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ACADEMY
of GRAND RAPIDS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEXUS ACCADEMY, BONNEY FORGE AND PATTERSON ICE CENTER PRESENTS THE BE THE MATCH FIGURE SKATING MARROWTHON A 12-HOUR SKATING EXTRAVAGANZA
Bone Marrow Transplant Recipients Can Compete in the Transplant Games of America

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 20, 2013 – Be The Match Foundation, in partnership with the Greater Grand Rapids Figure Skating Club, sponsored by Patterson Ice Center, Nexus Academy and Bonney Forge, will host an unforgettable 12-hour ice skating extravaganza. The event will engage skaters, teams, parents, coaches and community members in an effort to raise awareness about marrow transplant. The goal is to raise \$13,000 towards the Be The Match Foundation and the skaters. The Marrowthon will take place at the Patterson Ice Center (2550 Patterson Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546) on April 20th starting at 4pm and finishing at 4am the next day.

Be The Match Foundation will be on site to help people sign up to be on the Be The Match Registry and potentially become donors. Be The Match Registry is the world’s largest listing of potential marrow donors and donated cord blood units. Currently there are 10,000 people that need a marrow transplant and only half receive the transplant they need. Bone marrow transplant is essential for patients who have been diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma and other blood diseases. Be The Match Foundation supports the National Marrow Donor Program and raises funds to support three crucial areas: adding more donors to Be The Match Registry, increasing the chances that more patients find their match; providing financial grants to patients who need help with treatment costs; and funding transplant research to help more patients live longer, healthier lives. The Marrowthon extravaganza will kick-off at 4pm (public welcome to all events for a nominal fee to support the event) with the following schedule:

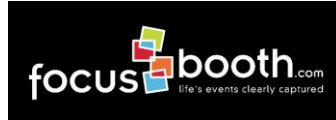
- 4:00pm Greater Grand Rapids Figure Skating Club Exhibition and 50/50 raffle
- 5:30pm Open Skate with Olympian and Former Red Wing Kevin Miller and Griff – Public Welcome
- 7:30 pm Sled Wings Demonstration
- 8:40 pm GRAHA Coaches Hockey game and Euchre tournament
- 10:00pm Open Skate
- 12:00am Synchronized Skating demo and instruction
- 1:30am Skating contests (races, shoot the duck etc)
- 3:00am Broom Ball game
- 4:00am Conclusion of event

In addition to these events, a Euchre tournament will start at 8:30 (public welcome - please contact Suzanne for details) live band will be performing at 10, silent auctions will take place from 6 pm until midnight, a photo booth will be available, manicures/pedicures, henna tattoos eye lash permanents and eye brow threading will be available from 6pm-midnight. A community event that will be fun for the whole family.

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About Be The Match:

For people with life-threatening blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma or other diseases, a cure exists. Be The Match® connects patients with their donor match for a life-saving marrow or umbilical cord blood transplant. An ordinary person could be someone's cure as a member of the Be The Match Registry®, financial contributor or volunteer. Patients and their families can turn to Be The Match for one-on-one support, education, and guidance before, during and after transplant.

Be The Match is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP), a nonprofit organization that matches patients with donors, educates health care professionals and conducts research so more lives can be saved. To learn more about the cure, visit BeTheMatch.org or call 1 (800) MARROW-2.