The J.P. McCarthy Fund:

BANKING ON A HEALTHY FUTURE

During a recent visit to the J.P. McCarthy Cord Stem Cell Bank at the Karmanos Cancer Institute, Judy McCarthy, founder of the J.P. McCarthy Fund, was “blown away” by the ongoing progress toward finding a cure for patients battling rare blood cancers and other diseases.

“Each time I visit the bank, I’m very impressed by the researchers, equipment and everything that keeps cord blood viable for patients in need,” says Judy, J.P. McCarthy’s widow. “The bank is my husband’s legacy, and it’s wonderful that people continue supporting the McCarthy Fund and the Cord Blood Bank. It’s exciting, and I feel very positive about the progress being made.”

Since 2001, the Cord Stem Cell Bank at Karmanos has been collecting and preserving cord blood and making it available to patients in need. If a bone marrow match cannot be found within a patient’s family, a match from an unrelated donor might be available through the bank.

Relationships with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Providence Park Hospital in Novi and other area hospitals have helped compile an inventory of genetically diverse cord blood units. The bank also has the highest percentage of minority units within the National Marrow Donor registry.

This large and diverse cord blood supply, built over nearly two decades, would not have been possible without the J.P. McCarthy Fund, which gave $1 million in 1999 to establish the bank. It is named for former WJR radio personality J.P. McCarthy, who died of...
CREATE YOUR OWN LEGACY

According to the National Marrow Donor Program, more than 9,000 people die each year waiting for a stem cell transplant. Only 25 to 30 percent of patients who require a stem cell transplant have a donor in the family. In the 70 percent pool of patients without a match in the family, 50 percent or more will not have a match in the registry. Minority patients have an especially difficult time finding a donor.

For patients with no alternative treatment options, cord blood continues to be a source of stem cells for children and adults with leukemia, lymphoma, myelodysplastic syndrome, sickle cell disease or other life-threatening blood disorders.

With a gift to the J.P. McCarthy Cord Stem Cell Bank, you can help save lives and leave a legacy, just as Judy McCarthy did to honor her husband.

For more information about donating to the bank or supporting your area of interest at Karmanos through your estate plan, contact the Office of Planned Giving at 313.576.8102.

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myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) in 1995 just six weeks after his diagnosis. “The bank is perfectly aligned with my goals and has been an exceptional project to support all these years,” says Judy. “Sadly, we have yet to find a cure for MDS. But great inroads are being made in stem cell research, and the fund has very much been a part of that.”

Generous support from the J.P. McCarthy Fund and others sustain this public, nonprofit bank—one of 25 internationally recognized cord stem cell banks affiliated with the National Marrow Donor Program® “Be the Match Registry®.” The bank is also one of just two public cord blood banks in Michigan and the only bank in southeast Michigan.

Since 2004, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has helped the Fund manage its grant-making process. The Community Foundation will also ensure the Fund’s goals are met in perpetuity.

“We’re very impressed by the cutting-edge work of the cord stem cell researchers at Karmanos,” says Katie Brisson, vice president, program, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. “They actively explore potential uses for stem cells and collected blood.

“The J.P. McCarthy Fund’s ongoing support is also an opportunity to educate people about the importance of cord blood as a resource that can potentially save lives. We hope McCarthy Fund grants will help Karmanos continue to be at the forefront of this critical research.”

One example of current research is a collaboration between the bank, Hutzel Women’s Hospital and Children’s Hospital of Michigan. The study concerns hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE), a brain injury in newborns diagnosed immediately after birth. A combination of inadequate blood flow and oxygen delivery to a newborn’s brain can cause HIE. Cord blood may be an effective source to treat HIE during its initial acute stage.

“Our association with Karmanos and the Community Foundation over the years has been outstanding,” Judy says. “I’m so appreciative of the thoughtfulness of everyone who supports our efforts and continues J.P.’s legacy.”

Suanne Dorr, director, Clinical Laboratories and J.P. McCarthy Cord Stem Cell Bank; Judy McCarthy, J.P. McCarthy Fund; Katie Brisson, vice president, program, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan; Katrina Studvent, chief development officer, Karmanos Cancer Institute.
The keynote speaker was Joseph Uberti, M.D., Ph.D., the Lambert/Webber Endowed Chair, Stem Cell Research; Division Head—BMT, Leukemia and Lymphoma, Director, Blood and Marrow Stem Cell Transplant Program, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Professor of Medicine and Oncology, Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. Uberti focused on the therapeutic progress being made in treating blood cancers through bone marrow transplantation at Karmanos.

Kristine Roth, M.D., a patient of Dr. Uberti, was the guest speaker at the breakfast. Kristine is a wife, mother and practicing pediatric psychiatrist, but her world changed back in 2011. At the age of 38, she was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), a group of diverse bone marrow disorders in which the bone marrow does not produce enough healthy blood cells. As she researched her options, she sought care at Karmanos.

Kristine talked at the breakfast about her personal journey undergoing a bone marrow transplant under Dr. Uberti’s care. She shared her story to give others hope. “You never think you are going to be a patient like that,” she said. “Where I’m at is a miracle. There’s no other word for it.”

To learn more about Karmanos’ Stem Cell and Bone Marrow Transplant Program, please visit karmanos.org/BMT or call 1.800.Karmanos.

The Karmanos Planned Giving Advisory Committee hosted our annual Estate Planning Professionals’ Breakfast this past spring.

The keynote speaker was Joseph Uberti, M.D., Ph.D., the Lambert/Webber Endowed Chair, Stem Cell Research; Division Head—BMT, Leukemia and Lymphoma, Director, Blood and Marrow Stem Cell Transplant Program, Karmanos Cancer Institute, Professor of Medicine and Oncology, Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. Uberti focused on the therapeutic progress being made in treating blood cancers through bone marrow transplantation at Karmanos.

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A Gift from your Will or Estate Plan Can IMPACT THE FUTURE of Cancer Care

We gratefully acknowledge the following supporters whose collective gifts received since January 1, 2016, total over $1,347,058*. Estate gifts help make our progress possible.

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By combining a current gift with a future gift, you can make a big impact on those patients we serve—both today and tomorrow.

GET STARTED TODAY

• **Donate cash.** You can give a little every year or one lump sum to support patient programs or to enhance our research initiatives.

• **Make a gift of other assets.** Appreciated stocks and bonds that have grown in value since you first purchased them make it possible to give a larger donation for less cost—and provide you with tax benefits.

• **Donate from your IRA.** If you are 70½ or older you can ask your IRA administrator to make a tax-free gift on your behalf directly to Karmanos. Gift amounts up to $100,000 qualify.

PLAN A FUTURE GIFT

• **Include Karmanos Cancer Institute in your will or trust.** This is a flexible way to extend your support. You can give a specific amount or leave a percentage of your estate.

• **Donate retirement plan assets.** By making a simple designation on your plan’s beneficiary designation form, you can save your loved ones from a significant tax burden and help us advance cancer care.

• **Donate a life insurance policy.** You can donate a no-longer-needed policy or simply name Karmanos Cancer Institute as the beneficiary.

Become a member of our Dr. Vee Legacy of Hope Society by letting us know that you have included Karmanos in your estate plan.

SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

*I bequeath (the sum of $_____________) or (________ percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate) to the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute for its general purposes, located at 4100 John R, Detroit, Michigan 48201. EIN: 38-1613280*

Contact the Office of Planned Giving at 313.576.8102 or knowlesd@karmanos.org and we’ll help you get started with creating a plan that protects the important people and causes in your life.