



"This Is The Only Way To Save His Life"

(Columbia) - A deck of cards, video games, and some TV. For the most part, that describes DeShawn Cherry's world for the past 8 months.

"That's about it," says the 10 year-old. "I get kinda bored."

The boredom started last December, when DeShawn checked into Palmetto Health Richland after being diagnosed with leukemia. Since then, his condition hasn't improved, and the only thing his mother Chanda can do is watch.



"The hardest part is leaving (the hospital), and knowing I have to leave him behind," she said.

And every time she walks out of his room, she knows her son's time could be short. Chemotherapy won't do the trick anymore; he needs a bone marrow transplant.

"Pretty much, that's the only way to save his life," said Chanda.

The family is pinning their hopes on a bone marrow drive at St. John Baptist Church in Columbia. Anyone can get tested as a potential bone marrow donor for DeShawn, and his mother believes a match for her son is out there.

They just haven't found them yet.

"I'm hoping people can put themselves in our shoes," said Chanda, "and think as if it was their own son or daughter, or grandchild, or niece or nephew, to let them know it could be them."

Said DeShawn, "I just wanna go home."

If you would like to be tested as a potential bone marrow donor for DeShawn, you can do it Saturday, August 4th at St. John Baptist Church in Columbia on the corner of Beltine Boulevard and Farrow Road.

The bone marrow drive starts at 9 a.m. and will last throughout the day. Chanda says the process is totally pain-free.