



A Not-For-Profit
Community-Supported
Blood Bank

12/14/2005

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NEWS RELEASE

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank Seeks Charitable Donations To Match A Challenge Grant NR#05-26

This is the season when most people are especially generous in giving to charities. As your local blood bank, Suncoast Communities Blood Bank asks you to remember SCBB in your giving. Doing so will assist SCBB to match a William G. Selby and Marie Selby Foundation Challenge Grant of \$90,000 by May 2006. This grant will allow SCBB to purchase a blood testing instrument called the 'Galileo', a state-of-the-science instrument critical to ensure continued safety of the blood supply.

As you consider your year-end tax-deductible contributions, SCBB is asking you to remember the need for blood and the need for this new instrument. In the U.S., someone needs blood every 3 seconds. One out of 10 people entering a hospital in Sarasota, Charlotte, and Desoto Counties needs blood and over 90% of the population by age 75 will need a blood transfusion. Even though 65% of the population is eligible to give blood, only 5% actually does so. If you can donate blood, remember that one donation can help save up to 3 lives. If you cannot donate blood, you can still support your local community blood bank by volunteering your time or talent and by donating a charitable gift instead. It could just be you on the receiving end of a blood transfusion one day!

Here are some facts of how blood is used everyday and why this equipment is necessary:

Open Heart Surgery	can require 6-8 units (like "pints") of whole red blood cells
Hip Replacement Surgery	can require 8 units of red blood cells (that last only 42 days)
Cancer patients	can require up to 8 units of platelets per week. (Platelets only last 5-7 days and are essential for blood clotting).
Automobile Accidents	can require up to 50 units ("pints") of red blood cells
Trauma Accidents/Burns	often require 6 units or more of red blood cells or plasma
Leukemia Patients	require 100 units of platelets

As you see, the need and the list go on...

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization that has served hospitals in Sarasota, Charlotte and DeSoto Counties for more than 56 years, as well as supplying the Bayflite Medical Helicopter for critical transport of trauma patients.

Please give generously and let us know if you or your business has a matching gift. Your help to our local community blood bank means 2 dollars or more for each dollar you give. Remember, under the Hurricane Katrina Tax Relief Act of 2005 now in effect, ALL charitable contributions made between August 28 up to December 31, 2005 can be deducted up to 100% of adjusted gross income and they are not limited by the 3% floor. For complete information about the incentives for charitable giving, limitations and rules regarding charitable contributions during the mentioned time frame, please refer to the Hurricane Katrina Tax Relief Act of 2005 or seek advice from your financial planner. For more information about how to give a monetary donation to the Galileo Fundraising effort of SCBB, please call 941-954-1600 extension 239 or www.scbb.org. Thank you!

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