

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Eric Wolfe, Putnam County Community Foundation  
2 South Jackson Street  
Greencastle, IN 46135  
Phone: 765.653.4978  
Email: ewolfe@pcfoundation.org



Photo: YES

Caption: Robert Lyon, terminally ill cancer patient from Greencastle.

### **DePauw University Bone Marrow Donor Drive on February 19<sup>th</sup> Greencastle Native Needs Bone Marrow Donation**

**Greencastle, IN – February 7, 2007** – Robert Lyon, Greencastle native and founder of the Lyon Family Scholarship Fund, is in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant. DePauw's Bone Marrow Donor Drive will be Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> in the Student Union Building from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and advance sign-up is required.

As the fifth generation of a family that settled in Putnam County in the mid-1800s, Lyon always considered Greencastle and the surrounding communities as his home. Although his education and career took him—as it takes so many—to other cities and states, the separation was only physical. Not only did he frequently come home, he believed that any success he enjoyed was based on what he learned while growing up.

When Lyon had opportunities to give back, he made certain that Putnam County would benefit from his successes. He particularly worked with local educators and the Putnam County Community Foundation to craft the Lyon Family Scholarship Fund which provides monies for continuing education for individuals who work and live in Putnam County. He also was instrumental in founding the Knoy Resource Center in Cloverdale, which strives to increase the educational attainment of some of the neediest students in Putnam County.

And now, Rob Lyon needs help from his hometown community. Diagnosed with leukemia (a blood cancer), Lyon needs a bone marrow transplant. In this procedure, liquid marrow is removed from a healthy volunteer and the patient receives it, much like a blood transfusion. The surgical procedure is very simple and the donor will not need to stay overnight at a hospital. The donor and patient do not need to be in the same location, and the procedure does not affect the donor's white cell or platelet count. In fact, the marrow is completely replaced in four to six weeks.

However, as with organ transplants, there needs to be a close DNA match. A simple cheek swab is the first step. To maximize the potential for a good match, volunteers should be between the ages of 18 and 40, and be in good health and have no history of serious health problems. In addition, candidates will have B+ blood type, and a family

ancestry from England, Scotland, or Ireland, with some French, German, or Dutch mixed in.

Though the drive in the Union Building will be going on throughout the day on the 19<sup>th</sup>, traveling teams could visit student meetings, dorms or Greek chapters where several donors could be tested at one time on that date. Please contact Eric Wolfe at [ewolfe@pcfoundation.org](mailto:ewolfe@pcfoundation.org) to sign up to be a donor on or before February 13<sup>th</sup>, so the testing kits can be ordered in time. Please contact the Putnam County Community Foundation at (765) 653-4978, for additional information or questions.