

Los Angeles Times | HEALTH

[LOCAL](#) [NATION](#) [WORLD](#) [BUSINESS](#) [SPORTS](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [LIVING](#) [TRAVEL](#) [OPINION](#) [MORE](#)

[HEALTH](#) [HOME](#) [FOOD](#) [IMAGE](#) [TRAVEL](#) [AUTOS](#) [BOOKS](#) [HOT LIST](#) [BRAND X](#) [MAGAZINE](#) [YOUR SCENE](#)

Booster Shots

ODDITIES, MUSINGS AND NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF HEALTH

[« Previous Post](#) | [Booster Shots Home](#) | [Next Post »](#)

A bone marrow donor drive with a happy back story

September 9, 2009 | 2:58 pm

Donating bone marrow isn't something most people are itching to do--many erroneously believe it's always an invasive, painful process, despite the fact that it can and does save lives.



But sometimes a compelling story is all it takes to propel people to take action. And here it is: Elizabeth Jordan joined the [National Marrow Donor Program](#) several years ago to see if she was a compatible match for a friend. She wasn't, but was called in 2007 to try again with a stranger who needed a bone marrow transplant to combat a form of leukemia. They were a match, Jordan donated, and the recipient, Rhonda Christensen, a Dallas-based computer scientist, is alive and in remission.

Jordan, a doctoral student in education and coordinator for campus recruiting programs at USC, and Christensen eventually became friends. They're now teaming up to host a [bone marrow registration drive](#) this Friday at USC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Potential donors will be asked to fill out a short health questionnaire and have a swab taken of the inside of their cheek. That swab will be sent to a lab and their DNA noted and entered into a national database.

Jordan is quick to dispel the myths many people have about donating bone marrow, such as it always requires surgery and is extremely painful. Neither, she says, are true ([the NMDP offers more information](#)). Also, the donor and recipient's privacy is protected.

"The pain for me was minimal," she says. "If you can handle getting regular injections or giving blood, then there should be no problem. I did it at [City of Hope](#) in Duarte, and they make you very comfortable." And yes, there were cookies involved.

"Part of the reason Rhonda and I wanted to get together was to educate people," she says. "You can really see the impact of being a donor--this woman is alive today and she's really healthy and happy."

-- Jeannine Stein

Photo: Elizabeth Jordan, left, and Rhonda Christensen. Photo credit: Elizabeth Jordan

More in: [cancer](#)

[Permalink](#)
[Comments \(0\)](#)
[ShareThis](#)

Stay connected:

[RSS](#) [twitter](#) [facebook](#)

advertisement

About the Bloggers

Tami Dennis
Melissa Healy
Karen Kaplan
Thomas H. Maugh II
Rosie Mestel
Shari Roan
Jeannine Stein

Recent Posts

September 9, 2009 at 5:20 pm | FDA panel backs Cervarix for women, Gardasil for men »

September 9, 2009 at 4:39 pm | And now a word from our internists (what they say about healthcare reform) »

September 9, 2009 at 4:30 pm | Bacterial infection linked to aggressive prostate cancer »

September 9, 2009 at 4:00 pm | Traffic noise hurts »

September 9, 2009 at 2:58 pm | A bone marrow donor drive with a happy back story »

Recent Comments

RE: More uncertainty for MS patients taking Tysabri | comment by Micah

RE: More nonsense about cellphones and cancer | comment by Roy Mankovitz

Verify your Comment

Previewing your Comment

Posted by: |

This is only a preview. Your comment has not yet been posted.

Your comment could not be posted. Error type:
Your comment has been saved. Comments are moderated and will not appear until approved by the author. Post another comment

The letters and numbers you entered did not match the image. Please try again.

As a final step before posting your comment, enter the letters and numbers you see in the image below. This prevents automated programs from posting comments.

Having trouble reading this image? [View an alternate.](#)



Post a comment

If you are under 13 years of age you may read this message board, but you may not participate. Here are the full legal terms you agree to by using this comment form.

Comments are moderated, and will not appear until they've been approved.

If you have a TypeKey or TypePad account, please [Sign In](#)

Name:

E-mail Address:

URL:

Remember personal info?

Comments:

Comments

RE: Drug improves sleep of women with hot flashes | comment by Kathy

RE: Another cure for Type 1 diabetes ... in mice | comment by Tony Woods

RE: Drug improves sleep of women with hot flashes | comment by Miss Neurontin

RE: Adult picky eaters: something to chew on | comment by Katherine Krozel

Categories

addiction adhd adoption aging aids alcohol allergies alzheimer's disease antibiotics arthritis asthma autism beauty **behavior** bicycling blood disorders body image books breastfeeding **cancer** children cognition colonoscopy complementary and alternative medicine contraception cosmetic surgery cpr dance dental care depression **diabetes** dieting disaster preparedness disease drowning drug use eating disorders editor's picks elderly emergency care end-of-life epilepsy fertility film **fitness** flu food and drink food safety fruit genetics hair loss headaches health insurance **healthcare** hearing heart disease history hormones hospitals hygiene hypertension illness infections infertility injuries kidney disease l.a. stories latino health learning live chat lupus malaria medicare **medicine** men's health menopause mental health mental illness music **nutrition** obesity odor organ donation osteoporosis pain paralysis parenting plastic surgery policy politics & health pollution pregnancy prematurity **prescriptions** prostate cancer psychology ptsd relationships religion research rodent safety schizophrenia science septicemia sex sick leave sickle cell disease sids skin cancer sleep smoking sports stds stem cells steroids stress stroke sunscreen supplements surgery swine flu television travel vaccination violence vision vitamins web/tech weblogs weight loss workplace yoga

Archives

September 2009 ▾

All L.A. Times Blogs

All The Rage	Angels Unplugged
Babylon & Beyond	Big Picture
Booster Shots	California Consumer
Comments Blog	Company Town
Culture Monster	Daily Dish
Daily Mirror	Daily Travel & Deal Blog
Dish Rag	Dodger Thoughts
Fabulous Forum	Gold Derby
Greenspace	Hero Complex
Homicide Report	Jacket Copy
L.A. at Home	L.A. Land
L.A. Now	L.A. Unleashed
La Plaza	Lakers
Money & Co.	Movable Buffet
Opinion L.A.	Outposts
Pop & Hiss	Readers' Representative Journal
Show Tracker	Technology
Ticket to Vancouver	

[Top of the Ticket](#)
[Varsity Times Insider](#)

[Up to Speed](#)

News

[Local](#)
[Nation](#)
[World](#)
[Business](#)
[Technology](#)
[Sports](#)
[Opinion](#)
[Columnists](#)

Entertainment

[Television](#)
[Movies](#)
[Music](#)
[Arts & Culture](#)
[Celebrity](#)
[The Envelope](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Company Town](#)
[TV Listings](#)
[Movie listings](#)

Living

[Travel](#)
[Health](#)
[Food](#)
[Home](#)
[Image](#)
[Magazine](#)
[Books](#)
[Autos](#)
[Hot List](#)
[Horoscopes](#)

Multimedia

[Video](#)
[Photos](#)
[Data Desk](#)
[Your Scene](#)
[Times on Twitter](#)
[RSS](#)
[Newsletters](#)
[Kindle](#)
[E-edition](#)

Top Blogs

[L. A. Now](#)
[Dish Rag](#)
[Hero Complex](#)
[Top of the Ticket](#)
[Lakers Blog](#)
[Pop and Hiss](#)
[Show Tracker](#)
[Travel & Deals](#)
[Gold Derby](#)
[Booster Shots](#)

About

[Corrections](#)
[Readers' Rep](#)
[Print Edition](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[About Us](#)
[Place an Ad](#)
[Subscribe](#)

Site Map

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)
[Baltimore Sun](#) | [Chicago Tribune](#) | [Daily Press](#) | [Hartford Courant](#) | [LA Times](#) | [Orlando Sentinel](#) | [Sun Sentinel](#) | [The Morning Call](#) | [The Virginia Gazette](#)

Los Angeles Times, 202 West 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012

A Tribune Web site