



A Not-For-Profit
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Blood Bank

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NEWS RELEASE

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank's 11th Annual O'Party
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O', we can really use the community's help!

"Floridians have learned all too well during hurricane season that disasters and accidents don't take summer vacations, they just happen," Governor Jeb Bush said. "And when they happen, it is critical that much-needed blood is on the shelves. I encourage all Floridians to join Lt. Governor Jennings and me in rolling up our sleeves and donating blood. You may save a life."

Last week Governor Jeb Bush and Lt. Governor Toni Jennings helped save lives by donating blood. Here's an opportunity for Charlotte and Sarasota County residents to help someone in need.

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) will hold its 11th annual O'Party on August 20th in Port Charlotte. This popular and fun event is a large blood drive which aims to recruit and retain O-Positive and O-Negative Blood Donors and all Others. The theme of the party centers on things that start with "O" and is held prior to Labor Day. Type O is the most common blood type but it also the type frequently in short supply. The party is planned around an O theme because nearly half the population has group "O" blood, and O-negative blood is the universal donor, meaning that anyone can receive O-negative blood. Suncoast Communities Blood Bank also encourages people to lend an arm to help during this time when blood supplies often dwindle because of people taking vacations or returning north for the summer.

Event: 11th Annual O'Party (community-wide blood drive)

Date: August 20th

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Port Charlotte Town Center, 1441 Tamiami Trail

All blood donors will receive a free donor "O" t-shirt. The first 40 donors will receive free Regal movie tickets, Outback Steakhouse Bloomin' Onion, Oh Henry's candy bar, Oreos, and Albritton's Fruit Company orange juice. Donors will also have a chance to register to win a gift certificate to Canoe Outpost Rental and an 8" cheese pizza from Sbarro's.

One blood donation can help save up to 3 lives! There's an 85% chance of someone someday needing a blood transfusion. Donated blood is processed into components and helps cancer patients, people undergoing surgery, premature newborns, and victims of traumatic accidents. There is no artificial substitute for blood and it's only through the help of generous and kind hearted volunteers that many people have been given back quality of life. We call these volunteers, generous hearts who save precious lives.

Anyone interested in donating blood must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in generally good health. People with many medical conditions, including diabetes and heart issues, can still donate blood.

The media and public are highly encouraged to attend this event. For more information about the O'Party please call 941-954-1600 extension 240 or email communityrelations@scbb.org

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