Many typical activities such as shopping at the grocery store to going to a doctor appointment have brought about new guidelines and steps that are anything but typical. At Miller-Keystone Blood Center our focus has always been and always will be centered upon the health and safety of our donors.

Donating blood is safe, and we’ve taken additional measures to ensure our donors safety. All our equipment is always decontaminated between uses. In fact, everything that touches the blood is disposable, including the blood bags, needles and test tubes. We’ve also increased daily, routine sterilization and sanitization of door knobs, iPads, donor chairs and other high-touch areas. Donor chairs are also adequately spaced per CDC guidelines to abide by social distancing recommendations.

While our staff has been educated and busy keeping all our visitors safe, we’re also keeping our staff healthy, too. Not only are donors’ temperatures taken before entering our centers but we’re also taking the temperatures of our staff members each day. While we would love to see a flood of donors, we have required

As COVID-19 swiftly impacted our families, communities and businesses, Miller-Keystone Blood Center joined the frontline efforts to find treatments and remedies to battle the novel virus.

With the oversight and approval from the FDA, MKBC, along with 40 other blood centers across the nation, embarked on collecting Convalescent Plasma in March to participate in an experimental treatment to help in the fight against COVID-19. The potentially life-saving treatment transfuses the antibody-rich plasma

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DONATING BLOOD DURING A PANDEMIC
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potential donors to schedule their appointments online and complete all necessary health screenings online as well. Through this effort, we’re able to manage the number of individuals inside the Donor Centers to avoid overcrowding or a mass gathering.

As always, we expect only healthy people to come and give blood. The risk of exposure at a blood drive or donor center is exceedingly low. We strongly encourage donors who do not feel well to reschedule their appointment. Donors who have been exposed to a person having a diagnosis of COVID-19 infection should postpone donating for 28 days. Examples of exposure include but are not limited to person-to-person contact, quarantine, or on an infected cruise.

At Miller-Keystone Blood Center we will always ensure your safety, and we are grateful for the many donors who continue to come to our Donor Centers during these difficult times. Our only source of blood is from volunteer blood donors like you. The need for blood never ends and is necessary to treat cancer patients, trauma victims, premature infants, surgical patients and others. Please encourage your family and friends to donate blood and help those in need.

TREATING COVID-19 PATIENTS WITH CONVALESCENT PLASMA
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from individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 into critically ill patients. The anticipation is that the Convalescent Plasma will offer a boost to help stimulate recovery in patients still battling the virus.

Regional hospital physicians began to see encouraging results from transfusions in severely ill COVID-19 patients. While MKBC continued to collect and supply area hospitals with Convalescent Plasma, news of the blood center’s efforts traveled to New York, reaching the Jewish Orthodox community of Kiryas Joel. Members of the community, along with local Jewish Orthodox community members in the Lehigh Valley, arrived at the Bethlehem Donor Center to offer their support by donating their Convalescent Plasma. The partnership, in just one day, generated hundreds of units of this remarkable plasma to help patients, especially those with suppressed immune systems, recover from the deadly illness.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you’re interested in donating, there are requirements to becoming a Convalescent Plasma donor.

Eligible individuals can donate Convalescent Plasma if they have tested positive of COVID-19, recovered and are symptom-free for 28 days.

Potential donors must have their physician complete an Attestation Form found on the MKBC website.

General eligibility guidelines for blood donation must be met, and a potential donor must pass all other screening tests and qualifications necessary for donating blood.

For a complete list of requirements and information for prospective Convalescent Plasma donors, please visit GIVEaPINT.org/covid-plasma or contact Diane Wiest, RN, Senior Director of Risk Management, at 800-223-6667, ext. 1245 or dwiest@giveapint.org.

Leah Friedman, 18 years old, of Bethlehem donated Convalescent Plasma at MKBC, with encouragement from Tamara West, MKBC Fixed Site Coordinator.
As COVID-19 emerged, a new blood donor effort did as well at Miller-Keystone Blood Center. The Faith-Based Community Blood Donor Initiative evolved to offer partnering organizations the flexibility of hosting a blood drive at any Donor Center, especially if holding a blood drive at a place of worship is too challenging.

The new program opened the door for additional endeavors for a faith-based community to donate Convalescent Plasma. The New York-based Jewish Orthodox community of Kiryas Joel traveled to Pennsylvania and hosted weekly plasma donations along with the Lehigh Valley’s Jewish Orthodox community. You can read more about the partnership under MKBC’s new Give A Pint News blog.

MILLER-KEYSTONE’S ANNUAL APPEAL FEATURES ANGELA’S STORY

Each year, our annual fundraising appeal features a story about a patient served by the Blood Center. This year Angela’s story was told. Angela, ‘Angie,’ was a vibrant, young, 17-year-old anticipating her senior year at Daniel Boone Area High School in Berks County. On a hot summer day in August 2003, Angie woke-up late for her summer job as a lifeguard. Although she had swollen glands and didn’t feel too well, she decided to go to the pool anyway. The next day her symptoms grew worse. That’s the day Angie’s life changed; it was the beginning of doctor visits, the emergency room, and hospital stays. In a matter of a few days Angie was diagnosed with a rare case of Leukemia and was treated with close to 100 units of whole blood and platelets.

During her illness, Angie and her family experienced first-hand the critical shortage of blood and platelets as they waited long hours and days as the hospital searched for the correct type of platelets. Angie’s Leukemia had a very low survival rate and she passed away 26 days later, August 28, 2003.

Today, Angie is an inspiration as her legacy lives on through her parents, family, and friends. This year marks the 17th Annual Angela Hohl Memorial Blood Drive at Daniel Boone High School.

Over the years, the Angela Hohl Memorial Blood Drive evolved into one of the largest drives in the region. During the current school year, Daniel Boone High School ran three drives in Angela’s name and collected 413 units of blood. Sixteen years later, Sue and Harvey Hohl continue to honor their daughter’s legacy as they passionately inspire their community to DONATE BLOOD TO SAVE LIVES.

To support the work of Miller-Keystone, please make a donation at WWW.GIVEAPINT.ORG/ FINANCIAL- CONTRIBUTION
SET YOUR VIRTUAL SAILS FOR THE 26TH ANNUAL CRUISE ABOARD THE LIFELINE

CLIMB ABOARD MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER’S 26TH ANNUAL CRUISE ABOARD THE LIFELINE beginning on August 1 through August 8. This year, we welcome you to set your sails for our virtual cruise experience, with all proceeds benefiting MKBC’s lifesaving mission as the sole blood supplier to our community hospitals. By hosting a virtual event in 2020, Miller-Keystone Blood Center is able to reach our full geographic service area and give everyone an opportunity to support our event and our mission: partnering with our community to provide a continuous supply of blood products and services.

This year, we’ll host a week-long social media scavenger hunt as we open up an online silent auction for bidding. Guests of the cruise will enjoy special video messages from some of our local community partners.

Your sponsorship of our 26th Annual Cruise Aboard the LifeLine, as well as your participation in this year’s online auction, helps to ensure a safe and stable blood supply for the 28 regional hospitals served by MKBC.

From collection to delivery, special programs and scholarships, bloodmobile restoration, education and more, your actions fuel our impact and help save the lives of friends, family, neighbors, coworkers and more each and every day!

Learn more at GIVEaPINT.org/Cruise-2020 or contact us at develop@GIVEaPINT.org.

WHEELS OF LIFE BLOODMOBILES ON THE GO

Thanks to the generous support of Miller-Keystone’s long-time community partner and major donor, Air Products along with several other foundations and individuals, we met our fundraising goal to purchase a new Bloodmobile. Recruiting and collecting the needed blood from volunteers is a daily challenge, and mobile blood drives at businesses, schools, churches, and civic organizations are critical to the organization. More than 50% of all blood collected by Miller-Keystone comes from blood drives in our communities. During 2018, 1,415 blood drives collected 33,015 units of blood. The Wheels of Life fundraising campaign is on-going in order to maintain the current fleet of bloodmobiles and trucks.

The custom coach will be delivered later this year and will feature a full-service blood collection facility that meets all U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) safety and sanitation requirements. The floor plan will accommodate up to four donor beds, designed specifically for mobile applications. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled to launch the new coach and the following donors will be invited to celebrate the occasion:

- Air Products Foundation
- ESSA Bank & Trust
- Jaindl Family Foundation
- Keystone Savings Foundation
- Martin Guitar
- Victaulic
- St. Peter’s UCC of Wilshire
- Stabler Foundation
- Weyerhaeuser

For more information or to get updates on future blood drives at your school, church, place of business or other organization, call 800-B-A-DONOR or visit GIVEaPINT.org!
NEW PITTSTON DONOR CENTER
UNVEILED AT RIBBON CUTTING

At the start of the New Year, Miller-Keystone Blood Center welcomed the newest addition to its family of Donor Centers with a grand opening ribbon cutting for the Pittston Donor Center in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The new Pittston site is the primary blood product supplier for Geisinger Health System. The new site, located at 400 Route 315, Suite E, in Pittston, welcomes donors to schedule their appointments online and offers group blood drives through the Adopt-A-Day program.

MKBC is excited to announce the opening of our new Pittston Donor Center
400 Route 315, Suite E, Pittston, PA

800-B-A-DONOR | GIVEaPINT.org

COMMUNITY PARTNERS RALLY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As a result of the NEPA Grantmakers Forum COVID-19 Response Fund, MKBC was awarded two grants; $5,000 from Scranton Area Community Foundation and $5,000 from Luzerne Foundation.

The grants provided support for the collection and distribution of critically needed blood products at the Pittston Donation Center in Luzerne County. In addition, MKBC received a COVID-19 Operating Expense grant from the R. K. Laros Foundation and a COVID-19 Community Response Fund grant from the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce for operations in the Lehigh Valley.
Erin Ofner joined our social media challenge while donating blood at the Bethlehem Donor Center.

MKBC Mobile Units arrived in Kempton, PA, for one last blood drive in March.

Blood donors enjoy snacks and beverages after they generously donated blood at the Kempton Fire Company in Kempton.

Katie Cowan Ramos was our first social media winner in April when she responded to the snap a pic, tag the blood center and donate challenge.

Elizabeth Meade, President of Cedar Crest College, joined the social media challenge and won during Week 2 after posting her photo while donating blood using the hashtag #MKBCdonate.
Amy Krause, MKBC’s Week 6 Social Media Challenge winner posted herself donating blood and received 192 interactions.

Jessica Mullin Smith, who donated on May 1, won our Week 5 Social Media Challenge after posting her photo on Facebook while she donated blood.

Dave Rubright of Shoemakersville was our Week 3 Social Media winner after posting his photo while donating blood at the Reading Donor Center.

The 2020 World Blood Donor Day was held on June 12 and June 13 and hosted by B104, WZZO and WAEB at the Bethlehem Donor Center. Donors enjoyed tasty treats, music and were entered into a grand prize drawing.

Every year countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day. The event, established in 2004, serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products, and to thank blood donors for their voluntary, life-saving gifts of blood.
MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER

OUR HOSPITALS
Miller-Keystone Blood Center currently serves as the only blood provider to the following hospital systems:

Geisinger
Bloomsburg, PA • Camp Hill, PA
Danville, PA • Jersey Shore, PA
Lewisvile, PA • Scranton, PA
Wilkes-Barre, PA

Grand View Health
Sellersville, PA

Hunterdon Healthcare
Flemington, NJ

Lehigh Valley Health Network
Allentown, PA • Bethlehem, PA
Hazleton, PA • Pottsville, PA

Reading Health System
Tower Health
Reading, PA

St. Luke’s University Health Network
Allentown, PA • Bethlehem, PA
Coaldale, PA • Easton, PA • Lehighton, PA
Orwigsburg, PA • Quakertown, PA
Stroudsburg, PA • Phillipsburg, NJ

Summit Medical Group
Florham Park, NJ

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVES
For the most up-to-date listing of life-saving Blood Drives in your community, visit donor.GIVEaPINT.org or follow us on:

facebook.com/millerkeystone
twitter.com/millerkeystone
instagram.com/millerKeystone

YOUR HOSPITAL’S CHOICE FOR LIFE-SAVING BLOOD.