

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 5, 2008



**WESLEY CHAPEL DONOR CENTER CLOSING DURING EXPANSION**  
*Special bloodmobile will be onsite for donors to give platelets, plasma or red blood cells*

(St. Petersburg, FL: 08/05/08) Florida Blood Services' Wesley Chapel Donor Center will be closed from Sunday, August 10 through Sunday, September 14, 2008, while it is being expanded and remodeled to better serve donors. To prevent blood shortages, a bloodmobile will be stationed on the following days in the Village Market Plaza parking lot at 5319 Village Drive, located at the SE corner of I-75 and SR 54.

A bloodmobile will be on site Tuesday, August 12 through Saturday, September 13 only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Mondays, August 25th and September 1st. Prospective blood or platelet donors can walk-in or book an appointment online at [www.fbsdonor.org](http://www.fbsdonor.org), using the Blood Center code TB032. All lifesaving saving donors will receive a free movie ticket, as well as a wellness checkup, including a cholesterol screening!

Generally, healthy people age 16 (with parental permission) or older, who weigh at least 110 pounds can be blood donors. Identification is required. For eligibility questions people can call 1-800-68 BLOOD (25663).

"As stewards of our community's blood supply, Florida Blood Services' goal is to assure that each patient has the right component of the right blood type, in the right quantity, at the right time and in the right place," said JB Gaskins, FBS Vice President of Donor Systems. "Eighty percent of our donors visit bloodmobiles which until now, has limited them to only donating whole blood or red blood cells. This new automated bloodmobile will allow donors, based on their blood type and other criteria, to give whatever blood component is most needed by patients. It is really a Donor Center on wheels and we are relieved that we can station it in front of our Wesley Chapel Donor Center during this expansion, so our donors there can continue to help area patients," said Gaskins.

FBS 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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