

For Immediate Release

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Blood Bank Receives Grant for Portable Blood Drive Vehicle

Cost-effective and environmentally friendly resource aids blood collections

Sarasota- Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) was recently awarded a \$24,800 grant from The Community Foundation of Sarasota County's Ruth DeLynn Emerging Needs Fund to purchase a vehicle that will make it more convenient for people to donate blood.

The vehicle, which will be used to transport equipment, expands the opportunity for SCBB to hold more "portable" blood drives. A "portable" blood drive is a blood collection station set up inside office buildings, churches, schools or places that cannot accommodate the traditional 40' bloodmobile. These indoor set-ups are more convenient and comfortable for donors during the summer months and rainy season when inclement weather can deter donations.

"The number one obstacle in recruiting blood donors is convenience. Thanks to this Community Foundation grant we can reach more people where they live, work and shop," says Scott Bush, Chief of Technical Operations for SCBB. "Utilizing a van for indoor blood drive set-ups is more cost effective and environmentally friendly as the bloodmobiles use diesel fuel and must run non-stop for hours to keep the generators operating."

"The Community Foundation of Sarasota County understands that our current economy makes for difficult times for many non-profit organizations. The blood bank is one such organization trying to reduce costs and yet remain efficient," says Wendy Hopkins, Vice President of Grants and Programs Services for the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. "The Blood Bank provides such critical support to our hospitals, it is only appropriate that the organization receive the Ruth DeLynn Emerging Needs Funds. Ruth DeLynn believes in enriching our own lives by helping others and we are doing just that by providing this assistance."

About SCBB

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization founded in 1949, serving the community exclusively for nearly 60 years. SCBB provides a reliable supply of quality blood products and transfusion services regionally to five hospitals as well as Bayflite Medical Helicopter. For more information about Suncoast Communities Blood Bank visit www.scbb.org or call 1-866-97BLOOD.

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