



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2011

**URGENT NEED FOR TYPE O NEGATIVE
UNIVERSAL DONOR TRAUMA BLOOD**

(St. Petersburg, FL: 1/24/11) The tragic shooting of police officers in St. Petersburg this morning has caused Bayfront Medical Center to order 18 additional units of type O negative blood. This has drained what already were low reserves at Florida Blood Services'(FBS) main distribution depot. Other Tampa Bay area hospitals supplied by FBS have blood on hand that could be transferred if needed. However, to maintain adequate inventories at all local hospitals, additional donations are requested by all eligible type O negative donors as soon as possible.

Generally, healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can be blood donors. There is no upper age limit. Identification is required prior to donation. For further information, please call 1-800-68-BLOOD (25663).

Prospective donors can go to www.fbsdonor.org, enter their zip code and find convenient bloodmobile and neighborhood donor center locations and hours. In addition, people can call 1-800-68 BLOOD (25663) to discuss donation locations.

Headquartered in St. Petersburg Florida, FBS provides over 350,000 blood donations to patients at over 100 hospitals and other ambulatory healthcare facilities throughout 42 Florida, Georgia, and Alabama counties, through the participation of volunteer donors.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES CONTACT:

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

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