

## They Found a Match!



By Paul Fredericks Dec 19, 2007

Merry Christmas, Arianna!

It just may be the best Christmas present her entire family will ever get.

She desperately needs a bone marrow transplant. And we have a match.

Those who know her say one word describes Arianna Montgomery.

"Just love," says family friend Sarah Albright. "She loves everybody. absolutely everybody."

The girl full of love also has had to be really tough.

"She's got that fighting spirit, and it hasn't let her down yet," Sarah says.

The local kid is battling leukemia. It's knocked the five year old down. But, she's not out - thanks to what her loved ones call a holiday miracle.

PAUL: "But, oh my gosh. Merry Christmas." SARAH: "Yeah. no kidding. this is the best Christmas present. I kept telling my husband 'All I want for Christmas is this.'"

Arianna needs a bone marrow transplant. The a match has been found.

"It doesn't just make your Christmas, it makes your whole life."

As for Arianna's life, a transplant will help double the odds of her survival.

"And whoever this person is, God bless them," says Sarah.

That's why we helped get the word out about this bone marrow drive. More than 800 people showed up on two Saturdays. Sarah says they don't think the bone marrow match came from here. But, they're so thankful to everyone. And those here may find out they're a match for another person who needs a transplant.

As for our little sweetheart...

"It's a mixed emotion," says Sarah. "I mean this is great, but, it's definitely not the end. This is just the start of a very long, very uphill battle."

"She's a fighter, and she'll do it."

This is what happens next: Arianna will head to Salt Lake City in mid or late January. She'll then go through four to 10 days of intense chem therapy and radiation treatment. After that, she'll have the actual transplant. At a minimum, she'll be in Salt Lake City for three months.

Arianna's family does not know who the donor is. In fact, I'm told that'll be kept confidential for a year after the transplant. Then, if both sides agree, Arianna will find out who helped save her life.

You can help her family off-set rising medical costs with a donation. Payments can be made to the Arianna Montgomery Fund at any Bank of America Branch.