

Bria's story

Bria Toiyon Chism lost her battle with cancer at the age of six in 1999. She needed a marrow transplant to survive, but there just wasn't a large enough pool of African-Americans on the registry to draw from. Her grandparents, Walter and



LaGail Chism, researched the topic of marrow transplants in African-American patients. They discovered that minorities in the U.S. in general, are not well represented on the marrow registry, and that this was primarily due to a lack of awareness that marrow transplants can save lives.

The Bria T. Chism Foundation (www.btchismfoundation.org)



The Bria T. Chism Foundation is based in Raytown, MO and was established in December 1999 with the mission to increase the number of minorities on the Be The Match Registry. Fulfilling this mission would help minorities with leukemia and other blood-related diseases have a better chance of survival. After more than 20 years of adding people of color to the Registry, the Foundation has decided to assist those people that are on the "front line" fighting of the battle against cancer and other blood related diseases, hence the inception of this scholarship specifically targeted at oncology nursing students.

For any questions, please contact the Bria T. Chism Foundation at 816 353-5934, or by email at rdcarterbtcf@gmail.com