

# Bone Marrow Reunion

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Bone marrow donors and recipients don't always get the chance to meet, but a North Highlands woman's wish came true -- a face to face meeting with the man who helped save her life.

Noel Bradley gave a hero's welcome to her own hero Richard Tucker Thursday afternoon at Sacramento International Airport. Tucker flew in from Austin, Texas with his wife and two children.

"Everybody played a part in keeping me alive. Richard was the tail end to give me my life back," said Bradley.

For four years, the mother of three struggled with her battle against aplastic anemia. She just celebrated the one year anniversary of her bone marrow transplant this past April. Bradley told News10 she wouldn't have survived without Turner's gift.

"He has given me more than just another day. He has given me time with my kids back and my family and my husband is not going to wake up alone," said Bradley.

Tucker participated in a bone marrow drive almost 10 years ago and never thought he would be a match. But he got the call in early 2006 and told his doctors that he would do anything to help.

In March 2007, the National Bone Marrow Donor Program released Tucker's and Bradley's contact information, allowing the two to finally meet. They have swapped emails, pictures and talked on the phone since then. This week, they finally met.

Bradley and Tucker will spend the next couple of days getting to know each other. Both families are planning to have dinner and attend a Sacramento River Cats baseball game.

"I'm definitely looking forward to that and building a friendship that will last," said Bradley.

Tucker hopes he and Bradley keep in touch.

"It's an incredible feeling to see that you've made such an impact on a person, such an incredibly positive impact on a person," said Turner. "This will last forever and that's pretty cool."

