



A Not-For-Profit Community-Supported Blood Bank

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Blood Bank Granted Re-Accreditation**

**Sarasota-** Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) was recently notified it was granted re-accreditation by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB). The accreditation distinguishes SCBB as an organization in full compliance with the highest possible industry standards for delivering safe blood products. The accreditation process occurs every two years and entails rigorous site inspections and assessment of SCBB's operating procedures regarding blood collection, processing, storage, testing and matching. This examination is conducted by AABB-trained assessors representing blood centers throughout the country.

The blood banking profession is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which establishes the rules and regulations that insure the safety of the nation's blood supply. AABB publishes updated standards every 18 months to address the continual changes in the industry as defined by the FDA. AABB accreditation demonstrates an organization's commitment to advanced learning, continuous improvement and innovation.

"Thankfully, blood banking is a heavily regulated field," says Diana Berry, Director of Quality Assurance for SCBB. "We pride ourselves on continually providing the utmost level of patient and donor safety and care."

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“The blood collection field has experienced a great deal of change over the past few years. Some good, some disturbing,” explains Dr. Mark Magenheim, Medical Director and CEO of SCBB. “While technological advances promise to revolutionize transfusion medicine and cellular therapy, globalization has resulted in a greatly diminished pool of eligible donors due to possible exposure to new transmittable diseases. It is imperative that we remain on top of all new regulatory standards to ensure a secure blood supply for our citizens.”

Established in 1949, SCBB is among the nation’s oldest independent local blood centers. SCBB collects blood locally and serves local hospitals in Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and DeSoto counties. AABB was established in 1953 to develop standards for blood banks and then to accredit blood centers in accordance with those standards.

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