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Skyline Plunge! Chicago takes participants over the edge Brave Chicagoans to rappel theWit Hotel Sept. 17 and 18

More than 130 daring men and women will rappel theWit Hotel Saturday, September 17, and Sunday, September 18, as part of Skyline Plunge! Chicago. Suspended 278 feet above the intersection of State and Lake Streets, participants will step over the edge to raise awareness and funds for lung disease.

The event, hosted by Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, will raise more than \$160,000 to support local lung disease research, advocacy and education in Chicago.

Although some join for the adventure, nearly two-thirds of the participants will step over the edge in honor or in memory of a loved one who has been personally affected by lung disease. One participant, Amy Campbell-Brissette, said the event has become very personal because her twin daughters were diagnosed with asthma when they were 1 year old, and this summer have had to take asthma medication every four hours.

"At first I was rappelling for my family members who passed away from lung cancer, but now I'm doing it for my girls," Amy said. "They're the ones who are still alive and have to deal with lung disease every day."

Kelsey Kamp signed up for Plunge to honor her grandfather, who passed away from pulmonary fibrosis and emphysema. She can still remember how her grandfather's smoking damaged air sacs in his lungs and made him progressively shorter of breath. Pulmonary fibrosis caused scarring of his lung tissue and his lungs slowly lost the ability to deliver oxygen. Since her first exposure to lung disease, Kelsey has met many other people who've also experienced it in some way.

"Lung health affects everyone, whether they realize it or not," Kelsey said. "And more than anything, I think education about lung disease is really important. We need to know more about the causes, effects and treatments."

"In the crowd at State and Lake, everyone feels the adrenaline as they watch each person begin their descent," said Gina Schwieger, senior director of special events for Respiratory Health Association. "The thrill of the event, combined with the deeply personal connection that participants and their supporters have to the cause of lung health, creates a wonderful energy and sense of unity. It's inspiring to see so many people committed to making a difference for people living with lung disease."

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Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) has been a local public health leader since 1906. Today the Association fights lung disease and promotes healthy lungs by supporting research, advocacy, and educational efforts on behalf of individuals and families affected by lung cancer, asthma, COPD (chronic bronchitis and emphysema), and other lung diseases. For more information, visit www.lungchicago.org.

theWit Hotel (201 N. State Street) is a lifestyle hotel experience located in the heart of Chicago's energetic Loop theater district. theWit is a flagship property developed by Scott Greenberg of the ECD Company. As part of the Doubletree brand and the Hilton Family of Hotels, clients enjoy the benefits of membership of the Hilton HHonors guest reward program. Impeccable service with a clever twist is the hallmark of theWit experience, and the hotel's stylishly irreverent character is inspired by the culture and self-expression so inherent in its urban surroundings.