2025 IMPACT REPORT

nbmtLINK
National Bone Marrow Transplant Link

This year we hosted our annual GVHD webinar and collaborated with Health Tree Foundation to present a webinar on Delivering Tough News.

HEALING ARTS PROGRAM

Back by popular demand: four-week art & journaling classes that offer relief, creativity and friendship.

Photo/class by greenbushmedia.com


Enfermedad de injerto contra huésped
Conviviendo con las secuelas del trasplante de medula osea/celulas madre
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Ademas: ¡Incluye glosario!

This year we produced a Spanish version of our GVHD book, offering more accessibility to this important topic.

39,000+

downloads for our podcasts. We have hosted 148 episodes over 19 seasons since 2019. Marrow Masters Minutes (YouTube Shorts, 13,250 views in 2025)

marrow masters podcast

Charity Navigator
✦ ✦ ✦ ✦
FOUR-STAR
2025

This top rating from **Charity Navigator** illustrates our commitment to transparency and showcases our goals and strategies.

In the past year, we have had more than

747,000

Facebook views.

Aloha from Honolulu! Peggy and Cindy hosted a LINK booth at Tandem 2025. It was great to be with our colleagues celebrating GVHD Day with awareness and education.

Visit nbmtlink.org or call 800-LINK-BMT to learn more.

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Year End 2025

Dear nbmtLINK Friends—Who We Call Family,

This is a perhaps an unconventional letter, co-written by two of us, Michael and me, Ashlee Cramer, AKA "Michael and Mom". Although it seems more than a lifetime has passed, in fact, it was only five years ago, July 14, 2020, that we heard the words from a kind but solemn oncologist: "Michael has blood cancer, leukemia or lymphoma, it is not yet clear."

Side note, my husband, Michael's dad, passed away at home, in hospice, from lymphoma only four years prior. This second diagnosis was more than shocking. It took three more weeks to get Michael's official diagnosis of Hepatosplenic T-Cell Lymphoma. This is an aggressive, rare cancer with no official protocol, and a slim chance of survival. Michael was only 19, he had nothing ahead of him but time…until that day. The one hope was a stem cell transplant, if he survived long enough to get into remission. At that time, our focus was on the transplant. If he could get there, we had made it. Little did we know about the complications that would follow, including acute and then chronic graft versus host disease (cGVHD).

Michael received his transplant on October 27, 2020. We thought the journey was complete, but we spent the next two years practically living in the hospital, battling complication after complication, not sure if we would make it home together. Miraculously, today we write to you from our home, beyond grateful that Michael is alive. Living with complications, including cGVHD, but the key word is ***"living."***

From Michael: "I would say that connection has been so crucial during my recovery from my transplant. Thanks to resources and peer support from nbmtLINK, my journey with chronic GVHD post-transplant has not been so isolating. Knowing that there is a whole community out there with podcasts, webinars and support groups for my disease has given me so much comfort and peace. I am forever grateful to this organization that continues to change lives every single day."

For me, Ashlee, having been a cancer caregiver twice, first for my husband, then my son, I have lived two different experiences. With my husband, I isolated. I took on caregiving, navigated the financial stress of cancer treatment, worked my full-time job, and tried to be both mom and dad for our three children. I kept our story private, protecting my family from questions. I felt alone.

The second time around, with Michael, I learned my lesson and dove into accepting support and love, realizing I could not do this alone. Sharing did not make us weak and vulnerable; it gave us strength and hope. We found a community in the oncology world, our people, who supported us emotionally, mentally, and physically. We realized that by sharing our story with others, we were able to inspire, motivate, and connect. We started a podcast called **Michael and Mom Talk Cancer**. We began posting on social media, advocating for other survivors and caregivers, leading support groups, as well as connecting with the LINK through their Lunch & Learn calls, their informative webinars, and moving podcasts. The resources we discovered helped us stay informed and educated, feeling empowered as we learned about updated GVHD treatments and studies, including clinical trials. The resources also include valuable mental health support and in 2025, I was able to share my own three-week "Getting Happier" webinar series through the LINK on how to cultivate happiness, even when faced with the challenges of cancer, transplant, and cGVHD.

Your donation to the National Bone Marrow Transplant Link, no matter how great or small, will help change lives and offer real support for people like Michael and I. We promise you that you are making a difference, making the world better for countless BMT recipients.

Thank you from Michael and I,

Ashlee Cramer