

## Stephen's Cancer Story

**You should be familiar with the meaning of the underlined words.**

Stephen was a regular 12 year old kid. One day he had little red spots on his face so his parents took him to the hospital. They discovered he had leukemia – a form of cancer of the blood. His bone marrow was unable to make healthy cells.

The best way to cure this cancer is to perform a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, no one in his family was a good match. There weren't too many Hispanic / Native American people on a registry so Stephen's family organized a rally to find more. Still no one matched.

The doctors tried a cord cell transplant. Cord cells come from umbilical cords (from newborn babies). First they killed off his cancerous bone marrow with chemotherapy. Then they injected healthy cord cells that matched. This treatment worked and now Stephen is in remission (is cancer free).

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We also talked about radiation – which is a form of energy that is directed at the cancer to kill it. Stephen did not receive radiation treatment.