



A Not-For-Profit Community-Supported Blood Bank

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Suncoast Communities Blood Bank Awarded Grant**

**Sarasota-** Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) was recently awarded a \$67,164 grant by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice to upgrade blood collection instruments for its Nokomis blood collection center. SCBB was one of 20 non-profits awarded a grant in the latest funding cycle.

The newly acquired automated equipment allows individuals to donate platelets, a portion of the blood critical to blood clotting. 80% of the platelets collected at Suncoast Communities Blood Bank go to cancer patients within Sarasota, Charlotte and DeSoto counties. The Blood Bank is the primary source of platelets in Sarasota County for trauma and oncology patients.

“The Foundation Board recognized that this project will help Suncoast Communities Blood Bank meet a critical need in our community,” said Teri A. Hansen, president and CEO of Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice. “Our mission is to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve, and this partnership will enable the blood bank to better serve some of the most vulnerable patients in our area.”

“Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice has consistently supported the Suncoast Communities Blood Bank in its service area. As the only locally based not-for-profit community blood bank serving the Gulf Coast Community Foundation’s region, SCBB is committed to maintain the highest standards of care and safety for its blood donors and recipients,” said Dr. Mark J. Magenheimer, CEO and Medical Director of Suncoast Communities Blood Bank. “With this grant, SCBB is now able to extend the latest technology for enhanced safety, comfort, and personalized experiences for its loyal platelet donors in the Gulf Coast Community Foundation area. We very much appreciate this expression of confidence from Gulf Coast Community Foundation in our mission, values, and goals.”

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