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## Matthew Van Ormer, Student Spotlight

University of Nebraska at Omaha

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# Matthew Van Ormer

## Engagement Spotlights

Campus Commitment

Engagement Spotlights

• **Matthew Van Ormer**

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**Thank you for all you do for your community!**

Community engagement and service are fundamental components of UNO's identity.

Matt Van Ormer exemplifies UNO's commitment to community engagement.

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Matthew Van Ormer worked at The Collaborative and is the co-founder of UNO Be The Match, a student organization aimed at adding individuals to the national bone marrow registry.

The Collaborative is part of the Office of Civic and Social Responsibility. Located in UNO's Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (room 130), it is a student-led program created to organize and coordinate university-wide service and volunteering opportunities. As the former Special Project Manager, Matt partnered student workers with various nonprofits. "The student gets to be immersed in the nonprofit field by working with the assigned nonprofit, and nonprofit gets the benefit of an employee that they don't have to find a budget for."

Matt is highly involved in the nonprofit world. "I've worked with dozens, if not over one hundred nonprofits, in my last two years in the office. We help nonprofits host events, we have done fundraisers, we have done different drives for hygiene products, clothing items, really anything you can imagine."

### UNO Be The Match

It was during the 60 Minutes of Service - a weekly opportunity during the lunch hour that allows students to learn about various nonprofits while providing service - that Matt learned about the strong need for bone marrow donors. Matt, a pre-med and business administration student, explained:

"Bone marrow donations help patients of leukemia, lymphoma, and sickle cell anemia. Leukemia and lymphoma are cancers most common in children. But even in adults, people are in such a vulnerable stage that they cannot do much to help themselves. A bone marrow donation is the only cure for a cancer science has. So it is very rewarding work and it makes an incredible difference in people's lives."

In an effort to add individuals to the national bone marrow registry - Matt and a co-student, **Alex Bauer**, created the UNO Be The Match student organization. Since founding the organization, Matt and Alex have added 150 people to the national bone marrow registry.

#### Additional Resources

[The Collaborative](#)

[UNO Be The Match](#)

[Be The Match](#)

[Omaha Food Pantries](#)

[Madonna School](#)

#### Share Your Story:

Did you organize or participate in a community-oriented project or service? UNO wants to hear from you!

UNO is committed to community engagement in its broadest form, and wants to feature your community service story.

[Click here](#) to share your story.

Make today the day you save lives through marrow donation 



Matt has always been involved with his community. As a child, Matt volunteered at a Food Pantry. "Mother really drove this because she always said that in a given day something could happen and we could be at the other end of the pantry line. So it was really important for us to learn that in life." As a high school student, Matt volunteered at the Madonna School, a school for developmentally and physically disabled kids.

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