

## FACT SHEET

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 health-care centers in need.

- SCBB operates five blood donor centers located in Sarasota, Venice, Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch and Arcadia, and maintains a fleet of 9 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, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Sarasota, Surgery Center at St. Andrews Venice, North Port Emergency Room, Fawcett Memorial Hospital of Port Charlotte, Englewood Community Hospital, Surgery Center at St. Andrews Venice, DeSoto Memorial Hospital and Bayflite 2 Emergency Helicopter Transport.
- 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 and the Florida Association of Blood Banks.
- 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 available, and only after local needs are fulfilled first.

### 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.

- In order 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 almost 47,000 units of blood and platelets in 2014 to meet local demand.
- Red blood cells are viable for 42 days and platelets for only 5 days.
- SCBB supplies O negative blood to Bayflite 2, Emergency Helicopter Transport. O negative blood is the universal donor type, and Bayflite 2 does not lift off without O negative blood on board.

### 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 50% of the local daily blood supply is needed just for the treatment of cancer patients.

### 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 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.
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