Firefighter Family,

 District Chief Ronald Brady of Baker Fire Dept. has recently been diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). This is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow where there’s an abnormal increase in immature white blood cells (myeloblasts). The exact cause of AML is not fully understood, but the very young cells, called myeloid stem cells in your bone marrow that should develop into different types of white blood cells instead be cancerous.

**Some Facts About Leukemia**

* **Acute** is fast growing and can be fatal if left untreated.
* **Myeloid Leukemia** creates cells that release enzymes to protect the body when bacteria or fungi enter and try to cause disease.
* Men are 31% more likely to get leukemia than women. They are also having a higher leukemia mortality rate that is 30% higher than females.

**Doctors Can Diagnose Leukemia in three ways:**

* **Physical exam** – Dr inspects body for signs of leukemia, such as bruises.
* **Blood test** – a patient with leukemia will have an imbalance of white blood cells or platelets.
* **Bone marrow** – a Dr will take a sample of your bone marrow, usually from your hip bone.

Ronald is presently at Ochsner Hospital in New Orleans, which is a leading hospital of Leukemia.

We are putting together a

**Platelet and Blood Donor Drive**

on Thursday, April 17th 2025

at the Baker Fire Dept.

3701 Groom Rd. Baker, LA 70714

9 am – 4 pm

Anyone interested in donating platelets/blood or with questions, please contact **Chantelle Brady @ 225-615-6987**