

## **Annapolis: Child Needs Bone Marrow Transplant**



The 5-year-old Hillsmere boy whose struggle with cancer has united his community will need a bone marrow transplant, doctors discovered last week.

Vincent DiBerardinis, who was attending Hillsmere Elementary, has been battling Acute Myelogenous Leukemia since December. He has been traveling back and forth to John's Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore and staying sometimes for weeks at a time.

On Friday, doctors confirmed that the rapidly progressing cancer had spread to his bone marrow, according to Laura DiBerardinis, his mother. The diagnosis means a bone marrow transplant, something doctors did not initially believe would be necessary. One possible donor has been found, but the search continues for more candidates.

Meanwhile, Vince, admitted to the hospital on Friday for chemotherapy, came home Sunday in time to celebrate Easter. He is expected to return to the hospital on Thursday.

The Hillsmere PTA held a fundraiser last month to pay for expenses not covered by the family's health insurance. Friends are also planning a benefit 5K race on May 11.

For more information about the run, call Jim Fratino at 800-777-2510.

Donations can be sent to the Vincent DiBerardinis Fund, 321 Hemsley Drive, Queenstown, MD 21658.

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