



Marine Industries Association
of South Florida
Since 1961

MEDIA ALERT

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August 12, 2020

**MARINE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA
TO CO-HOST ONEBLOOD BLOODRIVE ORGANIZED BY PRESIDENT OF YACHT-MATE PRODUCTS**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020

9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

MIASF HEADQUARTERS, 221 SW 3RD AVENUE (NUGENT AVE.), FORT LAUDERDALE

Fort Lauderdale, FL – On Friday, August 14th, the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) will support a blood drive organized by Yacht-Mate Products president and founder, Sandy Hoekstra-Handrahan, to help meet the unprecedented demand of area hospitals treating an influx of patients with COVID-19.

“I wanted to find a way to help those impacted by this devastating pandemic,” said Hoekstra-Handrahan. “Knowing how generous members of the marine industry family are, I thought this would give us a meaningful opportunity to provide a direct benefit to those who are battling this virus as patients and those frontline healthcare providers who are working tirelessly with dwindling resources to save lives every day.”

A limited number of appointments are still available, and registration is required. Those interested in registering for an appointment to donate blood or platelets at the OneBlood Big Red Bus that will be stationed in the MIASF Headquarters parking lot can reserve a time slot at <https://www.oneblood.org/donate-now/> and use Sponsor Code #61618 to sign up.

Each donor can save up to three lives! OneBlood tests all blood donations for the COVID-19 antibody. The FDA authorized antibody test will indicate if the donor’s immune system has produced antibodies to the virus, regardless of whether they ever showed symptoms. Results will be available in the donor portal approximately 48 - 96 hours post-donation.

Additionally, MIASF is accepting non-perishable food items to benefit the Children’s Diagnostic & Treatment Center “Bare Necessities” patient pantry, which distributes 850 pounds of food to needy families every month.

MIASF Events Coordinator, Nicole Hoekstra, said, “High unemployment rates resulting from the coronavirus stay-at-home and lockdown emergency orders have impacted low-income families exponentially, and the Bare Necessities food pantry at the CDTC helps families with a special needs child extend their food options with non-perishable food items.”

Needed items include evaporated milk, oatmeal and cereal, jelly, tuna and other canned meat, soups and ramen noodles, as well as canned and dried beans, rice, pasta, jarred sauces, fruit cups, applesauce, and snacks, and diapers sized 2 - 5 are always in high demand. The food collection will be held in conjunction with the blood drive and all donated items can be dropped off in contactless receptacles that will be located on the MIASF office front porch.

221 SW 3rd Avenue · Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312
954.524.2733 · www.miasf.org

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The Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) is the largest trade organization in the Southeast United States dedicated to promoting, protecting, and growing the 111,000 middle class jobs in Broward County and 142,000 jobs regionally driving the economic output to \$12 billion regionally. Created in 1961, the not-for-profit trade group is focused on the sound growth of the marine industry in the South Florida Region to benefit its members and their customers, communities, and the environment. The Association has over 500 members in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties and is the owner of the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show.

Yacht-Mate Products offers a full range of Water Softeners, UV Sterilizers, Drinking Systems, and Ozone products for a complete quality water management program to ensure water is fresh and safe.

Generally healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate blood. Photo ID is required. To learn more about the importance of blood donation and how donors can target the power of their blood type visit oneblood.org. All donors receive a wellness checkup of blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and iron count, including a cholesterol screening, plus a surprise gift. OneBlood is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) community asset responsible for providing safe, available and affordable blood.