



A Not-For-Profit
Community-Supported
Blood Bank

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NEWS RELEASE

DeSoto County O'Party Results
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Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) extends its warmest appreciation and gratitude to the people of DeSoto County who recently donated blood at the O'Party event held at the Blood Bank location on August 16th. Altogether, there were four O'Party events held in Sarasota, Nokomis, Arcadia and Port Charlotte. A total of 355 people registered to donate for the O'Party, resulting in 248 blood donations. **38 people in DeSoto County came forward to register to donate and show support for the O'Party, resulting in 23 donations. Since one donation can help save up to three lives, 69 lives will be touched. SCBB is very proud of its blood donors and very thankful for these life saving efforts.**

SCBB is pleased to announce that Rose M. Villegas won the O'Party raffle prize for the Canoe Outpost. Congratulations and thank you to Rose for her support! The name of the new bloodmobile was also unveiled during the O'Party at the Potter Building in Sarasota on August 18th. 21 gallon blood donor, Ed Kalchbrenner of Venice was the winner of the community wide contest and received a \$100 gift certificate to Westfield Mall. He submitted the lighthearted name 'Quick Draw'. People may see 'Quick Draw' driving around Sarasota, Charlotte and DeSoto counties. If so, the public is encouraged to walk-in and donate. SCBB thanks all of the people who submitted entries into the contest and is appreciative that they took the time to share their creative ideas. 172 contest entries were received. The name of the bloodmobile was selected by a committee comprised of SCBB staff and blood donors.

This is the 11th year the Blood Bank held the O'Party and it served as a large blood drive that aimed to recruit and retain O-Positive and O-Negative Blood

donors and all other blood types. The theme of the party centered on things that started with "O" and was held prior to Labor Day. Type O is the most common blood type but it also the type frequently in short supply. The party was 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 encouraged 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.

The Blood Bank can still use blood donors all the time. **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. SCBB calls these volunteers, generous hearts who save precious lives.

SCBB is the only blood bank to provide blood products to Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Doctors Hospital and DeSoto Memorial. SCBB has served Sarasota, DeSoto and Charlotte Counties for more than 50 years. SCBB is committed to providing an adequate and reliable blood supply for the community. 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. For more information about making a blood donation, please call 866-954-1600 extension 240 or visit www.scbb.org.

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