

**For Immediate Release**  
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## High School Students Increase Blood Drive Efforts

**Sarasota-**Sarasota and DeSoto County high school students make the grade when it comes to donating blood! SCBB has seen an increase of **20%** more students registering to donate blood on school campuses this year, than compared to last year.

The first round of high school blood drives wrapped up in October with incredible success. There were 875 students registered to donate blood at the high school blood drives. Incredibly, out of the 875 students, 400 of them gave blood for the very first time.

This year, our efforts at SCBB are to engage the “next generation” of blood donor. Each school has accepted the challenge to increase blood donor awareness and participation efforts among the student population. As an added incentive, the school that finishes with the highest percentage increase in registrations over the previous year wins the traveling trophy and will also be rewarded \$3,000 in scholarships, generously donated by Century Bank.

### TOP HONORS for first round of high school blood drives:

- **Most Improved** = DeSoto High School increased their student participation by 34%
- **Highest percentage of student participation** =Sarasota Military Academy at 107%
- **Most donors** = Sarasota High School with 205 donors

The next round of school blood drives start in November.

### Who We Are

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit community supported blood bank that has served Sarasota, Charlotte and DeSoto Counties since 1949. Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) is the sole provider of blood and blood services to five hospitals: Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Doctors Hospital, DeSoto Memorial Hospital and HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospitals. In addition, SCBB provides blood to Bayflite medical helicopter and serves as the transfusion service for Sarasota Memorial Hospital, transfusing approximately 8,000 patients per year. Our blood drive sponsors hold more than 1,000 blood drives per year and SCBB collects over 27,000 units of blood annually from over 14,000 donors. For more information call 1-866-97BLOOD or visit [www.scbb.org](http://www.scbb.org).

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