



## *Faces of Westchester*

Please join us and support the 1<sup>st</sup> annual "Westchester County Be the Match Corporate Challenge" as companies and individuals from all over the county come together to address an important need that affects our friends, family, and colleagues from all over Westchester.

Every three minutes, someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer and many never receive the life-saving bone marrow/stem cell transplant they need due to never finding a qualified donor match.

Help us as we strive to ensure that no one who needs a transplant is unable to find a match.

During the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 you and your company can join our fight by visiting:  
[www.bethematchfoundation.org/goto/WESTCHESTERCHALLENGE](http://www.bethematchfoundation.org/goto/WESTCHESTERCHALLENGE)

*You could help save the life of your friend, family or colleague...*



Matthew Welling, White Plains, Transplanted 2006 and 2007



Joseph Solimine Sr, Pelham, Transplanted 2013



Diane Balistreri, Hartsdale, Transplanted August 2012



Frankie Dezell, Pound Ridge, NY, Transplanted 2014

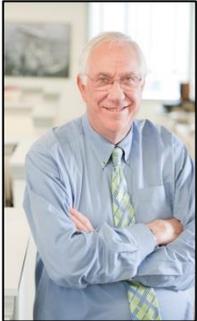


Vito Salvatore, White Plains, Transplanted December 2, 2010



#### **Matthew Welling, White Plains, Transplanted 2006 and 2007**

Matthew Welling was diagnosed with a rare condition called “Osteopetrosis”. He was admitted to Memorial Sloan-Kettering on his first birthday. During his 143 consecutive day stay, Matthew received 2 separate stem cell transplants from two separate unrelated anonymous donors. Those donors, Steve and Jill are integral parts of Matthew’s life. Today Matthew is a typical, healthy 10 year old in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Mamaroneck Avenue School in White Plains. Matthew loves sports, video games, playing with his friends and playing music. In fact, at 10 years old Matthew is quite the accomplished musician having graced the stages of Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall and the Music Conservatory of Westchester. Matthew would like to say to his donors, “thank you for giving me the gift of life”.



#### **Joseph Solimine Sr, Pelham, Transplanted 2013**

Joseph Solimine Sr was diagnosed with Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia “CMML” at age 67. After being closely monitored by his doctors, Joe was admitted to NY Presbyterian in October of 2013 for his transplant. Joe has dedicated most of his adult life to his community. Having served as president of the Pelham Board of Education, Chairman of the board of Pelham Civics Association, Commissioner of Pelham Recreation Department, Chairman of the Board of Pelham Little league and youth hockey. Additionally, he has served as president of the Mt. Vernon Boys & Girls club and Kiwanis club and he served as Pelham’s Town Supervisors. Having raised 4 children and now 12 grandchildren here in Westchester, Joe is thankful to his donor for affording him the opportunity to “pay it forward” and dedicate his efforts to help finding future donors for future patients.



#### **Diane Balistreri, Transplanted August 2012**

Diane was suddenly diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia on April 21, 2012. After hospitalization and initial chemotherapy, her treatment team in Westchester immediately recommended a stem cell transplant due to the persistence with which AML tends to return. To make matters worse, she had a unique genetic anomaly that made her circumstances even more uncertain. Her sister was not a match so a donor was required for this life-saving effort. Within weeks several potential donors were located in the registry and her physician at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York City narrowed it down to one individual whom they believed would be the best match. The stem cell transplant took place in August 2012 and proved to be a great success. After an intense and lengthy recovery period, Diane was able to travel to Germany in May 2014 where she met her donor. She describes this meeting as one of the happiest and most emotional moments of her life. They have forged a close friendship which brought her back to Germany later that year to help him celebrate his 50th birthday with family and friends.



#### **Frankie Dezell, Pound Ridge, NY, Transplanted 2014**

In May of 2010, Frankie was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia including markings for Burkitts (a rare combination). Following 28 months of chemotherapy, Frankie successfully conquered cancer. However, 18 months after Frankie’s treatment ended, the cancer returned. In October of 2014, Frankie needed to undergo a bone marrow transplant. His brother, Max, was the donor. Frankie remains cancer free and is completing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Fox Lane Middle School. He is a consummate warrior. He loves playing/watching football and basketball, hanging out with friends and family, and laughing. Frankie is grateful to all donors everywhere and encourages more people to “step up” to see if they might “be the match” that saves another person’s life. Frankie is alive today because he was fortunate to have a matching donor in his brother, Max (only 25% of family members typically are matches).



#### **Vito Salvatore, Transplanted December 2, 2010**

Vito was diagnosed on July, 27<sup>th</sup> 2010 of Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). Immediately hospitalized, Vito achieved remission after completion of his first chemotherapy session but was advised the goal would be a Stem Cell Transplant in order to be cured. A request was made to locate a match resulting in nine possibilities eliminating all family members as none were compatible. After close review, it was determined that none of the potential donors were close enough to proceed with a transplant. Doctors at Montefiore Medical Center planned for an Autologous transplant (using one’s own cells) when a match was unable to be located. Two weeks prior to the actual transplant, a match was located in Germany that was within the criteria desired by his doctors therefore, it was decided that they would switch gears and go forward with an Allogeneic transplant (using a donor’s cells). Allogeneic transplants statistically have a higher success rate. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, Vito underwent an Allogeneic stem cell transplant which engrafted and has been successful to-date. Vito returned to work 11 months after being diagnosed and now enjoys a normal lifestyle.