

The Sunflower Fund partners with SANBS to help save lives

June is Blood Donor Month and the students from DUT's Steve Biko Campus, with the support of The Sunflower Fund and the South African National Blood Services, are encouraging everyone to become bone marrow stem cell donors.

By educating healthy, caring and committed people they hope to increase the South African Bone Marrow Registry (SABMR).

"Matching donors and patients requires them to have a similar DNA. It is very unlikely that a leukaemia patient, in need of a transplant, will find their donor match outside their own ethnic group and with the odds of finding a match being 1:100 000 it is vital that we increase the SABMR which currently only has around 65 000 donors.

"The Sunflower Fund pays the R2 000 it costs to test the blood of each and every person who joins the Registry. If you are able to donate towards the cost of the test it is much appreciated, otherwise donors can ask to be sponsored in full by The Sunflower Fund.



"They will then be placed on a waiting list," explains Stephanie Berry, PR Manager for The Sunflower Fund in KwaZulu-Natal. If you are between the ages of 18 and 50, weigh over 50kgs with no history of sexually transmitted diseases and would like to find out more about becoming a bone marrow stem cell donor to help anyone suffering from a life-threatening blood disorder contact The Sunflower Fund toll free on 0800 12 10 82, weekdays between 8.30am and 4.30pm or visit www.sunflowerfund.org.za. The students are also encouraging the public to join the South

African National Blood Service this June and celebrate those who contribute to saving the lives of others. "This month of June is dedicated to those who are committed blood donors and to encourage those who are not, to join our "Nation of Doers". "It is to acknowledge

all you Heroes who take time to donate blood and save the lives of patients in need," said Vanessa Raju, Brand and Communications Manager of SANBS. To find out more about World Blood Donor Day and Blood Donor Month visit www.sanbs.org.za or call 0800 11 90 31.