



**DREAM
CHASER
FOUNDATION**
A Chace Topperwien Charity

**Transforming our heartache into
a positive pathway forward**

Bone Marrow Awareness



Keri Topperwien – Dream Chaser Foundation



Dedicated to our son Chace and to all those who are searching, received or will need a bone marrow transplant in the future

Our life as we knew it



“That” day.....



March 14, 2011 – Diagnosis: Acute Myeloid Leukaemia M7

Our new home: Starship Children's Hospital

- Aggressive strain of AML
- 4 rounds of intensive chemotherapy
- A bone marrow transplant was the only chance of recovery



The challenge

- 23 million donors worldwide*
- All we needed was **1** match
- No matches were found



Our whanau plea

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Brave Chace has 'heaps of fight'

By Natalie Akoorie
5:30 AM Monday Aug 22, 2011

Cancer Diseases Health SHARE: f t G+ in ☆

Ryan and Keri Topperwien are playing a waiting game.


The Hamilton couple have watched their 2-year-old son Chace endure months of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant in a battle against a rare and aggressive form of leukaemia.

The toddler was mistakenly injected with Gardasil vaccine, given to teenage girls to prevent cervical cancer, when he was just 6 weeks old.

Now his parents have to be patient, hoping that Chace's little body accepts transplanted cord blood, that his bone marrow continues to grow again and that he does not relapse.

"He's got heaps of fight left in him," Mr Topperwien said. "He's nowhere near giving up."

Days before his second birthday in March this year Chace was diagnosed with the M7 strand of acute myeloid leukaemia, but doctors do not believe the cancer is linked to the immunisation mix-up.



Leukaemia boy Chace needs a miracle

NATALIE AKOORIE

news

Plea for more Maori and Pacific Island donors

Uphill battle for young Kiwi cancer victim

Tuesday 3 Apr 2012 5:28 p.m.

This video has been archived. If you need to access it, please [contact us](#)



Chace Topperwien - Give Chace a chance

Stem Cell Transplant

- Our only option left
- Stem cells from the umbilical cord of a baby in Australia
- Quick procedure



A tough recovery

HOPE – and lots of it

DREAMS – of going home

CALM – a sense that we had “done it”



RELAPSE

Our final summer

Summer months
spent making
wonderful
unforgettable
memories
together as a
whanau



Chace's Journey home



Chace Eriki Topperwien

17.03.2009 – 15.06.2012

Our son's legacy

Respect

Sensitivity

Empathy &
Compassion

Integrity



Spreading Sunshine

- 0-18 years old
- Form of cancer and currently receiving treatment in New Zealand
- Registered with the Dream Chaser Foundation



Our promise

“The Dream Chaser Foundation is committed to promoting bone marrow donation by encouraging more Maori and Pacific Island people to become donors”

Key Partnership:



Let's revisit the issue

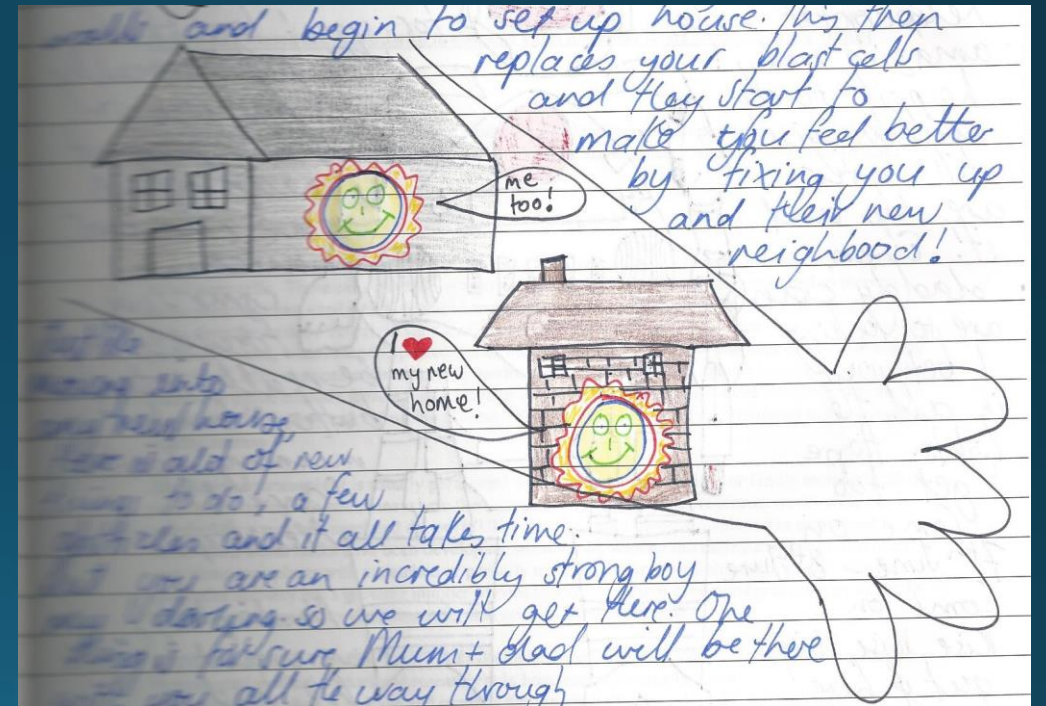
- 26 million donors worldwide
- Many Maori and Pacific Island children do not find a bone marrow match

WHY?



Obstacles

- Lack of knowledge about the need/issue
 - "you don't know unless you know"
- Fear of Process
 - Misconceptions about WHAT bone marrow is, and HOW it is extracted
 - "Transplant VS Transfusion"
- Cultural issues
 - Sacredness of the body



Where we are at

- Qualified bone marrow recruiters for NZ Blood
- Sharing our story with audiences around NZ
- Networking with other Maori and Pacific Island organisations
- Targeting specific NZ Blood drives
 - Current blood donors = prime target
- Gaining media attention
- Charity Ambassadors: Sol3 Mio and Taika Waititi
- NZ Defence Force Project







May every sunrise bring you hope
May every sunset bring you peace

Thank you





DREAM CHASER FOUNDATION™

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Supporting Children with Cancer

www.dreamchaser.co.nz