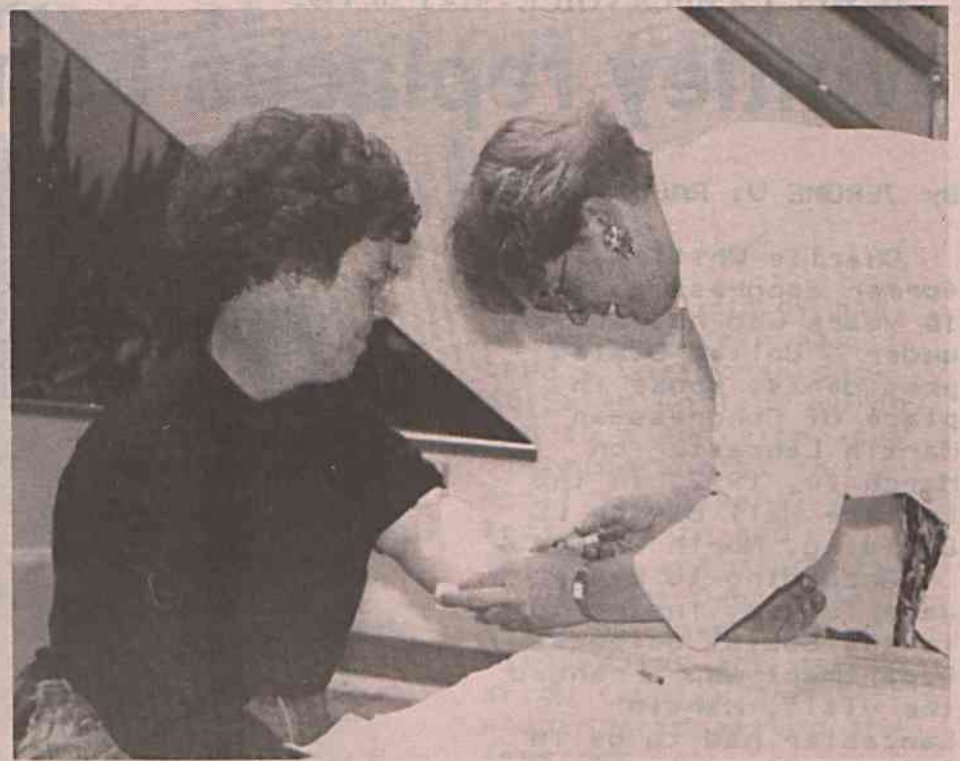




Military donors await their turn to give blood samples.
PHOTOS: BRENDA MCCARTY



Kaydene Dean (l), civilian donor, gives 3 test tubes of blood.

Marrow drive attracts 150 volunteers

By BRENDA MCCARTY

On Sunday, March 22, 1992, 152 volunteers responded to a bone marrow blood drive held in the Atrium of the LC Building for Diana Dunham from 12-6 p.m.

Dunham, a former WCC nursing student, learned she had leukemia in July 1991.

She now urgently needs a bone marrow transplant.

Dunham contacted Debbie Lamm, a Red Cross pheresis consultant, about setting up a bone marrow blood drive at WCC.

Lamm, a 1971 WCC graduate, began her own crusade for bone marrow donors when her husband Kelly was diagnosed with leukemia.

Prior to the WCC blood drive, Dunham and Lamm arranged for an educational seminar on March 11-12 for potential bone marrow donors in the Health and Science Building.

Interested prospective donors saw a film explaining the bone marrow transplant procedure.

The speaker, Ann Little from Lucama, spoke on her recent experience in donating bone marrow.

Dunham closed the seminar with a question-answer period.

Since the bone marrow blood drive, Dunham's 2 year old son Alex has been tested and found to have 5 out of 6 matching antigens.

The Dunhams will go to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville on Monday, May 11, 1992, for further testing to see if Alex's bone marrow will be compatible for the transplant.

The bone marrow drive attracted people from surrounding areas as well as local citizens, many of whom were willing to donate the \$60 testing fee.

Various funddrives paid the fee for 100 civilian volunteers.

Department of Defense funds paid for 52 military to be tested.

Persons tested will have their blood HLA-typed to identify their antigens, a substance which induces the formation of antibodies.

The lab results are then stored in the National Marrow Donor Program's main computer.

A preliminary match is made and then additional blood tests are requested in search of a "perfect match."

A perfect match for Dunham means 6 antigens from the donor match 6 of hers.



Wayne Donalson (l) and Mandy McNally (r) from Havelock receive thanks and refreshments from MSGT Mark Wallace of the 191st Fighter Interceptor Squadron, friend of the Dunhams.

Prior to receiving the new marrow, Dunham will undergo a rigorous treatment of chemotherapy and radiation to kill her own bone marrow.

After Dunham receives the donated marrow, it will take about two weeks for evidence of a "graft" which means her marrow has begun producing new blood cells.

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