



## San Diego Community Rallies around Local Hero Diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma

*“Donate for Drew Day” to raise funds for the International Myeloma Foundation, encourage bone marrow testing*

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**ENCINITAS, CA**– Organizations from across San Diego County will come together for “Donate for Drew Day,” an event to raise funds for the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF) and encourage people to become part of a national bone marrow registry in honor of Drew Spaeth, an Encinitas resident recently diagnosed with multiple myeloma. The event will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2005, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. at the North Coast Presbyterian Church in Encinitas, CA.

“Our goal is to raise awareness of multiple myeloma and generate funds for the IMF to support education and research into this disease,” said Spaeth. “We also want to motivate people to donate their bone marrow and become part of the National Marrow Donor Program. It’s painless and easy, can actually save the life of a person, like me, who is in need of a bone marrow transplant.”

Drew Spaeth is a grateful husband, and father of two young men. He's an avid surfer and snowboarder, baseball coach and mentor. Early last year after experiencing symptoms of back pain and fatigue, Drew went to see his family physician. Blood test results caused concern and he was referred to an oncologist. Drew was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in September 2004. He had an autologous bone marrow transplant May 16th of this year. The procedure went well and Drew is feeling stronger every day.

“Multiple myeloma is a complex and often misdiagnosed cancer,” said Susie Novis, IMF president. “Events such as Donate for Drew Day add tremendously to the public’s understanding of myeloma and how it can be treated. We want to thank the Spaeth family for their efforts.”

Multiple myeloma attacks and destroys bone. Myeloma affects approximately 75,000 - 100,000 people in the United States, with more than 14,500 new cases diagnosed this year. While there is no known cure for myeloma, doctors now have access to new therapies that can improve the quality of life and help patients live longer.

Thousands of people are expected to attend the Donate for Drew Day event. An eclectic group of organizations including the San Diego Blood Bank and individual volunteers from the United States Navy, and others will be there to support Drew Spaeth and encourage the public to participate. Donate for Drew Day will feature live music by Uncle Boogie, a raffle ticket drawing for a wide range of gifts, and a silent auction. There will be plenty of family activities and children are welcome.

For more information about the event, visit [www.donatefordrew.com](http://www.donatefordrew.com) or contact Danna Korn at 858-756-5313. For more information about the IMF and multiple myeloma, visit [www.myeloma.org](http://www.myeloma.org) or contact Suzanne Battaglia at 800-452-CURE.