

*FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISATIONS DE DONNEURS DE SANG
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BLOOD DONOR ORGANIZATIONS
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANIZACIONES DE DONANTES DE SANGRE*

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World Blood Donor Day 2008

On World Blood Donor Day we celebrate the blood donors, which every year save millions of lives and bring relief to patients with cancer, malaria, blood diseases and a number of other diseases.

There is no substitute for blood and blood components, so without blood many patients would die.

This year our theme for the World Blood Donor Day is: **Give blood regularly to help the national blood donation programs to assure a reserve of stable voluntary non-remunerated donors** « Many happy returns » is our motto this year to underline just how important it is to have regular donation.

If we want to plan for the collection of the necessary quantity of blood to meet the demand for blood and in this way guarantee the possibility to receive safe blood transfusions in case of need, we have to make the larger public aware of **the necessity to give blood regularly**, because of the short possible duration of conservation of blood components. We want to encourage present and future donors to give blood at regular intervals.

Everyday during the year regular donors turn up for the collection of blood, but the 14th of June this year is dedicated to them. These are women and men who save lives – by their fidelity, their engagement and their generosity.

Blood donors come from all walks of life and all parts of the world, and they give over 81 million blood donations – every year. We may all one day need treatment by blood, but only one percent of the world's population gives blood. So we need many more donors, if all patients shall be guaranteed proper treatment with safe blood.

Many simply do not know about the need for blood. The world must unite to spread the lifesaving message, that any healthy person can be a donor.

The act of blood donation is unique, and blood donors are special people. We should all salute these everyday heroes, who want to help their fellow human beings.

We need them – and we need more good people, who will give a part of themselves to others.

Niels Mikkelsen
President