



A Not-For-Profit  
Community-Supported  
Blood Bank

06/21/2005

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941.954.1600 ext. 272

## NEWS RELEASE

Blood Bank Thanks the Community  
NR#05-10

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) extends its warmest appreciation and gratitude to the many caring and concerned individuals in Sarasota and DeSoto Counties who responded to the request for help during last week's critical blood shortage. The Blood Bank is very thankful for the support and concern that was exhibited during this time of need. SCBB relies on volunteer blood donors to provide an adequate blood supply to Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Doctors Hospital and DeSoto Memorial Hospital. This service to the hospitals can only come from its community. It is community support that helps to supply this lifesaving gift to people in need. Sarasota and DeSoto Counties shined through as an example of what "community outreach" is all about. The Blood Bank is very proud of the people who quickly responded by lending an arm. Since one blood donation (one unit) can help save up to three lives, 816 lives were touched!

**Suncoast Communities Blood Bank is still in need of all types of blood, especially O negative.**

While we are very thankful for the numerous blood donations, we are still short of the required number of units that need to be collected on a daily basis to meet the demands of the three hospitals. The hospitals need a combined daily total of approximately 70 units of blood to be adequately stocked and ready should an emergency or trauma situation arise. Blood and blood products are also used for cancer patients, people undergoing surgery, premature babies, and burn victims. A person has an 85% chance of someday needing a blood transfusion.

The summer months are very difficult for the Blood Bank because blood donations dip when seasonal residents return north or people take vacations. People are encouraged to continue to donate blood on a regular basis, especially during the summer. Anyone interested in donating blood must be 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in generally good health. There is a misconception among people with medical conditions that think they cannot donate. There are many medical conditions, including diabetes and heart conditions, which allow people to safely donate blood.

The Blood Bank encourages people to stop by at a bloodmobile or Blood Bank location this week:

**Tuesday (06-21), Wednesday (06-22) & Thursday (06-23)**

**Sarasota Blood Drive**

Sarasota Memorial Hospital Auditorium

Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Friday (06-24)**

**Englewood Bloodmobile Location**

**Sweet Bay Supermarket**

1951 South McCall Road

Hours: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday (06-25)**

**Sarasota Bloodmobile Location**

Pamero Shop on University Parkway

5400 University Parkway

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Village Inn/Best Buy

4000 South Tamiami Trail

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For more information about donating blood or to make an appointment call 941-954-1600 extension 240 or visit [www.scbb.org](http://www.scbb.org). Walk-ins are welcome.

1760 Mound Street  
Sarasota, FL 34236-7761

1097 N. Tamiami Trail  
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