

For Immediate Release

June 11, 2008

Contact: Lakedra Ellis

Marketing Coordinator

Ph: 954-1600 ext 1022

Email: lellis@scbb.org

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank Honors Students

Sarasota- Suncoast Communities Blood Bank honored its 2008 high school scholarship recipients at an awards ceremony on May 29th.

Scholarship winners were selected by a committee based on participation in their high school's blood drive, academic excellence, commitment to the community and support of the blood bank. In total \$12,900 in scholarships were awarded to 24 students from 10 high schools. The number of high school donations last year in our region was up 85% and the number of scholarship applications nearly doubled this year. Nationwide, students represent 25% of all blood donors and locally students make up 10% of the blood supply. SCBB invests considerable effort in recruiting high school students because they have a lifetime of blood donation opportunities ahead of them.

“Cultivating the next generation of blood donors is critical because studies show that individuals who are introduced to the importance of donating blood at a young age are more likely to become a donor for life,” said Dr. Mark Magenheimer, CEO and Medical Director.

Century Bank partnered with SCBB this year to honor the one school among 14 in SCBB's area with a \$3,000 scholarship for the highest level of donor participation.

“When SCBB invited us to partner with them in this scholarship effort we didn't hesitate for a minute,” explained John O'Neill, President of Century Bank. “This is a great opportunity to reward exceptional students and to encourage their continuous support for community service, especially to blood centers.”

-More-

The winner of the \$3000 scholarship is Sarasota Military Academy.

“It is an honor to receive such a prestigious award,” said Colonel Bill Brockman, blood drive coordinator for SMA. “Our students hold dearly the importance of service to their community. Supporting the blood bank comes naturally to them.”

Last week, Sarasota Military Academy took home another honor. The Florida Association of Blood Banks awarded SMA with the High School of the Year Award, category of having 150 seniors or less, for its outstanding student participation supporting blood drives.

Serving on the 2008 selection committee: Charles Ball, board of director for SCBB and attorney; John Cooper, former high school administrator; Julie Platt, SCBB Public Relations & Marketing Manager; Joanne Sergo, SCBB Account Executive; and Sherri Reynolds, board of director for SCBB and Supervisor of Pupil Support Services for the Sarasota County School District.

The following students received scholarships:

Booker High School – Nhan Nguyen, Casey Waugh

Cardinal Mooney – Chelsea Rodrigue

Desoto High School – LaKisha Foster, Jason Story

North Port High – Sara Pennybacker, Abbie O’Hern Weeks

Pine View – Danielle McCoy, Zachary Morris, Kelli Lampkin, Susanna Pribislavski

Riverview High School – Katie Nelson

Sarasota Christian – Joel Johnson, Chad Papa

Sarasota High School – Keely Johnansson, Sabrina Freeman, Katherine Taylor

Sarasota Military – Kaitlin Mauch, Philip Marino, Andrew Bilan

Venice High School – Jessica Konecnik, Danielle Drennan, Allison Lewis, Marisa Berger

To find out how you can support the scholarship program please call Rhonda Peters, Director of Development at 954-1600 ext 1033 or email rpeters@scbb.org

###