so excited to share with us that he had been called upon as a match with a 45-year old cancer patient. He explained to us how the procedure was going and that he was scheduled to travel to Winston-Salem to donate marrow in a few weeks. This example shows how important our work with this marrow registration drive truly is."

Each year more than 10,000 patients in the U.S. are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia or lymphoma for which a marrow or cord blood transplant from an unrelated donor may be their best or only hope for a cure. 70 percent of patients in need of a transplant not have a matching donor in their family and presently only 4 out of 10 patients receive the transplant they need. Since its founding in 1097, the Be the Match registry (www.marrows.org) has facilitated more than 38,000 transplants to give patients a second chance at life. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 60 who meet the health guidelines and are willing to donate to any patient in need may join the registry.

Additionally, for Rotary at Work Day 2011, our Club preformed its quarterly interchange cleaning. The Rotary Club of Blacksburg adopted a section of road at the intersection of Prices Fork Road and the 460 by-pass for maintenance four times a year. This maintenance began in 1992.

Contact

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