

THE SUMMERSVILLE BEACON

Bicycling For Cancer



Traveling through Summersville on Friday, August 12 was Henry Osti, who is bicycling across America supporting the fight against Leukemia through bone marrow donations. Osti's cousin, Clare Flint, is traveling with Osti signing people up for the bone marrow donation registry. A new procedure for bone marrow donations is in place where cells are collected through the blood stream, much like a blood donation, which is less invasive for the donor.

Flint registered potential donors, encouraging people to get swabbed, which will

provide needed data to use in bone marrow matches. The procedure involves swabbing one's mouth with a cotton swab; the swab is then processed and checked for possible matches with cancer patients who need bone marrow transplants.

Every four minutes someone is diagnosed with blood cancer. Every ten minutes, blood cancer takes a life. Bone marrow transplants provide life saving treatments for leukemia and other blood disorders, replacing unhealthy marrow with healthy blood forming cells. In about 70%

of cases where patients need a bone marrow transplant, finding an unrelated donor is the only chance for a cure.

Osti and Flint left San Francisco to pedal across America in 50 days. The final destination is Yorktown, Virginia. Osti is a consultant in Business Strategy.

For more information, contact www.GetSwabbed.org or visit LoveHopeStrength.org to learn more about survivors who have taken up the fight to find bone marrow donors. To see more of Osti's adventures, go to www.rideyourdream-severyday.com.