FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contacts:
Claudine Van Gonka/Manager, Communications, San Diego Blood Bank
O: 619-400-8166/C: 619-455-7785
Nicole Hall/Press Relations Chair, Las Patronas/ C: 858-531-2863 / snhall@me.com

LAS PATRONAS VISITS SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK
Group to view Trima machines funded by the organization

SAN DIEGO (October 30, 2017) – Six members of the philanthropic organization Las Patronas visited the San Diego Blood Bank on Friday, October 27 for a tour of the facility and of bloodmobiles that now house Trima machines that facilitate platelet donations at mobile drives. These Trima machines were purchased through a generous financial donation from Las Patronas.

“It is through the committed support of local organizations like Las Patronas that the San Diego Blood Bank is able to provide blood and blood products to more than 120,000 patients every year,” said David Wellis, Ph.D. and CEO of the San Diego Blood Bank. “We operate on less than a 1% margin, and the generous charitable support provided by Las Patronas is essential for the San Diego Blood Bank to continue our mission.”

“We are so honored to see these how these Trima machines will ultimately help so many San Diegans and beyond,” said Sherry Macelli, president of Las Patronas. “Our partnership with the San Diego Blood Bank is a perfect example of Las Patronas’s tradition of giving to enhance services available in our shared community. We are enormously grateful to our many generous donors who make financial support of organizations like San Diego Blood Bank possible.”

During the last 14 years, Las Patronas has donated more than $201,000 to the San Diego Blood Bank in support of new bloodmobiles, blood delivery vehicles and disaster readiness.

To be eligible to donate blood you must be at least 17 years old (16 year olds may donate with parental consent), weigh at least 114 pounds and be in general good health. Eligible blood donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment to give by visiting www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org or calling 1-800-4-MY-SDBB (1-800-469-7322).

About the San Diego Blood Bank
SDBB is dedicated to community health by providing a reliable supply of blood to patients in need. Our vision is to further ensure the health of our community by simultaneously delivering related health and wellness education and services and extending into research. SDBB is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves hospitals in San Diego, Orange, Imperial and Los Angeles counties with blood transfusion products and reference laboratory services. SDBB currently operates six local donor centers and 10 bloodmobiles. SDBB’s Cell Therapy Program provides lifesaving stem cell transplants to patients worldwide. For more information about SDBB, visit www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org or connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.

About Las Patronas
Las Patronas is a philanthropic organization with a long history of giving. Since its inception in 1946, Las Patronas has donated more than $20 million to over a thousand charitable institutions in San Diego. The funds distributed to these organizations are generated through yearlong fundraising efforts and the annual presentation of the Jewel Ball, one of San Diego’s most enduring social, cultural, and philanthropic traditions. All funds raised by Las Patronas stay in San Diego County and are distributed to many small grass-root nonprofits as well as larger, more visible organizations. For more information about Las Patronas and the annual Jewel Ball, please visit www.laspatronas.org.

###