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## Local bone marrow recipient meets donor

By: Penne Usher, Journal Staff Writer  
Sunday, December 24, 2006 7:13 PM PST

Master Sgt. Dan Rosson risked his life in Iraq, but before he was deployed he gave the gift of life to an Auburn man.

Jeremy Davis, 29, was first diagnosed in 2000 with acute myelogenous leukemia. Chemotherapy put him into remission until the summer of 2004.

Davis was back in the hospital, this time in need of a bone marrow transplant.

He registered with the National Marrow Donor Program and they found a match. The transplant, performed at Stanford Medical Center, was successful.

Now on the long road to recovery, there was one piece of the puzzle missing for Davis. He wanted to meet his donor.

Around 11 a.m. Friday, Rosson, who serves with the U.S. Marine Corps 9th Communication Battalion, met Davis.

"I'm just glad to be able to help him and his family," said Rosson, a 45-year-old father of two and grandfather of three.

It was a decade ago that Rosson, who returned from Iraq three weeks ago, first donated blood and was placed on a list to become a potential donor.

"Six years later I matched a patient," Rosson said. "At the end of 2004, the



Jeremy Davis, 29, of Auburn, met Dan Rosson, the man who saved his life, for the first time Friday. Photo by michelle miller/ Auburn Journal

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donor program asked if I'd be willing to donate again."

That's when Davis received the gift of life.

"It meant a lot to me," Davis said. "It allows me to be here now."

Davis provided his contact information to Stanford officials where the surgery was performed. They in turn contacted Georgetown University where Rosson donated.

"I was in Iraq and got the e-mail from Georgetown University," Rosson said. "I had Jeremy's e-mail information and we corresponded while I was deployed."

For Rosson, the decision to donate bone marrow was an easy one.

"If my family needed something like that I'd want someone to be able to help," he said. "I'm proud to have been able to help."

Davis said the two have much in common.

Both donor and recipient enjoy the outdoors and four-wheeling on the tugged Rubicon Trail.

"Thanks to Dan, I'm walking and not in the hospital," Davis said.

The Journal's Penne Usher can be reached at [penneu@goldcountrymedia.com](mailto:penneu@goldcountrymedia.com).

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**Story Comments »**

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**Leanne** wrote on **January 11, 2007 8:16 AM**: "Awesome! Dan I am proud to know you, and awfully lucky too. This is a great article. Congratulations to both of you! "

**Christine Worden previously of Grass Valley** wrote on **December 27, 2006 10:57 AM**: "It is so great to hear success stories like this with Davis and Rosson. In 1993 while donating blood, I too went on the list for bone marrow donation. Within in 6 months I was notified of being a match for a 13 year-old girl with Leukemia. We did the transplant, however within 2 months she passed away. You feel the loss as if it's your own. In 2003, I was again approached as being a match and was undergoing the blood work to complete the process when I was informed the recipient passed away before we finalized. Sometimes it doesn't work out well, but this is the last chance the patient has to surviving this ordeal. Donating bone marrow is such as easy simple process and I recommend everyone to get involved and get on the National Bone Marrow donation list."

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