



A Not-For-Profit Community-Supported Blood Bank

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Boots and Badges Trophy Presented At Celebration

Sarasota- Suncoast Communities Blood Bank awarded law enforcement agencies in Sarasota County the traveling trophy as part of the Boots and Badges Blood Drive Competition during a celebration on August 18, 2006 at 1760 Mound Street in Sarasota. The final Boots and Badges tally was 153 for Law Enforcement (Badge) vs. 113 for Fire Department (Boots).

Sarasota County Sheriff Balkwill, Lt. Sutton with Sarasota Police Department, and Sarasota County Fire Chief Gorski attended the celebration with representatives from their agencies. Sarasota Police Department will claim the trophy for six months and then pass it to the Sheriff's Office for its share of time. Each agency that participated in the competition received certificates and a well-deserved thank you!

"The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office chose to participate in this blood drive competition because of how important it is to have adequate supplies of blood in our community. The employees at the Sheriff's Office found that they were able to help our community in another and different way, while having fun competing against the fire departments. We are looking forward to next year and hope that we will get more employees donate. We know the competition is going to be tough. We want to stay number one," said Lieutenant Chuck Lesaltato, Public Information Officer of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.

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“The Boots and Badges blood drive offered law enforcement officers and firemen another way to serve their community. The friendly competition encouraged donations from both groups. In the end the law enforcement team prevailed with 153 law enforcement donations to 113 donations from fire, however we all know the real winner was the community. With 266 combined donations (103 from first time donors) the campaign was successful. The donations help to maintain the availability of life sustaining blood. The trophy will be shared by the Sarasota Police Department, the Sarasota Sheriff's Office, and all the other law enforcement donors for the next year. We look forward to future competitions, and we plan to vigorously defend the trophy. I hope that in future competitions the Boots and the Badges can both exceed this year's impressive donation numbers,“ said Lieutenant Paul Sutton of Sarasota Police Department.

This was the first year for the competition and the Blood Bank plans to hold this competition annually and expand the number of participating agencies for 2007.

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