

# Donor match found for Taylor!

The Kings Mountain woman may be able to undergo a stem-cell transplant by late March

Doctors trying to treat a local woman suffering from leukemia have found a matching donor that could pave the way for a life-saving stem cell transplant.

Taylor Faris Haraszkiwicz was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in the fall and doctors moved swiftly to treat the dangerous disease with chemotherapy. She's already undergone several rounds of treatment at Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem. She's also under the care of local doctors.

Haraszkiwicz's family got word of the positive match last week and the good news spread quickly at a "Be the Match" benefit Saturday afternoon at the American Legion.

"I'm so happy to see such a great turnout," said Robin Knight, Haraszkiwicz's mother. "It's a good mix of people from different areas of Kings Mountain. We're elated that there's a match out there for Taylor. She is so humble in her thinking that the bone marrow drive was not about her but others who need a transplant."

The benefit Saturday was kicked off

by a motorcycle ride from Shelby to Kings Mountain and included a bake sale, hot dog sale and jewelry sale — with the proceeds going to pay for the cost of the lab work used to identify bone marrow and stem cell matches. Haraszkiwicz was joined about more than 200 others at the fundraiser, which raised around \$2,500 for Be the Match, Relay for Life and her own medical fund.

On Saturday members of the public were encouraged to get tested in order to determine if they are a match for others suffering from leukemia. The testing is free for potential donors and consists of having a swab taken from the inside of the cheek and answering a few questions about one's medical background.

Knight said that clinicians looked at a pool of about 12 million potential donors worldwide and from that were able to spot only ten people — a relatively low number — that could be a match for her daughter. From those ten, clinicians narrowed down the pool to one would-be donor (a 32-year-old European male) they believe will offer the

best hope of being a perfect match.

"He's a match for every 10 criteria. After he clears an extensive physical ... he will be able to donate his bone marrow some time in the next several weeks," Knight said.

She said doctors have indicated they'll probably be able to perform a stem-cell transplant on Haraszkiwicz around the end of March. It's possible that her immune system could reject the transplant, Knight said. Doctors are advising the family that "it will be a rough ride" for several months until the transplant takes hold.

Haraszkiwicz is scheduled to undergo another round of chemotherapy Feb. 25.

Knight wanted to thank the local organizations and volunteers that donated money, time, space and food for Saturday's benefit, including Blackwoods Grill, Southern Chew, Papa John's, Body Junction, The Movie Gallery, Mountain View Restaurant, El Bethel Methodist Church, Bridges Hardware and the American Legion.

To learn more about Be the Match, go to [www.bethematchfoundation.org](http://www.bethematchfoundation.org).

## BRIEFS

**Valentine Party Rescheduled** — Gaston Parks & Recreation has rescheduled its Valentine party for senior citizens to Thursday, Feb. 20, from 2-4 p.m. at the Gaston County Senior Center, 1303 Dallas/Cherryville Highway, Dallas. The party is free to senior citizens 55 and older.

**Leaf season ends Feb. 21** — The City of Kings Mountain will continue to vacuum leaves from the edges of the street this year until Friday, Feb. 21. Leaves must be at the curb prior to this date to be picked up. Leaves may be raked to the curb but not into the roadway.

**College financial aid available** — College financial aid administrators and specialists will be available across North Carolina on Saturday, Feb. 22, to help high school seniors and families complete and submit their free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) forms on line. There will be free FAFSA Day programs in all 100 counties with most sites open from 9 a.m. until noon. A list of all locations and registration is available at [CFNC.org/FAFSADay](http://CFNC.org/FAFSADay) or by calling 866-866-CFNC toll free.

**Presentation rescheduled** — The Social Security presentation at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church has been rescheduled to Wednesday, Feb. 26, at noon. Those planning to attend should call the church, 704-739-7466, to make reservations for a meal that will be provided.

**Genealogical Society** — Come learn about your Revolutionary War ancestors at a meeting of the Broad River Genealogical Society March 9 at 3 p.m. at Putnam Memorial Baptist Church fellowship hall, 1146 County Home Road, Shelby.

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