



## News Release

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### **Blood Bank Receives Grant For Bloodmobile Refurbishment** **Complete overhaul expands lifesaving efforts**

**Sarasota-**The wheels of a once idle bloodmobile are now turning again thanks to a \$72,500 grant awarded to Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) by The Harry Sudakoff Foundation. The grant allowed SCBB to do a complete overhaul of a dated but road worthy vehicle and expand its fleet of bloodmobiles to five at a price much lower than the \$200,000 cost for a new vehicle.

The bloodmobile (named *Half Pint*) is smaller than others in SCBB's fleet but is well suited for collecting in areas with tight parking conditions. With the retrofit including a second donor screening room and new technology the bloodmobile will reduce the time a blood donor is on board, making the donation experience more convenient.

"Thanks to The Harry Sudakoff Foundation's financial support we will collect an additional 2000 units of blood annually," said Scott Bush, Chief of Technical Operations for SCBB. "Given the high cost of gas, it's more important than ever for our bloodmobiles to reach donors where they work, live and shop."

"The Harry Sudakoff Foundation has a proud history of funding projects that make an impact," said Debra Jacobs, Administrator of The Harry Sudakoff Foundation. "By assisting the Blood Bank to operate this vehicle for another ten years we are also impacting the hospitals in our community and their patients."

The complete renovation and upgrade took six weeks. SCBB inherited the 25 year old vehicle when it acquired the Gulf Area Regional Blood Bank in 2000.

#### **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](http://www.scbb.org) or call 1-866-97BLOOD.

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