

FOR KEITON, 7, TO FIND A BONE MARROW DONOR

Only a month left to save his life



FIGHTING CHANCE:
Keiton and his mum
need a reader's help

Picture: MIKE MOORE

nothing but the fear of losing my son, and all the debts on top of me. I would start crying and I couldn't stop. I couldn't take this any more, and there seemed no way out.

"I thought I could just get a pillow and suffocate Keiton, then take pills myself."

It was her lowest point and she turned to the Samaritans for help.

She says: "I was lying on my kitchen floor crying down the phone and this wonderful woman stayed on the line with me throughout the night.

"She kept on telling me it was completely natural to feel like this, that many parents in my situation feel the same and have the same terrible thoughts.

"The next day I decided to just stop thinking about everything except for looking

after Keiton and making sure he recovered." And just seeing Keiton smile helped her through the worst moments.

She says: "He is such a lovely boy that he often made me feel happy whenever I was low."

Paris concentrated on getting him walking again. She says: "He would watch his friends from our

balcony and I'd say: 'If you want to play football again you've got to dangle your legs over the end of the bed and kick this football.' Eventually he could wiggle his toe, then his leg, then he could walk with a frame."

By February 2004 he was able to take his first steps alone. Paris recalls: "He was on the sofa and suddenly got to his feet with a grin, and said: 'Look mummy I'm walking.'"

"It felt amazing, he had proved the doctors wrong."

Next he was fit to attend infant

school for a few hours a day and it seemed he was winning. But three months ago Paris received terrible news - the cancer had returned.

She says: "When they told me it was back I couldn't believe it. It was just beyond words, so devastating.

WHEN I told him that the cancer was back, he burst into tears and just, kept weeping: 'I'm going to die. He's very weak now.'

Keiton will die within months unless a suitable donor is found by November. He is of mixed-race so the donor must be mixed-race too, ideally a man aged 18 to 40.

Paris says: "Keiton can only take so much chemotherapy because he's so young. Time's not on his side. The cancer is in his blood. The only way to cure

him is to find someone who can donate their bone marrow, to give him healthy blood."

Paris adds: "If you're a mixed race male, aged between 18 and 40, with one Afro-Caribbean and one white parent, then think about my baby and find it in your heart to help him by becoming a donor. Please contact the Anthony Nolan Trust charity.

"If your bone marrow is a match, you will be a hero. You will save my little boy's life."

Robert Spigel, spokesman for the Anthony Nolan Trust, says: "When a patient is of mixed race it makes it harder to find the right donor, like looking for a needle in a haystack.

"But we do find matches, so we urge people to come forward and join the register."

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● To check on Keiton's progress, click on to www.keitonnknight.com



CAN YOU HELP?

TO donate bone marrow call the Anthony Nolan Trust hotline 0901 88 222 34 (calls cost 25p a min, profits go to charity) or click on www.anthonolan.org.uk or the African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust www.act.org.uk