



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**November 4, 2011**  
**For Immediate Release**

From: Avita Health System  
Contact: Kelby King, Community Relations & Marketing Manager  
Avita Health System (419) 468-0567

### **Avita Health System to hold Bone Marrow Registry Drive**

GALION – November 4, 2011 – Avita Health System will be holding a free Bone Marrow drive in the lobbies of both Bucyrus and Galion Community Hospitals on Friday, November 11 and Saturday, November 12. The drive, which will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., is being held in hopes of attracting individuals 18-60 years of age who are willing and able to donate bone marrow.

“Our goal is to build the registry of people who are able to donate their bone marrow and to increase the odds of saving a life,” says Cynthia Leonhart, Oncology department at Bucyrus Community Hospital. “Patients seeking a compatible donor often

begin their search through the National Marrow Donor Program and it's an awarding feeling to help fill the void in much needed marrow."

The first step to becoming a bone marrow donor is very simple: a simple cheek swab is taken. If the results of the swab show that an individual is a match, then further information will be collected on that individual, such as their health history, before any procedure can be done to extract their bone marrow.

Every year, thousands of people of all ages are diagnosed with certain forms of cancer, leukemia and other life-threatening diseases that require a bone marrow transplant for survival. The National Bone Marrow Donor Program estimates that seventy percent of these patients do not have a family member that matches their tissue type, and need to depend on an unrelated donor through a donor program. The program also estimates that there are roughly 10,000 patients in the United States that need a marrow transplant, and only half of these patients receive one.

Bone marrow is the tissue found inside bones that produces red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. These vital blood cells fight infection, carry oxygen, and help control bleeding. Any disease that attacks the bone marrow can eliminate the body's ability to protect itself.

- end -