



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jack M. Martins

## Senator Martins Encourages Donors to Participate in Blood Drive for Sarah Grace Foundation

JACK M. MARTINS March 15, 2011

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Senator Jack M. Martins is encouraging residents to support a blood drive being held benefit a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of children with cancer while at the same time offering comfort and support to their families.

The Hicksville-based Sarah Grace Foundation For Children With Cancer will hold its 3rd Annual Sarah Grace Weippert Memorial Blood Drive on Saturday, March 26 at the William P. Bennett Community Center, 28 West Carle Street in Hicksville, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

When she was 11-years-old, Sarah was diagnosed with cancer. Although she fought a brave battle with the disease, Sarah passed away nine months later. In order to keep her memory alive, Sarah's parents – Matt and Marissa – and her brother James – formed the Sarah Grace Foundation For Children With Cancer.

"The courage my beautiful Sarah displayed throughout her illness and at her death is the strength that keeps us going," said Matt Weippert.

The blood drive is held each year in honor of Sarah's birthday, which is March 31. Many people need blood during chemotherapy treatments and the blood drive is a way for Sarah

to continue to have a positive effect on others.

“When I read about Sarah and the efforts of her parents, I was deeply touched. As a father, I can only imagine the heartache they have gone through. But thanks to the Weippert family, Sarah will continue to touch others. I applaud their efforts and hope that they get a large turnout,” said Senator Martins.

Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds, be between the ages of 16 and 76 and have a signed photo ID. For additional information on donating blood, contact Long Island Blood Services at 1-800-933-2566.

The foundation is also planning a fundraiser on April 8, A Night of Laughter, at the Milleridge Cottage.

The foundation works with social workers and staff members from pediatric oncology departments at various New York hospitals including Cohen Children’s Medical Center in New Hyde Park.

For more information on the Sarah Grace Foundation For Children With Cancer, visit <http://thesarahgracefoundation.org>.