



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 28, 2009**

**FLORIDA BLOOD SERVICES DONORS HELP HEAL INJURED HAITIANS**  
**Local Hospitals Receiving Trauma Patients From Haiti Airlifts**

**(St. Petersburg, FL: 1/28/10)** As reported in the local news, a C-130 plane landed at Tampa International Airport last night with 28 more traumatized patients from Haiti. This arrival put Florida Blood Services(FBS) on notice that local hospitals with emergency rooms would continue to receive Haitians who were severely injured in the recent earthquake there. FBS provides for all of the blood needs of patients at Tampa Bay area medical facilities.

Florida Blood Services is contributing to a national effort to provide blood and blood products to support patients in Haiti. Working in coordination with AABB's Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism, shipments of blood from Florida Blood Services have been sent to Haiti to help those in need.

"We are ready and able to assist the blood needs of these injured neighbors both here and in Haiti, as well as to meet the blood needs of all patients at our local hospitals," said JB Gaskins, FBS South West Vice President of Donor Systems, "but we can only do so through the selfless gift of our blood donors. Blood usage in our area is always highest in January and this disaster has created additional demand. **We encourage all eligible donors, particularly those with universal type O blood, as well as types A and B negative to donate as soon as possible so that we can continue to save lives,**" said Gaskins.

Generally, healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can be blood donors. Identification is required prior to donation. For further information or to find donation locations please call 1-800-68-BLOOD (25663) or visit [www.fbsblood.org](http://www.fbsblood.org).

Headquartered in St. Petersburg Florida, FBS provides over 350,000 blood donations to patients at 92 hospitals and other ambulatory healthcare facilities throughout 42 Florida, Georgia, and Alabama counties, through the participation of volunteer donors.

**FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES CONTACT:**

JB Gaskins  
Vice President, Donor Systems  
[jbgaskins@fbsblood.org](mailto:jbgaskins@fbsblood.org)  
Cell: 727-656-8441

Dan Eberts  
Corporate Communications Manager  
[debts@fbsblood.org](mailto:debts@fbsblood.org)  
Cell: 727-656-5239

**Additional Blood Supply Information is Available at [www.fbsblood.org](http://www.fbsblood.org)**

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