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COULD YOU BE THE PERFECT MATCH

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA JOINS TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND SAVE LIVES

Ft. Myers, FL. (May 26, 2008) – The Southwest Florida community is coming together to make a difference in the life of a teenager and the lives of many others around the nation just like him. Kenny Conidaris is a 14 year old Ft. Myers native who is suffering from a rare blood disease called Severe Aplastic Anemia. Since his diagnosis over 2 years ago, his grandfather, along with Florida's Blood Centers, has organized a massive Bone Marrow and Blood Drive in the hopes of finding a bone marrow match for Kenny and other young children like him.

For the third year in a row, Bob Conidaris and the Conidaris family have organized the Kenny Conidaris Drive to be held at the Lani Kai Island Resort in Ft. Myers Beach on July 19, 2008 from 9am-4pm. The event will feature live entertainment, free food and refreshments along with free transportation. All donors will receive a "FREE" T-shirt and a $10 Gift Card.

Together, Florida's Blood Centers and the Conidaris family hope to raise a minimum of 100 units of blood and register more than 50 people for the National Bone Marrow registry. This goal is only achievable with the support and participation of the local community. In the first year, the Kenney Conidaris Drive broke the state record in number of bone marrow registrars.

Thousands of children and adults from around the world suffering from the many different types of blood disorders and cancers are in need of bone marrow transfers. Many rely on blood donations for their survival while living in the hope that they will find a perfect match through the Bone Marrow Registry. "It is a severe disease and one that so many children and adults live with. It is imperative that we do our very best, not just for Kenny, but for the thousands of kids and adults out there in need of a transplant." said Kathy Conidaris, Kenny's mother.

"Unfortunately, children like Kenny are all too prevalent in the world. At Florida's Blood Centers a good portion of the blood we receive goes to children like Kenny who need platelets when going through radiation, or who need rich, whole blood when going through life saving transplants and procedures

Severe Aplastic Anemia is a disease of the bone marrow whereby bone marrow stops producing enough red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets to support the body. Patients are at risk for life-threatening infections or bleeding. In most cases, doctors do not know the cause. The only treatment for the disease and to manage it long-term is a bone marrow transplant. For more information about this disease or to read about Kenny's struggle, long onto http://www.caringbridge.org/cb/inputSiteName.do?method=search&siteName=Kennyconidaris11 or www.aplastic.org.

If you or your company would like to be part of this event, contact Kenny Conidaris at 463-3111 or contact Kathy Conidaris at 851-0701.

About Florida's Blood Centers
Founded in 1942, Florida's Blood Centers (FBC) is the sole supplier of blood and blood products to 72 healthcare facilities in a 21-county area. FBC is the largest independent blood center in the state and the fourth largest in the nation, collecting more than 350,000 pints of blood from volunteer blood donors annually. FBC also offers national tissue matching and bone marrow donor registration. For more information visit www.floridasbloodcenters.org.

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