

# World Blood Donor Day

“Celebrating the gift of blood” 14 JUNE 2009

The annual World Blood Donor Day highlights the role voluntary blood donors play in saving lives and improving the health of millions of people. Its main aim is to celebrate and offer thanks to those generous individuals who give this human gift without any material reward, often on a regular basis. Of course, it also aims to create awareness about the importance of blood donation and the need for more safe blood.

This year’s World Blood Donor Day message emphasises the importance of improving the safety and sufficiency of blood supplies, through the achievement of 100% voluntary non-remunerated donation systems. The International Federation of Blood Donor Organisations urges countries that are establishing or expanding blood component programmes to base these on 100% voluntary non-remunerated donation.

**TIF** fully supports the message of World Blood Donor Day and the principle of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation. Policies concerning blood adequacy and safety are of crucial importance for all patients living with thalassaemia around the world.

To encourage more people to give blood – a truly life-saving gift – it is vital that their contribution is publicly recognised and valued. You too can help by spreading the message: **Blood donors come from all walks of life and all parts of the world – any healthy person can be a donor!**

For more information visit the World Blood Donor Day website [www.wbdd.org](http://www.wbdd.org)