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## **Jane's Life in the Balance 35-Year-Old Woman Needs a Stranger To Be the One to Save Her Life! Marrow Drives Taking Place Now**

Oakland, CA, March 29, 2016 – Jane Yin Bolander, a 35-year-old Asian American woman who lives in San Francisco, is in a literal fight for her life. Jane has Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) and needs a bone marrow transplant to survive. Jane has partnered with the Asian American Donor Program and Be The Match® to find a donor similar to her genetic makeup. A bone marrow transplant is the only way to save her life.

A bone marrow transplant, which Jane needs soon, is Jane's only hope for her long-term survival. A committed marrow-matching donor must be located before any transplant can take place. Since Jane is of Chinese descent, a matching donor will also need to be of Chinese descent.

On December 26, 2015, Jane was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). She has received one round of chemotherapy and will start her second round soon. She has no family members who are a match and needs a stranger to step forward and be a committed donor.

### **More about Jane**

Jane is a Public Relations and Marketing professional, who in 2005 launched JSY Public Relations, her own firm that focuses primarily on professional athletes and non-profits.

For one year, Jane lived in Athens, Ohio. Her father received his Ph.D. in chemistry at Ohio University in Athens. Her parents emigrated to the U.S. from Taiwan. Her family moved to Seattle, where the family lived for about 6-7 years.

The family moved to the East Bay. Jane attended elementary school and middle school in Concord, CA. Then, she graduated from a Walnut Creek high school. Her parents live in Walnut Creek.

At U.C. Berkeley, Jane completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Media and International Relations. She and Jarie Bolander married on Oct. 25, 2014.

## **Jane's Life in the Balance Press Release – March 9, 2016**

Jane loves music, a good laugh and eating fantastic food. According to family and friends, she is an eternal optimist that believes in the goodness and generosity of others.

"Doctors, nurses and scientists are all trying to do their best to cure this disease," says Jarie Bolander, Jane's husband and biotech entrepreneur. "But, we know that for the next 10 to 20 years, people like Jane will still need stems cells or transplants as part of the treatment. I urge everyone to join the registry and help save a life."

Minorities are more likely to die of leukemia and other blood cancers because there is a shortage of ethnic and mixed-ethnic donors on the Be The Match® national registry. It is vital to expand and build a more diverse registry so everyone has an equal opportunity to survive blood cancers.

### **What's the Solution?**

Encouraging more people of ethnically diverse backgrounds and those of mixed heritage to be committed and join the Registry, potentially saving a life. Each of us can "Be The\_One to Save a Life!"

The Asian American Donor Program (AADP, [www.aadp.org](http://www.aadp.org)) is a 26-year-old nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization, based in Alameda, CA, that works to educate community members about the shortage of ethnic marrow donors and the importance of joining the Be The Match® national registry. It is the oldest nonprofit of its kind in the country. AADP is an official recruitment center for Be The Match®.

"There is a shortage of committed non-Caucasians on the Be The Match® national registry," says Carol Gillespie, the AADP executive director. "We need everyone of mixed race ancestry to step forward and join the Registry. When a marrow match is not readily available, patients have to wait longer than is ideal to find a match." Once a match has been found, their disease may have progressed to the point that they are no longer eligible for a transplant.

### **Shortage of Ethnic/Multi-Ethnic Donors**

In 2015, an estimated 162,000 people in the U.S. were diagnosed with a serious blood disease. The Be The Match® registry recruits hundreds of thousands of donors each year through an extensive network of more than 155 local and regional Community Engagement Representatives and organizations. You only need to join the Be The Match registry once.

## **Jane's Life in the Balance Press Release – March 10, 2016**

“Finding a marrow/stem cell match can be like finding a needle in a haystack,” says Gillespie. “Multi-racial patients face the worst odds. Those diagnosed with a blood disease need a marrow/stem cell transplant as soon as possible. Building the Registry with committed donors is what patients need. You could potentially match anyone in the world, this is truly a global effort.”

Marrow/stem cell matches are very different than blood type matches. Just as we inherit our eyes, hair and skin color, we inherit our marrow and stem cell tissue type.

“For thousands of severely ill blood cancer patients, there is a cure,” Gillespie says. “You could be the cure. Those whose marrow/stem cells are not a match for a patient in need now may be a match for someone else down the road, anywhere in the world. I encourage multi-ethnic individuals, who are 18 to 44 years old, to commit to registering. It is simple to register – just a swab of the inside of your cheek.”

### **How You Can Commit to Help**

- Find a registration drive in your area. Go to <http://www.aadp.org/drive/>
- Register on line here: <https://join.bethematch.org/teamjane>
- Contact friends and family and encourage them to go to a registration drive or register online
- Set up a drive in your area or for more information, call AADP at 1-800-593-6667 or visit our website <http://www.aadp.org>
- Volunteer to help at registration drives or in the AADP office.

Please take a few minutes of your time to learn more how you can help save a life and register as a marrow donor.

### **Available for Interview**

Carol Gillespie, Executive Director, Asian American Donor Program  
Jane Yin Bolander  
Jarie Bolander, Jane's husband  
Jane's parents

To learn more about scheduled upcoming marrow drives, visit <http://www.aadp.org/drive/>

For press questions, contact Sally Douglas Arce at 510-525-9552 or [sdarce@lmi.net](mailto:sdarce@lmi.net)

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