

# The Chain of Life 2005

Monday February 14, 2005 the **Chain of Life** was unveiled at the State of Illinois Building in downtown Chicago. The chain, which is comprised of links that are the names of each blood donor who donated in the month of January, is a visual representation of lives saved because of blood donors. In fact, the entire display of links, multiplied by 3 equals the number of lives touched by these blood donations. **Over 20,000 donors** presented to donate blood during the month of January.

Multiple chains of blue and red links draped side by side, hanging down from the top railing circling the rotunda. Each link unique, with a name signed by a blood donor, some with special messages about **the Joy of Sharing Life**.

The event kicked off at 12 noon in the center of the rotunda, beneath the massive display. LifeSource VP and COO, Darlene Simons opened the event talking to the lunch crowd, LifeSource staff and other blood donors. Many passersby stopped to listen to what each speaker had to say. They watched from above and from the food court below as Darlene introduced each speaker. First to speak was **Dr. DeChristopher** who spoke on the need for blood donations from a physicians perspective. Next was **Dennis James**, a dedicated blood donor who has made over 90 blood donations. Third was **Rebecca Mead**, a mother of 2 small children who have both had blood transfusions since moments after their births. Rebeca's children, who are alive today because of blood donors, are featured on many of the LifeSource billboards that you see throughout Chicagoland. Their smiling faces at any given moment are truly made possible because of blood donors. Last, but not least to speak to an engaged audience was **Jerry Roper**, President of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. Jerry implored residents of Chicagoland to make a difference and donate blood to their community.

The Chain of Life will be on display until the evening of Friday February 18, 2005, but the chain itself will keep growing as long as blood donors continue to donate. Although you may not always see a visual representation with red and blue links, you can see it in the faces of all who has ever needed a blood transfusion.

LifeSource needs to see 1500 blood donors each day in order to meet the needs of Chicagoland patients. When was the last time you shared the joy of life?



The rotunda



The speakers



The Chains



Dr. DeChristopher



Dennis James



Rebeca Mead



Jerry Roper