



Press Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

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For More Information:

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Ford Celebrates Life with Blood Drive at BarrieFest

CHICAGO - State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) is inviting area residents to help save lives by participating in his Spring Blood Drive in conjunction with the South East Oak Park Community Organization's (SEOPCO) 6th Annual BarrieFest on Saturday, June 12.

"I am excited to participate and I encourage community members to donate blood," Ford said. "The blood drive helps provide blood for those who need it right now, as well as for those who will need it in the future. I am happy to partner with LifeSource and the South East Oak Park Community Organization in this effort."

BarrieFest will be conducted from 1-5 p.m. in southeast Oak Park at the intersection of Lombard and Garfield streets, and will include games for children, live entertainment, food vendors, and the blood drive. The LifeSource van will accept donors from noon- 4:30 p.m.

According to the American Red Cross, one of every ten people admitted to a hospital needs blood. Every pint of blood donated can help to save the lives of three people. Recently, Representative Ford spoke up to support the restoration of funding for the Comprehensive UIC Sickle Cell Center. Sickle cell disease affects more than 80,000 people in the United States. Sickle cell patients require frequent blood transfusions throughout their lives.

"Barrie Fest has two purposes; the first is to host a celebration by and for the residents of southeast Oak Park, the second is to showcase our wonderful neighborhood to others who wish to attend," said Jim Kelly with SEOPCO, an organizer of the event. "Representative Ford's initiative to include the blood drive in this event provides everyone who attends an opportunity to give back while they enjoy the festivities."

"The need for blood is constant and ongoing. It's required for surgeries and medical procedures, leukemia and cancer management, trauma and other care. Your blood donation is vital to the community supply as every two seconds someone needs blood," said Tammy Basile, LifeSource spokesperson.

For more information regarding the Blood Drive or BarrieFest, please call Rep. Ford at the Oak Park constituent service office at (708) 445-3673.

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