



LOVING DECISION CONFERENCE 2007

THE NEXT 40 YEARS OF MULTIRACIAL COMMUNITIES



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Register to Save a Life at Loving Decision Conference 2007

Loving Decision Conference 2007: The Next 40 Years of Multiracial Communities

CHICAGO, IL - The Association of MultiEthnic Americans (AMEA) has coordinated an international conference to mark the 40th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia (1967), the US Supreme Court's decision to legalize interracial marriage. For the first time in U.S. history, the growing multiracial community and their advocates will have a forum to unite, actively raising awareness and addressing some of the issues faced by this unique population.

In 2006, there were over 90,000 patients in America newly diagnosed with blood cancer. There is a potential cure for many, which is receiving marrow cells from a healthy donor who matches the patient. One of the medical challenges confronting the nearly 7 million Americans who identify themselves as having multiple heritages is the difficulty in finding one of these matching donors should they need a transplant. A Harvard University student, Sam Cross, has found himself in this situation and is currently fighting for his life. Sam suffers from Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). Before his illness, Sam was an excellent student, captain of the fencing team, part of the tennis club and an active volunteer. Now, his mixed heritage (Korean and Caucasian) is making his search for a donor particularly difficult.

In 2006, only 20% of those on the donor registry represented all minority groups combined. To help Sam and other individuals diagnosed with blood cancers, **DKMS (the largest donor center in the world) will register potential marrow donors at the Loving Decision Conference 2007.** On Friday June 22 and Saturday June 23, individuals can register right on the conference site at the *Mansfield Institute for Social Justice* (Roosevelt University) in Chicago, IL. The registration process is quick, easy, and painless. Volunteers will fill out the registration/consent forms and have 4 buccal swabs moved around their cheek for 15 seconds to be tested for tissue types. Please visit www.dkmsamericas.org or call (866) 340-DKMS to learn more.

"Now is the time for all of us to come together and give the beautiful gift of life to someone who desperately needs it," says Alina Surprunova who works in Donor Recruitment at DKMS Americas.

In addition to addressing serious medical challenges, the Loving Decision Conference will tackle some of the legal, educational, and social issues faced by the multiracial community. For more information about the conference, including registration and a full schedule of events, please visit www.lovingconference.com.

The event is being coordinated by the Association of MultiEthnic Americans (AMEA) with support from many of their affiliates and allies including: iPride, Bridge Communications Inc., MOHXCA, Interracial Family Circle, HONEY Inc., Oregon Council on Multiracial Affairs, The Topaz Club, Biracial Family Network, Multiracial Americans of Southern California, Multiethnic Education Program, American Counseling Association, and Loving Day Organization.

About Association of MultiEthnic Americans (AMEA): AMEA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which serves as an international umbrella association dedicated to advocacy, education and collaboration on behalf the multiethnic, multiracial and transracial adoption community and allies. Donations for the conference can be mailed to: AMEA / P.O. Box 29223 / Los Angeles, CA 90029-0223

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