



*About the Artist:*

Thomas Green, our holiday guest artist, celebrated his ninth birthday in September 1996 and does just about all the things a healthy nine-year old does. But when he was six years old, Thomas was diagnosed with acute myelocytic leukemia (AML). He received intensive chemotherapy treatments, spent weeks in the hospital, and had problems with fevers and low blood counts. Although his AML initially responded to the chemotherapy, it relapsed just a few months later and required more intensive antileukemia drug treatments. Thomas was again in the hospital for treatment of complications like bloodstream infections, and he required numerous bone marrow tests and spinal taps in the clinic and in the hospital.

After further chemotherapy, his leukemia went into a second remission. Thomas's doctors knew that the best chance to cure his AML was with a bone marrow transplant. But Thomas's sister was not a tissue-type (HLA) match, and there was not time to find a suitable matched unrelated bone marrow donor. Faced with this dilemma, his family and doctors searched for other curative options. They found out that physician-investigators at the Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Program at Emory University and Egleston Children's Hospital in Atlanta were evaluating stem cell transplants from parents to children using the stem-cell selection technology pioneered by CellPro, Incorporated. Using parents, who are half-matched at the tissue type antigens, as stem cell donors for their children greatly expands the donor pool and could provide many more children with curative treatment of high-risk leukemia.

A medical device developed by CellPro, called the CEPRATE® Stem Cell Concentration System, allowed the Emory physicians to select and purify the stem cells from Thomas's mother's bone marrow and peripheral blood cells. Selecting stem cells reduces the chances of severe graft-versus-host disease that would otherwise occur if a child were to receive a half-matched bone marrow transplant from a parent.

Under the direction of Andrew M. Yeager, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at Emory University, Thomas received a stem cell transplant from his mother, Nancy Green, in January 1995. Within two weeks after the stem cell transplant, Thomas's blood counts were returning to normal and there was no evidence of AML. Now almost two years after transplant, Thomas is off all medications, has normal blood counts, has no graft-versus-host disease, and—most importantly—has no AML. He's back leading a busy, normal life, balancing school, little league, and an avid interest in outer space. He even found a bit of spare time to provide the artwork for this holiday greeting from CellPro!

