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Bone Marrow Drive: Will Linfield Be the Match?

Ashley Filler
Linfield College

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Bone Marrow Drive Will Linfield Be The Match?



Linfield College



Introduction

NAME: Ashley Filler
MAJOR: Exercise Science
MINOR: Biology

Out of the classroom engagements:

- Held two Executive Positions in FSL.
- Former Sisterhood Development Chair, Past Vice President.
- Student Employee SHWCC Research

Bone Marrow Introduction

I was connected to Mikalynn's family through the Linfield Health Center to help plan a bone marrow drive through Be The Match. Mikalynn suffers from a rare disorder called Aplastic Anemia that damages bone marrow from lack of blood cell production. The optimal age for bone marrow donation is 18-44 years old, so targeting college students is a great way to raise awareness for bone marrow donation.

How did this experience connect you to Linfield and impact you?

■ This experience connected me to Linfield in ways I was not before.

■ Students at Linfield are willing to help people within the community and sign up for Be the Match. Sororities and Fraternities as well as other clubs on campus were very supportive.

■ The goal of this event was to impact people who needed a bone marrow transplant. I was introduced to an amazing family within the McMinnville community, and they are the ones who impacted me throughout this experience.

■ Mikalynn and her family taught me to be strong and resilient, and that people in our community can always need support.

How has your chosen experience(s) impacted your long-term career or life goals?

Working at the Student Health, Wellness, and Counseling center has provided me with many opportunities to further my knowledge and education for my goal of attending a Physician's Assistant graduate program. The bone marrow drive specifically introduced me to a new aspect of the healthcare field. I

ABOUT MIKALYNN..



- Mikalynn is 9 years old.
- She is diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia
- She plays club softball for the Grizzlies 10-u team
- Her favorite color is turquoise


Are You A Match For Mikalynn?

learned what diagnosis can do to a family. I felt like I went through this journey with Mikalynn's family. As a health care provider it is important to understand what each family can go through. Learning empathy and compassion was an important lesson I learned through this experience that will help me in my future. I also learned how limited resources can be when dealing with all transplant patient cases. I learned a new disease, Aplastic Anemia, and was able to help educate and raise awareness about bone marrow disorders throughout the community and Linfield.

How has your chosen experience(s) helped you develop in each of the following Student Leader Core Competencies?

■ **Leadership Development:** I had to reach out and communicate with a local family to make new relationships. Being able to plan an event, be independent, and problem solve. Another skill I developed from this experience was learning how to create a narrative that connected the student population and community to the cause.





BONE MARROW DONATION

*FML Tomorrow, Oct. 25th from 12:00-2:00
Come get help registering into Be The Match*

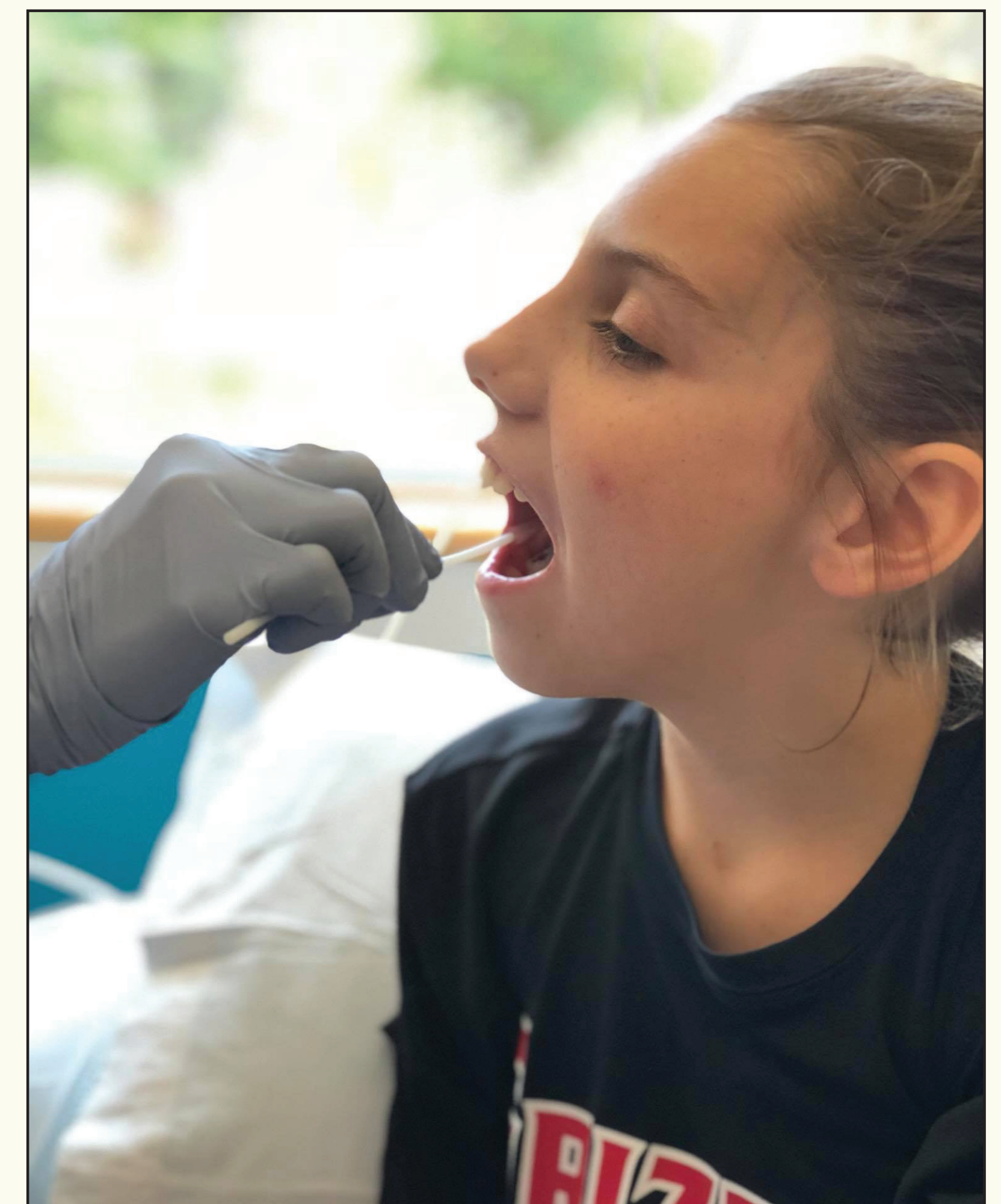
*If you cannot come to the event, register at
<https://join.bethematch.org>*

■ **Social Responsibility:** Through this event, I connected an individual to a community, but more importantly connected the McMinnville community to the greater population.

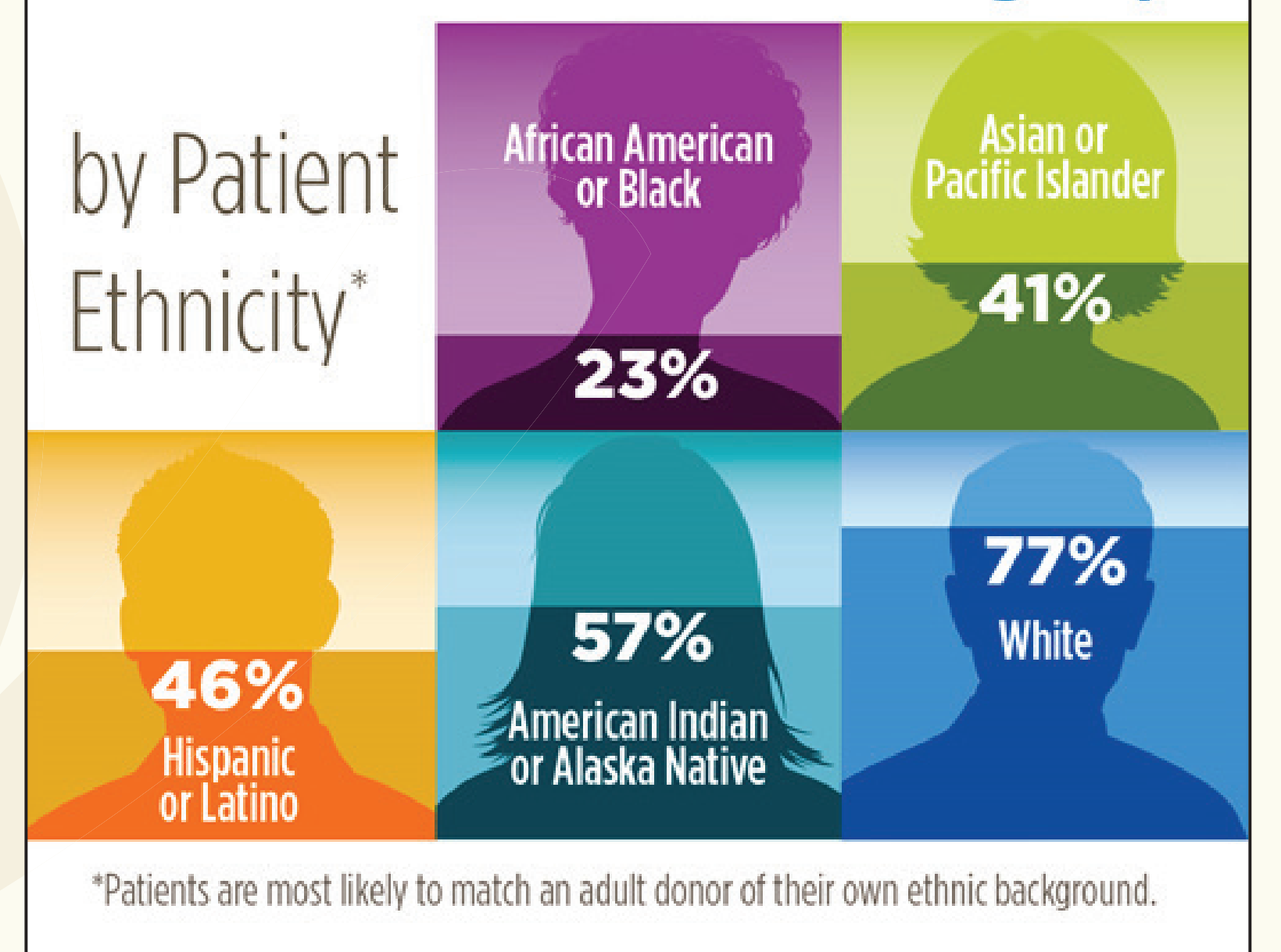
■ **Effective Communication:** I communicated with between Be The Match, Mikalynn's family, the health center, the school, and students all over campus. I communicated through social media, email, and fliers throughout the school and community.

■ **Multicultural Competency:** People with ethnic backgrounds have low bone marrow donation rates. I made it a goal to reach out to the Multicultural center to get an ethnic range of possible bone marrow donors.

■ **Collaboration:** This bone marrow drive was a group effort. I could not have fully pulled the event off without the help and support from different clubs and organizations at Linfield.



Likelihood of finding a Matched Adult Donor on the Be The Match Registry®



Conclusions

Mikalynn's bone marrow started accumulating on its own. She no longer is preparing for a donation.



BE THE MATCH®