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**Media contact:** Sandra Correa

Phone: (917) 319-8472; Email: [sandra@correapr.com](mailto:sandra@correapr.com)

## **WASHINGTON STATE MOTHER MEETS GIFT OF LIFE MARROW DONOR WHO SAVED HER LIFE**

**BOCA RATON, FL – August 6, 2023** – Kim Frost-Olin, a 52-year-old Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) survivor had a remarkable reunion with the man who saved her life, Zachary Arestad, a 28-year-old business development executive and Philadelphia resident. The pair met at the [Gift of Life Marrow Registry](#) Young Professionals Annual Winery Tour on August 5, 2023.

Frost-Olin was diagnosed with ALL on New Year’s Eve 2018 after experiencing leg and back pains along with breathing problems. The Puyallup, Wash. resident and mom of two daughters was dismayed when she received the news, and upon learning that her best chance of a cure was a blood stem cell transplant. Unfortunately, no one in her family proved to be a match, so her physicians began to search for an unrelated donor.

“I was in shock,” said Frost-Olin. “All I could think about was that I was not going to be around for my family and how much pain it would cause everyone.”

However, her doctors felt confident she would find a matching donor and thankfully, Arestad, who had joined Gift of Life’s registry while studying Anthropology at Swarthmore University in 2017, readily stepped in to help a perfect stranger.

“The women’s soccer team was running a drive outside the dining hall, so I decided to join,” said Arestad. “I’m happy I was able to save Kim’s life. The donation process is not what people think. It’s simple and easy to do and I would recommend to everyone to try and help out.”

“I am eternally grateful for Zach,” said Frost-Olin. “It was such a selfless act for such a young man. He is an inspiration. Swabbing is easy to do to help the lives of strangers. It was so inspirational for us that my daughter, soon to be son-in-law, nieces, and nephews all got swabbed.”

Gift of Life’s Young Professionals Committees are groups of emerging leaders in major cities across the country who dedicate their time, talents, networks, and resources to raise support for the organization’s mission. Volunteer committees host events in cities nationwide to give young professionals the opportunity to make new friends and form new networks while helping

to save lives. The event was presided over by transplant recipient and Gift of Life supporter, David Llodra.

**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](http://www.giftoflife.org)

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