

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Media Release

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NORA'S BLOOD DRIVE BRINGS IN 108 PINTS

Outpouring of Support Leads to Another Drive Scheduled for August 9

Mastic Beach, NY – Donors from all over Long Island showed up to support six year old Nora Getchell at the Mastic Beach Property Owner's Association this past Tuesday, July 26, 2011. Nora has a rare blood disease called "Severe Aplastic Anemia" that requires constant transfusions and leaves her susceptible to contracting diseases more easily. Nora also needs a bone marrow transplant in order to cure herself of the rare disorder. Well over a hundred residents, many traveling far distances, showed up to donate blood and register for the bone marrow registry. Nora's family, the Mastic Beach Property Owner's Association, Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) and volunteers from the Brookhaven Highway Department all provided help in making the event a huge success.

Through a donation from the Mastic Beach Property Owner's Association, one hundred individuals were registered on the bone marrow registry and are waiting to see if they are a match for Nora. The donation of \$5,000 allowed those who were interested to register for free. Normally a bone marrow kit costs someone willing to register \$52. Even if someone does not match Nora they are still placed on the national registry and can possibly match someone else in need.

There was also 108 pints of blood collected from willing donors from all across Long Island. The turnout was so large that individuals waited between 3-4 hours to donate for Nora's cause. Some donors traveled from as far away as Nassau County. One woman rode her bike from Woodbury, which took over three hours, because she read about Nora's disorder and felt it was important to help. The large overflow caused many to be turned away and the Mastic Beach Property Owners Association already has signed up another one hundred people for another blood drive scheduled for August 9, 2011.

"The tremendous support and caring that I witnessed at Nora's blood drive was extraordinary," stated Legislator Kate Browning. "So many people from all walks of life were touched by Nora's story and stopped everything they were doing to spend the entire night in line in order to save her life. It is amazing what our communities can do for one another when someone is in need. I pray that one of these loving individuals will be Nora's match."

Legislator Browning is urging anyone who was unable to make the first blood drive, and still wants to help, to sign up for the second event on August 9. The times will be the same - 2:30pm-8:30pm at the Mastic Beach Property Owner's Association. For more information, willing donors can call 631-399-6111.

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