

***SunCoast Blood Bank(SCBB)is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, community-supported blood bank that provides a reliable supply of quality blood products and services to hospitals and healthcare centers in need.***

- SCBB operates five blood donor centers located in Sarasota, Venice, Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch and maintains a fleet of 8 bloodmobiles for donor convenience.
- SCBB provides 100% of the blood products and services for Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System, Manatee Memorial Hospital, Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, Doctors Hospital of Sarasota, Complex Care Hospital of Ridgelake, Encore Rehabilitation Hospital of Sarasota, North Port Emergency Room, Fawcett Memorial Hospital of Port Charlotte, Englewood Community Hospital and DeSoto Memorial.
- SCBB is licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is governed by a volunteer board of directors comprised of local community leaders.
- SCBB is accredited by the AABB (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks) and is a member of America's Blood Centers, Blood Centers of America and the Alliance for Community Transfusion Services
- SCBB's priority is always to ensure that local hospitals served by SCBB have the blood products they need. SCBB will share resources with other hospitals when able, but only after local needs are fulfilled.

**Critical Role as First Responders**

- The critical role of blood banking is recognized by Congress and as such, is designated as a community first responder, on par with law enforcement and EMS.
- To fulfill the role as a first responder to our hospitals and community, SCBB needs to collect an average of 150 units of blood daily.
- SCBB must collect more than 47,000 units of blood and platelets on average, each year to meet local demand.
- Red blood cells are viable for 42 days and platelets for only 5 days.

**Community Impact**

- There is no substitute for human blood.
- Blood can only be given from one person to another.
- Up to three lives can be saved by one blood donation.
- Locally, more than sixty percent of the blood collected is through 1,300 + blood drives hosted by local businesses, schools and organizations each year.
- Open heart surgery patients may require an average of 4 units of red blood cells alone, and in some cases, can exceed more than 20 units.
- Cancer, leukemia, sickle cell patients, surgical patients and burn victims are all frequent recipients of blood transfusions.
- Almost 40% of the local daily blood supply is needed just for the treatment of cancer patients.
- More than units of blood can be needed to treat a single trauma.

**Safety and availability of the blood supply**

- Only 38% of the population is eligible to donate blood, and less than 5% actually donate blood, and fewer than 1% donate platelets.
- 14 tests are performed on each unit of blood including HIV, Hepatitis, Syphilis and West Nile virus.
- You cannot get HIV or any other infectious disease from donating blood.
- Donating blood is safe, simple and it saves lives.