



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2011

NEW PORT RICHEY DONOR CENTER HOSTS GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION
Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas to Thank Donors Who Helped Save Her Life!

(St. Petersburg, FL: 6/13/11) Florida Blood Services (FBS) is teaming up with the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce at 11:30 am on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 to dedicate their recently opened New Port Richey Donor Center in service to the local community. The Donor Center is located at 5355 US Highway 19, just south of Gulf Drive in the Southgate Shopping Center, in New Port Richey. Food and beverages will be served following brief remarks and the traditional ribbon cutting. FBS donors, blood recipients and the public are invited to attend and all will receive a free gift.

One special guest that will speak is New Port Richey Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas who received blood transfusions following the birth of her son over 20 years ago. Blood donors gave her the ability to watch him grow up and he to have a loving mother.

“We relocated our West Pasco Donor Center, bloodmobile depot and blood component processing laboratory from Hudson to New Port Richey earlier this year to allow us to be closer to the hospitals that we serve there,” said JB Gaskins, FBS Vice President. “This new location also provides more convenience for the great blood and platelet donors we have in this community,” said Gaskins. Tours of the facility will be available following the dedication.

The New Port Richey Blood Center's hours are as follows:

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
Monday	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Tuesday	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday & Friday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday	7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Appointments are appreciated and walk-ins always welcome.

Please call 727-819-5433 ext. 3100 or log onto www.fbsdonor.org for more information.

Generally, healthy people, age 16 (with parental permission) or older, who weigh at least 110 pounds can be blood donors. All lifesaving donors receive a wellness checkup of blood pressure, pulse, temperature and iron count, including a cholesterol screening every time they share their “Gift of Life.” In addition, donors who give blood two times between May 1 and August 31, 2011 will be entered into drawings for four cruises courtesy of AAA Auto Club South.

Florida Blood Services, is a not for profit, community based provider for the blood needs of patients at 44 hospitals in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk Counties, through the generosity of volunteer blood donors. Over 850 donations are required daily, due to the high quality of medical care in Tampa Bay that serves the most critically ill patients throughout west central Florida.

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Additional Blood Supply Information is Available at www.fbsblood.org

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