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## Media Alert

**Sarasota-** The sounds of Scotland will fill the air as bagpipes, drums and pipes resonate at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Sarasota Scottish Highland Games and Heritage Festival this month. Traditional music, dancing and sporting games are just a few of the features to be enjoyed. The event recognizes Sarasota County's rich Scottish cultural heritage, from its founding by Scots in the mid-1800's.

As part of the celebration, organizers will hold a blood drive to support Suncoast Communities Blood Bank and local hospitals. They invite the public to join their community service and collaboration effort on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Venice Airport Grounds, 120 Airport Road East, in Venice. Blood donors will receive Walkers shortbread cookies and have the opportunity to listen to the Sarasota Highlanders Pipe Band play near the bloodmobile.

Shown Right: bands playing at the 2007 Games

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**This blood drive is the culmination of nine total that have been part of a collaboration among arts organizations in Sarasota County called *Arts for Life*. Arts organizations united to save lives this season by supporting Suncoast Communities Blood Bank to raise blood donations for hospitals. This unique partnership highlights the contributions of the arts community and its supporters as they make an impact on hundreds of lives. *Arts for Life* started on January 11<sup>th</sup> and ends on March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Scottish Heritage Society was formed in 1993 for the express purpose of staging the Sarasota Scottish Highlands Games. This all-volunteer, non-profit organization's mission is to carry on the Scottish traditions in Sarasota and to raise money for youth organizations.**

**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 to hospitals and healthcare centers in need. 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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