



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2006

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

JB Gaskins, Vice President of Donor Systems

Office: (727) 568-2146

Cellular: (727) 656-8441

Exceptional Leader Recognized in Tampa Bay

(St. Petersburg, FL: (05/11/06): Florida Blood Services (FBS) announces that Ruth Zatik, Vice President of Technical Systems, has been selected by the Florida Association of Blood Banks as the winner of the **Dorothy M. Hanson Award** (Executive of the Year).

Ms. Zatik was nominated by her peers for her exceptional leadership and expertise in the technical area of blood banking. Ms. Zatik started her career in blood banking upon graduation from Ashland University in Ohio, where she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree. Ms. Zatik joined Florida Blood Services in 1979 (formerly Community Blood Bank). Under Ms. Zatik's leadership, FBS has become a model organization of quality and laboratory excellence envied by many throughout the nation. She has served on many state and national committees, and is the Past President of the Florida Association of Blood Banks.

Two area high schools were also recognized for their vital part of the community blood supply.

Pinellas Park High School received the highest annual donations and the highest percent of participation in the 350-400 seniors group. St. Petersburg High School received the same awards for most donations and highest percent of participation in the over 400 senior group.

High School blood drives make up about 12% of total blood collections at FBS. Education and awareness are key components in recruiting young people to donate blood regularly