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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER MEETS BLOOD STEM CELL DONOR WHO SAVED HER LIFE AT BOSTON RED SOX GAME

**Emotional Reunion Took Place at Fenway Park in Support of Gift of Life Marrow Registry's
Mission to Cure Blood Cancer**

BOCA RATON, FL – August 8, 2023 – In an extraordinary and emotional moment, a schoolteacher and blood cancer survivor had the chance to meet the selfless man, a Chelmsford, Mass. resident, who donated the blood stem cells that saved her life. The meeting was hosted by the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park on August 7, 2023, to support Gift of Life Marrow Registry's mission.

Lori Bendall a 40-year-old mom from Hatton, Ala., was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in July 2021, on her 13th wedding anniversary. She soon learned from doctors that her best hope of survival would be to receive a stem cell transplant. Her brother was disappointed that he was not a suitable match to donate, and Lori would have to rely on a stranger for this life-saving treatment.

"Being diagnosed with cancer is always tough," said Bendall. "My first question to my doctor was, 'Can I beat this?' His response was optimistic, but I knew there would be a long journey. However, it only took three months to find a donor."

Luckily for Bendall, her donor Adam Chapman had joined Gift of Life's registry in 2016. After witnessing cancer's impact within his own circle, the 28-year-old acted without hesitation.

"When I was very young my grandmother died of cancer, and a few years later my mom lost a close friend to cancer, so donating had a special place for me," said Chapman. "I swabbed at a World Marrow Donor Day drive in the Campus Center at Tufts University, where I went to college. I happened to walk by the booth while going to get coffee. It was simple and I'm glad I did it. It was an easy opportunity to have a chance to do something meaningful."

After the required medical anonymity wait time of at least one year, and with Bendall's husband and daughter looking on, the two had a tearful, yet joyful embrace.

“I am forever grateful to Adam for the chance to watch my daughter grow up,” said Lori. “I do not take any day for granted, and I find joy in the little things more than ever.”

“Doing this donation is one of the things I’m most proud of in my life so far,” said Chapman. “No matter what I do or do not accomplish going forward, I’ll always have this experience to look back on as something worthwhile that I did.”

About Gift of Life Marrow Registry

Gift of Life Marrow Registry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Boca Raton, Fla. The organization, established in 1991, is dedicated to saving lives by facilitating blood stem cell and bone marrow transplants for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood-related diseases. The registry houses its own state-of-the-art stem cell collection center, biobank, and laboratory. To learn more about Gift of Life Marrow Registry, visit www.giftoflife.org

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