

# SAVE LIVES WITH BE THE MATCH®

**THOUSANDS OF PATIENTS WITH BLOOD CANCERS AND BLOOD DISEASE LIKE LEUKEMIA AND SICKLE CELL ARE SEARCHING FOR THEIR LIFE-SAVING MATCH.**

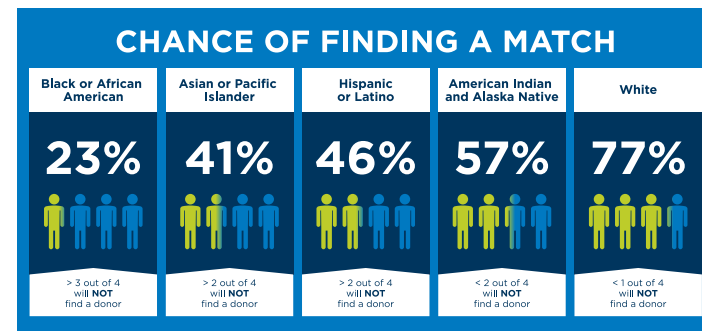
**YOU CAN HELP!**  
Get your chapter involved in the HOSA Service Project with

BE  THE MATCH®



Lauren,  
blood stem  
cell donor

**OUR MISSION:** Be The Match saves lives every day by connecting the world's largest and most diverse registry of donors (22 million!) with patients who are a genetic match.



**DISRUPT THE DISPARITY:**  
*not everyone has an equal chance of finding a match*

- **RECRUIT:** Patients are more likely to match with someone of their same ethnicity, which is why it is crucial to grow and diversify the registry.
- **FUNDRAISE:** Every dollar you raise helps grow the registry, provide grants to patient families, and fund research to make transplant safer and more available to all patients.
- **WIN PRIZES:** Your chapter can win prizes including lapel pins, t-shirts, and a trip to tour our Coordinating Center and Biorepository in Minneapolis!

Visit [BetheMatch.org/HOSA](https://www.BetheMatch.org/HOSA) to get started today and email [HOSA@nmdp.org](mailto:HOSA@nmdp.org) to get connected with a representative.

## MATCHING PATIENTS WITH DONORS

### Q: WHAT IS HLA MATCHING?

**A:** HLA matching is used to match patients and donors for blood and marrow transplants. HLA (human leukocyte antigens) are proteins—or markers—on most cells in your body. Your immune system uses these markers to recognize which cells belong in your body and which don't.

HLA matching is much more complicated than blood typing. To have HLA matching done:

- The patient and any potential donors will have blood drawn
- The blood is tested in a lab to determine HLA type
- The patient's HLA is compared to that of any potential donors to see if there is a match

HLA types are inherited, so you're more likely to match someone from a similar ethnic background. Sometimes doctors have a hard time finding a match because some HLA types are less common than others. Once a match is found, the donor will have medical tests to make sure they're healthy and can donate safely.

### Q: HOW DOES HLA MATCHING WORK?

**A:** There are many HLA markers. Each HLA marker has a name. The names are letters or combinations of letters and numbers. There are rules for the minimum, or lowest, HLA match needed between a donor and patient. These rules are based on research that shows patients have better results with a closely matched donor. Different transplant centers may have different matching rules.

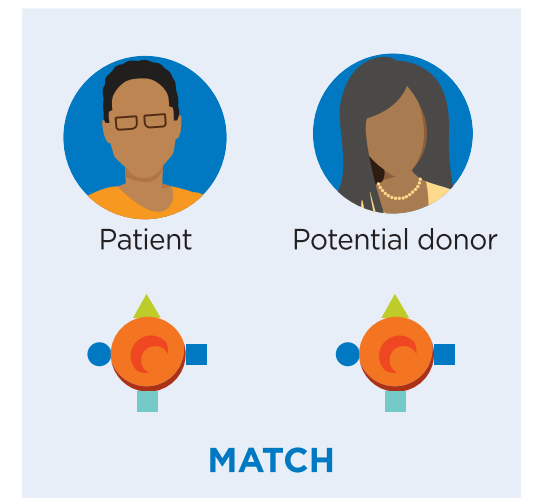
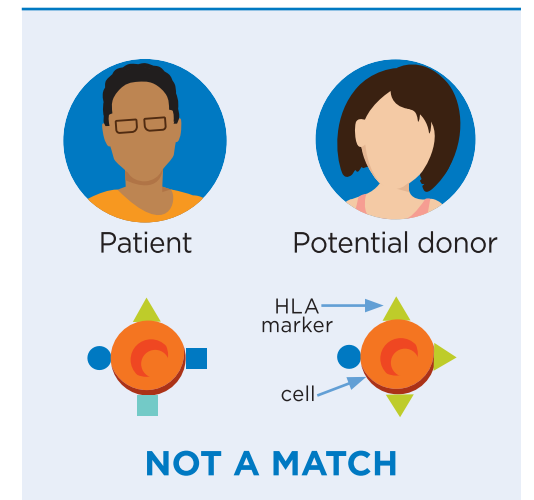


To learn more about HLA matching, watch the video series at

[BetheMatch.org/LearnTheBasics](https://www.BetheMatch.org/LearnTheBasics).

BE  THE MATCH®

### HLA Matching



This is a simplified picture of a very complex process.

