

# Suncoast Communities Blood Bank

A Not-For-Profit Community-Supported Blood Bank

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Team Boots Wins 2007 Competition

**Sarasota-** Suncoast Communities Blood Bank is pleased to announce that Team Boots (fire department) is the winner of the 2007 Boots and Badges Blood Drive Competition. Team Boots overwhelmingly beat out last year's winner, Team Badges (law enforcement), with 869 blood donations vs. Badges' 695 donations.

In all, both teams contributed an outstanding 1,567 blood donations to local hospitals during a two and a half month period. Since one blood donation helps to save three lives this accounts for more than 4,500 lives saved this summer.



Team Boots will receive the winning prize, a traveling trophy, during a presentation on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Dunkin' Donuts, 5871 Fruitville Road, in Sarasota. The participating agencies will also be recognized during the event and include: Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Sarasota Police Department, Florida Highway Patrol, North Port Police and Fire Departments, Sarasota County Fire Department, Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department, Englewood Fire District, Venice Fire Department, the Florida National Guard and DeSoto County Sheriff's Department and Fire Department. The media is welcome to attend.

The friendly competition between the first responders kicked off on June 29<sup>th</sup> and ended on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the 2007 campaign was to include the community at large to become involved and support first responders. By giving blood, the community was recognized as honorary first responders—responding everyday, just like fire and police personnel, to medical emergencies by helping out the hospitals in need of blood for lifesaving medical care. Blood donors are critical to the operation of Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Doctors Hospital, and DeSoto Memorial Hospital.

This year's campaign was supported by Clear Channel Radio, WWSB ABC 7, Dunkin' Donuts, DeHart Alarm Systems, Home Depot, and Sarasota Reds. Suncoast Communities Blood Bank recently won two local and two state public relations awards for the 2006 campaign.

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