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CUPERTINO

Family seeks bone marrow donor for son

Transplant needed to save 23-year-old man, doctors say

By Matt Wilson

mwilson@bayareanewsgroup.com

Jack Chin is dying of leukemia. The Monta Vista High School alum needs an immediate bone marrow transplant to survive, and the search is on to find a matching and willing donor.

"Plain and simple, the only way Jack can find a match to save his life is if one appears in the bone marrow registry," Jim Chin, Jack's fraternal twin brother, said in a statement. "There is no other way for him to get through this. No amount of positive, wishful thinking, encouraging Facebook notes or sympathy will do anything to change the fact that if people don't register, my brother is not going to make it."

The 23-year-old Cupertino resident found himself with unusual leg pains last summer, just before beginning work at a prestigious and competitive finance internship with Visa in San Francisco. He had signed up for martial arts classes and was living at home for the summer in Cupertino before returning to UCLA to finish up his degree studying economics and accounting.

Chin worked through the pain with the aid of painkillers. But six weeks into the

program, he could barely move his legs or stand upright.

In July, he received MRI scans and a blood test that showed he had acute lymphoblastic leukemia. He was rushed to the hospital that same day and stayed for a month. Chin then spent several months living a life of treatment, pills and chemotherapy.

Doctors told Chin on Jan. 13 that he needs a bone-marrow transplant or he will die.

"I never thought stuff like this would ever happen to me, just so suddenly and without any family history," Chin said. "It can happen to you or someone you know. It is not as far away as you may think."

Bone marrow transplants are dependent upon finding a suitable match. Unfortunately for Chin, his family's bone marrow and even the bone marrow of his brother Jim are not a match. Friends, former classmates and family have worked to plan bone marrow drives in various states and cities.

The odds of an unrelated person being a match for Chin are 1 in 20,000. Patients are most likely to find a match among donors with the most similar ethnic background; in Chin's case a match will most likely be Chinese. But only about 7 percent of those on the na-



COURTESY OF THE CHIN FAMILY

"I never thought stuff like this would ever happen to me, says Jack Chin, 23, a Monta Vista High School graduate. The younger boy with him is unidentified.

tional bone marrow registry are Asian, according to the Be The Match program.

For more information about Jack Chin and the campaign to find a match, visit www.facebook.com/

savejacktoday.com. For more information about the National Marrow Donor Program, visit www.marrow.org, and to sign up for a swab kit, visit join.bethematch.org/jack.