

A DONOR FOR EVERY PATIENT



REAL LIFE STORIES OF BMDP PATIENTS



Ivan and wife, Ledy with the Patient Services team – the team that helped make it all happen!



“It was like winning the charity lottery when one simple act can mean all the difference in the world for another”

It's all about “doing the right thing”

All of us in the BMDP office recently had the opportunity to host a patient-and-donor meeting – that very special day when a year has passed since the transplant and both parties are finally allowed to meet up.

So while it isn't exactly an everyday occurrence, it was the first time that the two star performers in this human drama were willing to share with the world their very private moment. What better way can we demonstrate that being a bone marrow donor is simply the “right thing” to do – because from one small act, a life portrayed in the smile and the tears of a patient, can literally be brought back.

Telling the audience that it was “like winning the charity lottery when one simple act can mean all the difference in the world for another”, 28 year-old donor Yow Enning met the man whose life she saved. Almost the same age, transplant recipient Ivan Wijaya and his wife Ledy had traveled back from Indonesia for this very special day; bringing with them the joy and the knowledge that their marriage will indeed have a future.

Looking back to February 2013 and thinking about starting a family, all plans came to a standstill when Ivan was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). Even worse, it proved resistant to chemotherapy making a bone marrow

transplant Ivan's only hope of survival. But like so many patients, there was no suitable family donor so Ivan's doctor turned to the BMDP to find him a matching donor who shared the same tissue type on our register.

So while Ivan and Ledy were going through weeks of grueling chemotherapy treatment and anxiously waiting for news, a surprised Enning received a call from the BMDP. It was seven years since those SMU days when she had first signed up but without hesitating and not being one to back out on her promise, fortunately for Ivan, she grabbed the chance to help. While sharing their story, we learned that Ivan's life-saving transplant procedure happened by coincidence on Ivan and Ledy's second wedding anniversary!

Ivan and Enning's story can be seen in video as they share the heartache and the joy of facing a certain death but being given a second chance.

“I keep getting the term ‘hero’ thrown at me but it feels like such a big word when I think back to what I've done,” says Enning. “It seems like a small thing that ended up meaning so much for someone else.”

“I don't have enough ‘thank yous’ to express how my family and I feel towards you,” says Ivan.

Written by: BMDP