

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 17, 2008



## **BLOOD DONORS AID IN RECOVERY FROM HURRICANE IKE**

FBS Ships 127 Units of Blood To Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Houston

(St. Petersburg, FL: 09/17/08) Florida Blood Services received a request to ship 127 units of blood to Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Houston today. These 100 units of type O positive blood and 27 units of types O, A and B negative blood will be sent via a door to door courier by 3:30 pm today.

"Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center stocked the shelves of their hospitals in the greater Houston area prior to Hurricane Ike's arrival," said J.B. Gaskins, FBS Vice President of Donor Systems. "Now that supply has been drained and many of the citizens of Houston are not able to donate due to flooding and the cancelation of blood drives," said Gaskins. "They have asked us to help them to recover from the storm and along with other Blood Centers across the country, we are doing what we can. When you realize their patients require over 900 donations daily, their needs may be ongoing for some time. If enough of our donors come in to donate this week and next, we will be able to send additional aid when requested," said Gaskins. "We will only send them blood once our local hospitals are fully stocked."

Generally, healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate blood. All Florida Blood Services Donor Centers are open as follows:

<b>HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY</b>		
<b>BRANDON 813-661-4528</b> 727 Lumsden Rd., Ste. A (at Kings Ave. Oak Park Plaza) Brandon, FL 33511	Monday - Thursday	8 am - 7 pm
	Friday	8 am - 5 pm
	Saturday	7 am - 1 pm
	Sunday	8 am - 2 pm
<b>KENNEDY 813-282-3976</b> 4041 West Kennedy Blvd. (West of S. Dale Mabry) Tampa, FL 33609	Monday - Thursday	8 am - 7 pm
	Friday	8 am - 5 pm
	Saturday	7 am - 1 pm
<b>NORTHDALE 813-964-1354</b> 15427 N. Dale Mabry Hwy. (N. Bearss/Dibs Ctr.) Tampa, FL 33618	Monday - Thursday	8 am - 7 pm
	Friday	8 am - 5 pm
	Saturday	7 am - 1 pm
<b>PLANT CITY 813-752-7638</b> 1902 Jim Redman Pkwy. (Strawberry Plaza) Plant City, FL 33563	Monday - Thursday	8 am - 7 pm
<b>TAMPA NORTH 813-903-2600</b> 5301 East Fletcher Ave. (East of I-275 at 53rd Street) Tampa, FL 33617	Monday - Thursday	8 am - 7 pm
	Friday	8 am - 5 pm
	Saturday	7 am - 1 pm
	Sunday	8 am - 2 pm
<b>MANATEE COUNTY</b>		
<b>BRADENTON 941-746-7195</b> 216 Manatee Ave. East (at 2nd Street) Bradenton, FL 34208	Monday - Thursday	8 am - 7 pm
	Friday	8 am - 5 pm
	Saturday	7 am - 1 pm
	Sunday	8 am - 2 pm

<b>LAKWOOD RANCH 941-907-0806</b> 8340 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. (North of University Parkway) Suite 105, Medical Office Bldg. Bradenton, FL 34202	Monday - Thursday	8 am - 5 pm
<b>PASCO COUNTY</b>		
<b>HUDSON 727-819-5433, Ext. 3100</b> 7214 State Road 52 (1/4 mile East of US 19) Hudson, FL 34667	Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	8 am - 7 pm 8 am - 5 pm 7 am - 1 pm 8 am - 2 pm
<b>WESLEY CHAPEL 813-929-6500</b> 5319 Village Drive (in Village Market Place, SE corner I-75 & SR 54) Wesley Chapel, FL 33543	TEMPORARY HOURS Tuesday & Wednesday Friday & Saturday	8 am - 4 pm 8 am - 4 pm
<b>PINELLAS COUNTY</b>		
<b>CLEARWATER 727-582-9500</b> 1680 South Missouri Ave. (South of Belleair, by Office Depot) Clearwater, FL 33756	Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday	8 am - 7 pm 8 am - 5 pm 7 am - 1 pm 8 am - 2 pm
<b>LARGO 727-548-2583</b> 11401 Belcher Road, Ste. E (North of Bryan Dairy in Baxter Healthcare) Largo, FL 33773	Monday - Thursday	8 am - 7 pm
<b>ST. PETE 727-568-5433, Ext. 2112</b> 10100 Dr. ML King Jr. St. N. (at Gandy Blvd.) St. Petersburg, FL 33716	Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	8 am - 7 pm 8 am - 5 pm 7 am - 1 pm
<b>TYRONE 727-384-4145</b> 1700 66th Street N., Ste. 102 (at 18th Ave. N.) St. Petersburg, FL 33710	Monday - Thursday Friday Saturday	8 am - 7 pm 8 am - 5 pm 7 am - 1 pm

**Additional mobile blood drive locations and hours can be found by calling  
1-800-68-BLOOD (25663) or on the web at [www.fbsblood.org](http://www.fbsblood.org)**

Florida Blood Services provides for the blood needs of patients at 37 hospitals in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk Counties, through the generosity of volunteer blood donors. Over 800 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.

**FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES CONTACT:**

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**Additional blood supply information is available at [www.fbsblood.org](http://www.fbsblood.org)**

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