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For Immediate Release

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## **Suncoast Communities Blood Bank Aids Orlando Blood Center Provides blood supplies in response to shooting**

**Sarasota-** Today, Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) provided blood to the Orlando blood center in response to the office building shooting in that city. Florida's Blood Centers (FBC) contacted SCBB's Transfusion Laboratory this afternoon asking for O negative blood types.

"FBC requested our assistance and we were eager to lend our resources," says Chris Flood, SCBB's Laboratory Director. "In times such as these we need to work together. However, this does put a strain on our local blood supply especially as we head into the weekend. I encourage the community to donate blood and keep our hospitals supplied."

In the past, SCBB has aided other blood centers across Florida during hurricane season and more recently in January 2008, when the Lakeland blood center requested additional blood supplies following the multiple car crash on I-4. SCBB has also provided blood to the military when requested. At this time, local blood banks in Texas have been able to respond to the needs of Ft. Hood, and SCBB remains on alert to supply blood to that community if needed as well.

The public can donate blood at any of our bloodmobiles or donor centers. For more information about locations and hours, visit [www.scbb.org](http://www.scbb.org) or call 1-866-97-BLOOD.

### **About SCBB**

For 60 years, Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) has been saving lives by providing blood collection and transfusion services to our community. Much has changed in medicine since 1949, revolutionizing how we save lives. What remains the same is the need for human blood. There is no viable substitute for the selfless act of donating it. Now as then, we can't operate without you.

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