



Jennifer– blood donor

Terry– blood donor

Kristin- blood recipient

Michele– blood donor

Ken– blood donor

This moment made possible by

THESE blood donors!

In August 2003, Kristin Belmonte suffered from a rare pregnancy complication which caused massive hemorrhaging after the birth of her second child Emily. This situation resulted in Kristin receiving 26 units of blood. Because blood was available when she needed it, Kristin is alive today- able to have enjoyed being a mother and a wife and continuing to do so for many years to come.

Typically, one who receives blood products never knows the donor or donors from whom the blood came. Blood donations are made voluntarily and anonymously to the community blood supply. However, in a rare event on January 27, 2005, LifeSource, Chicagoland's Blood Center, introduced Kristin to anonymous blood donors who saved her life that fateful day!

An audience comprised of over 150 people (including blood donors, community groups, corporation representatives, LifeSource staff and the media) witness this momentous and emotional occasion.

Darlene Simons, VP and COO of LifeSource opened the event by talking about National Volunteer Blood Donor Month and Chicagoland's need for blood donors. She then introduced Kristin, her husband Dave and their two children, Sammy and Emily. Finally, the time had come for Kristin to meet the people who made this moment (and all of her family's moments after that fateful day) possible.

The lights dimmed and over head the voice of Ken Bluder could be heard. He told as a little about himself: why he donates blood and how he felt about meeting Kristin. The lights raised and Ken walked down the aisle to Kristin waiting there with open arms. Then the same for Michele Sztorc, Jennifer Sloan, and Terry King. A circle of life.

We all know we cannot exist without blood. It is as vital to us as the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. In the event of a grave trauma, a critical illness or an emergency situation, are you confident there is enough blood to meet the needs of your community—to meet *your* needs if something should happen to you?

That's what LifeSource is about. We need to see more than 1500 donors every 24 hours in order to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply for Chicagoland. Every day blood is needed in hospitals and emergency treatment facilities for patients with cancer or other diseases, for organ transplants and to save the lives of accident victims. The unselfish gift from blood donors ensures that those in need (often when one least expects it) will have blood available. Kristin Belmonte's story is just one of many that happen every day in Chicagoland. The need for blood knows no age, no sex, no race, no ethnicity and no social status. The need can strike anyone at any time— even on a glorious occasion like bringing a new life into the world.



Kristin & Terry



Kristin & Jennifer



Michele, Ken & Kristin



Emily & her father Dave



Emily