

### Who We Are

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit community-supported blood bank that provides a reliable supply of quality blood products and services to hospitals and health centers in need.

- SCBB operates four main blood donor centers located in Sarasota, Nokomis, Lakewood Ranch and Arcadia and maintains a fleet of 7 bloodmobiles for donor convenience.
- SCBB exclusively serves: Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System, Doctors Hospital, Manatee Memorial Hospital, Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, DeSoto Memorial Hospital, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, HealthSouth Ridgelake Hospital as well as Bayflite 2 Medical Transport Helicopter.
- SCBB is licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is governed by a board of directors comprised of various community members.
- SCBB is accredited by the Association of American Blood Banks and is a member of America's Blood Centers.
- SCBB shares resources with other SW Florida hospitals as needed and when available.

### Critical Role as First Responders

The critical role of blood banking is recognized by its national designation from Congress, as a community first responder, on par with law enforcement and EMS.

- In order to fulfill the role as a first responder to our hospitals and community, SCBB needs to collect an average of 100 units of blood daily.
- SCBB collects approximately 33,000 units of blood annually..
- Red blood cells are viable for 42 days and platelets for only 5 days.

### Community Impact

There is no substitute for human blood.

- Blood can only be given from one person to another.
- Three lives can be saved by one blood donation.
- Locally, more than half of the blood collected is done through blood drives.
- Open heart surgery patients may require an average of 4 units of just red blood cells alone. Some patients may require more. A maximum average usage may be more than 20 units.
- Sarasota Memorial Hospital uses 1/3 of the daily blood supply just for outpatient treatment for cancer patients.
- Cancer, leukemia, sickle cell patients and burn victims are all frequent recipients of blood transfusions.

### Safety of the blood supply

Nationally only 38% of the population is eligible to donate blood (down from 60% previously reported).

- 14 tests are performed on each unit of blood including HIV, Hepatitis, Syphilis and West Nile virus
- You cannot get HIV or any other infectious disease from donating blood.