



MatchJake: Family Facts

- Jake was born July 17, 2006, in San Francisco, CA.
- Jake's parents are Robert Emmet Larkin and Kimberly Anne Cluff.
- Jake has two siblings, Catie Jo Larkin, age 8, and Kyle Griffith, age 19. Neither of Jake's siblings are bone marrow matches.
- Both of Jake's parents are second generation Irish. His dad is 100% Irish and his mother is an Irish / English / Scottish mix via Canada.
 - On his father's side, the paternal family – Larkin and Quinn – hails from Wexford in the south, and from Cobh, County Cork, respectively.
 - Jake's father's maternal family lineage – McKenna and Mooney – hail from County Tyrone, and Cookstown in Northern Ireland.
- The Larkin family is *not* related to famed Irish social activist and labor leader, James "Big Jim" Larkin. The name James has been handed down through Jake's family. Jake is short for "James (McKenna) Larkin IV" and he is named after his great grandfather, who was born in 1897.
- Jake lives in San Francisco but he and his mom, dad and sister relocated to Milwaukee for Jake to be treated at Children's Hospital Wisconsin. Big brother Kyle is in college at Emory University in Atlanta.



MatchJake Background Information

Jake has a Rare Blood Disorder Called Severe Aplastic Anemia

- Jake was diagnosed on February 17, 2012 with an extremely rare blood disorder called Severe Aplastic Anemia. His bone marrow does not make enough new blood cells – red blood cells, white blood cells or platelets.
- When first diagnosed, Jake's bone marrow had completely shut down, a condition called *Very Severe Aplastic Anemia*.
- Any infection, whether it is the common cold or athlete's foot, can be life-threatening for Jake, as is his risk of bleeding due to his low blood cell counts.
- On the outside Jake looks and acts like any other robust six-year-old boy. However, on the inside he is critically ill.

World-class Care Leads to Worldwide Search for a Match

- Since February, Jake has been on an immunosuppressant drug therapy and weekly blood transfusions to make up for the blood his bone marrow is not producing.
- He and his family relocated to the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin on June 12, 2012 to be treated by one of the nation's top Aplastic Anemia specialists, Dr. David Margolis. (view Dr. Margolis' bio: <http://www.chw.org/display/PPF/DocID/30988/Nav/1/router.asp>)
- Since being treated at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Jake's body has started showing small signs of blood production.

Jake's Best Hope for a Cure is a Bone Marrow Transplant

- According to Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide there are more than 20 million potential bone marrow donors worldwide. Yet, not a single perfect "10 out of 10" match has been confirmed for Jake.
- The closer a potential donor's genetic makeup is to Jake's, the greater the chance for a match. We need everyone to be tested, but those who are of Irish descent are more likely to be a match and increase the odds of saving his life.

Testing to Be Jake's Match is Quick, Painless, Free and Simple to Do

- Testing to see if you are a match is quick and painless – a simple cheek swab. Donors can even do it themselves. Donors must be ages 18 to 60 and meet medical guidelines.
- Though it costs the marrow bank about \$100 US to process each test, the donor pays nothing and it takes just a few minutes to do the swab and be registered.
- As soon as the test results are processed, the potential donor's marrow is registered in an international database and becomes immediately available to any matching patient worldwide.
- Those that are not able to go to a bone marrow drive can register on-line to help Jake at join.bethematch.org/

matchjake.

- Online registrants receive a swab kit in the mail that they can do at home and then mail back free of charge. It takes about 6-8 weeks for the swabs to be processed and added to the registry.

If You Are Not Jake's Match, You May Match Others in Need of a Match

- Every swab has the potential to help someone with a life threatening bone marrow or blood disease such as: Aplastic Anemia, Leukemia, MDS, and Hodgkin disease. A recent study even shows bone marrow transplants may have a positive impact in HIV/AIDS treatment (see: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2012/07/26/157444649/two-more-nearing-aids-cure-after-bone-marrow-transplants-doctors-say>)
- Only half of the 10,000 people who need a bone marrow transplant in the U.S. each year actually receive one because a suitable match cannot be found. There are more than 20 million potential bone marrow donors on registries around the world, but more are needed.

Stay Connected To Jake

- To learn more about Jake, the process of bone marrow donation, and Severe Aplastic Anemia, visit his web site at www.matchjake.org. You can also friend him on Facebook to keep up on his progress at www.facebook.com/matchjake.

Helpful Resources:

Jake's Web site: www.matchjake.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/matchjake

Aplastic Anemia Resources and Facts:

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/aplastic/>

[http://marrow.org/Patient/Disease_and_Treatment/About_Your_Disease/Aplastic_Anemia/Aplastic_Anemia_\(Severe\).aspx](http://marrow.org/Patient/Disease_and_Treatment/About_Your_Disease/Aplastic_Anemia/Aplastic_Anemia_(Severe).aspx)

Jake's video (also linked through his website): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7Ve-0zdjE&feature=plcp>

“Celebrating Be The Match:”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VSTAD40V-4&feature=player_embedded