



# k.e.e.p.i.n.g connected



southeastern community blood center's donor update

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## Kommunity for a Kause Event Benefits Kidz1stFund™

Candi Fisher, center, co-founder of the Jimbo and Candi Fisher Kidz1stFund, joins Michael Stiles, left and Jeanne Dariotis, SCBC executives, at the FSU campus blood drive.

On November 14, SCBC held Kommunity for a Kause, a blood drive benefit for the Kidz1stFund.™

Spearheaded by FSU head football coach Jimbo Fisher and his wife, Candi, the Kidz1stFund™ is essentially a "kwest" to find a cure for Fanconi anemia, a condition affecting the Fisher's youngest son.



For each successful blood donation given by local residents on the day of the event, SCBC pledged to donate \$5 to the Kidz1stFund.™ At the completion of the event, first time and repeat donors collectively gave nearly 100 pints of blood, resulting in a \$500 donation to the Kidz1stFund.™

The three SCBC participating locations included the Tallahassee donor center, the Marianna donor center and a bloodmobile parked at FSU's College of Information.

"We are so grateful to SCBC supporting the Kidz1stFund™ through its Kommunity for a Kause blood drive," said Candi Fisher. "We are overwhelmed and touched by SCBC's willingness to involve blood donors of our community in a 'kwest' to find a cure for Fanconi anemia. The \$5 per voluntary blood donation to the Kidz1stFund™ will bring us one step closer to finding a cure."

Starting Now!

Make life bearable for patients this holiday season.

Take home a holiday bear when you give blood. Donate early for best selection.

Only while supplies last

## Donor Gives Back in Appreciation of Those Who Gave for Him

I had been miserable for days and thought it was the flu. But when I just couldn't shake it, I went to the hospital and was waiting for results when I learned, rather abruptly, that I had acute myelocytic leukemia (AML). I was alone and terrified. At age 44, I was hospitalized for six months; I had aggressive chemo, nearly died more than once and dropped from 210 down to 130 lbs! Thankfully, 48 transfusions of red blood cells and 27 units of platelets given by volunteer donors helped me fight my battle and win.



Having cancer has taught me things I might never have otherwise learned. Two weeks before my diagnosis, I felt like a million bucks. You could never have made me believe I had cancer.

Now I realize that this can happen to anybody and I believe that, whether you're a cancer survivor or perfectly healthy, all of us are responsible to help people going through what I did. I'm so grateful that now I'm in a position to be giving back by volunteering with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. I wish I was eligible to also donate blood and pay it back for others in need.

## FAMU Edges Out B-CU For Blood Drive Award

This year, SCBC teamed up with Florida's Blood Centers of Orlando to host the first Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Classic Blood Drive Challenge, a friendly donation competition between Florida A & M University and Bethune-Cookman University. On November 18, representatives from both blood centers and schools attended the pre-game luncheon where the winner for the challenge was announced. In the end, FAMU was awarded the trophy for exceeding the number of units collected by B-CU throughout the multiple blood drives this fall.



## Next Generation of Donors

At left, students line up to donate blood at Colquitt County High School, SCBC's biggest blood drive of the year. At this year's drive, held November 16, 325 units of blood were collected, exceeding last year's turn-out by 67 units! Thank you to everyone who worked together to make the event a success.