



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FLORIDA BLOOD SERVICES HAS NEW LIFELINE TO SAVE LIVES

(St. Petersburg, FL: July 7, 2007): Florida Blood Services (FBS) blood donors provide many lifesaving blood products to patients in hopes of saving their lives. When the Tampa Bay area is threatened by a hurricane, FBS must make sure we get enough blood donated before severe weather strikes, and we must safeguard the blood supply. To make sure the blood is secure during a storm, help has arrived in the form of a brand new Critical Response Unit (CRU) made possible through the generosity and determination of caring community members.

The CRU, a self-contained "mobile blood storage", will help safeguard the blood supply and remove it from areas under threat. "Having the CRU allows Florida Blood Services to better respond to emergencies, even if our facility is compromised due to lengthy power outages, flooding, or wind damage during a hurricane or other disaster," said Donald D. Doddridge, CEO of Florida Blood Services. "We are extremely grateful to have Cornelia Corbett, The William Stamps Farish Fund and Pamela and Leslie Muma Family Foundation as champions because they recognize the impact and devastation disasters can bring to a community. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to them for the CRU will serve the many families, friends and neighbors who live in or visit Tampa Bay or other Florida communities."

Donors 17 years old or older may donate blood (16 years old with parental consent), weigh a minimum of 110 lbs. and be in good health. Florida Blood Services provides for the blood needs of patients at 38 hospitals in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas Counties through the participation of volunteer blood donors. Approximately 750 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.

Additional blood supply information can be found at www.fbsblood.org

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