

Life-saving brother records charity CD

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A TEENAGER who gave his sister a life-saving bone marrow donation has recorded a CD to raise money and awareness for future transplants.

Jamie Hamilton, 18, of Richmond Park, Darwen, has recorded five of his own songs and a cover of (I've Had) The Time of My Life - made famous by Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes in the film Dirty Dancing.

His trip to the studio was for sister Kerry, 21, who was diagnosed with leukaemia in January.

The siblings underwent surgery in May and after seven weeks in Manchester's Christie Hospital, and following some complications, Kerry was finally allowed home a month ago.

Last week Jamie, who plays the guitar, went into Zig Zag Recording Studio in Duddon Avenue, Darwen, to record the six-track album which will be sold in Darwen.

He said that despite giving bone marrow to his sister he still felt he could do more to help in raising money for a charity of Kerry's choice but also raising the profile of the bone marrow register.

"I wanted to do something else. I didn't feel like I was doing enough," he said.

"We want to raise awareness and get more donors because it's not as bad as it seems. The week I had the injection to get stem cells I was a bit tired then I was off college for less than a week."

Kerry was first diagnosed with leukaemia in 2000 and went through more than two years of chemotherapy followed by maintenance treatment, and was given the all clear last October. However the disease returned and Kerry was advised her best option would be a bone marrow transplant.

Jamie, who has just finished his A-levels at Runshaw College in Leyland, was found to be a suitable match.

Kerry had to go through a week of intense radiotherapy followed by chemotherapy in preparation for the transplant. She said: "I think it's absolutely brilliant. I am biased because I'm his sister but he's got a great voice.

"I have been so lucky with Jamie being a match but there are a lot of people who really struggle because they haven't got that match. People think it's a major thing but if it saves someone's life it's really not that big a deal."

Kerry gets tired quickly and it will take her a year before she can go abroad or restart her training to become a teaching assistant.

She will probably donate funds raised by sales of the CD to ALUPAL, which supports relatives and patients from the adult leukaemia unit at Christie Hospital.

The CD will be available in shops including Cue Music in Bolton Road from next week with a suggested donation price of £4 or £5.

Tracks on the CD written and sung by Jamie are Every Step As It Comes, The Bedroom Song, Strawberry Laces, Lackadaisical and Racing with Raindrops.