

WINTER 2023 COMMUNITY CONFECTION

A MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER PUBLICATION

PUT US ON YOUR LIST THIS SEASON!

Dear Friends – it is hard to believe that the holiday season is once again upon us. While we are all busy holiday shopping, wrapping presents and decorating, let's not forget that while many of us are preparing to celebrate, there are cancer patients, accident victims, premature babies and others who will be spending their holidays in the hospital and will need our help.



Why not take just one hour during this holiday season to give the gift of life, your donation can save up to three lives. While you may never know the recipient of your generosity, rest assured knowing that they and their family are extremely grateful.

— All Of Us At Miller-Keystone Blood Center

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BUSY IS AS BUSY DOES



Retired school teacher, principal, university adjunct, avid skier, world traveler, Broadway show and opera lover, theater architecture and history fan, website developer, tennis player, guitar plucker, philanthropist...

And, since about 5 years ago, blood donor!

Who is this Renaissance man, why does he stay so busy, and what motivates his adventures?

Ronald Szabo, of Bethlehem, has had an active and interesting life. Ron spent his career in education. He served in many capacities, and each opportunity was the result of one good experience moving him into another good experience.

Right from the start, even his student teaching was unusual, with the supervising teacher going out on sick leave! He, and a fellow student teacher, co-taught under the supervision of the Superintendent of Schools. Ron finished college and taught for 4 years in Long Branch, New Jersey.

Having landed in the Lehigh Valley while pursuing his master's degree at Lehigh University, Ron used his elementary and industrial arts degrees to substitute teach while attending graduate school at night.

Continued on p. 2



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COMING SOON! Webster Street on Bethlehem's South Side!

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A publication designed to inform our community about the programs and services of the Miller-Keystone Blood Center.

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Readers are invited to send their comments and letters to us at:

Miller-Keystone Blood Center Lehigh Valley Corporate Center 1465 Valley Center Parkway Bethlehem, PA 18017







BUSY IS AS BUSY DOES Continued from p. 1

His first teaching job in this area was at Clearview Elementary in the Bethlehem Area School District. And the rest, as they say, is history.

He has held various positions, including 6th grade teacher, 2nd and 3rd grade teacher, 4th and 5th grade teacher for gifted students, director of summer school at Liberty High School, and interim principal. To put some numbers around his stellar career, Ron was a teacher for 9 years, a curriculum specialist for 10 years, and a principal for 11.

You can't keep a good man down, and so even after he retired, he accepted an opportunity to teach at Moravian University. Ron then spent another decade as an adjunct lecturer sharing how to integrate art and technology in elementary school.

He says he's retired now, but he'd still entertain a request to work a few hours a day, if the opportunity was right.

"After you retire, you need a reason to get up and get going," Ron reflected.

It's not like Ron needs more to do. He stays incredibly busy, and everything he does has an interesting reason why he started the activity. "It didn't hurt, and Miller

makes it convenient

—Ronald Szabo

to reschedule and pre-

screen on the computer."

The impetus for becoming a blood donor, started with his brother's need for a kidney transplant. A little apprehensive at first, with "irrational Dracula thoughts" about how blood is drawn, Ron relaxed after his first blood donation, and today he can be

found, giving whole blood about every 6 weeks.

"It didn't hurt, and Miller makes it convenient to reschedule and pre-screen on the computer."

Ron schedules his blood donations around all the other activities that make up his days.

Tennis and skiing are activities that consume some of his time seasonally. He started skiing when he moved to Pennsylvania and has skied all over the country as well as Europe. His role as curriculum specialist necessitated that he worked all summer, giving him an opportunity to take interesting vacations in the winter. He is particularly fond of Europe, having visited friends there, just being a tourist, and going alpine skiing.

Ron also has a love of all things theater, which began when he was an undergrad at Montclair State University since New York was so close to the Montclair, NJ, campus. Today, he tries to go into the city at least 3 times a month.

That interest in Broadway theater led him in directions he hadn't anticipated. Initially, his goal was to see a show in each of the 41 Broadway theatres, many of which are more than 100 years old. That led him to create an interactive website about each theater and discover exciting details about theatre history, architecture, and the people who built and performed in them throughout the past century.

"In doing this research, I noticed a trend: one of the most prolific theater builders in New York was Oscar Hammerstein I. I found out that several of Hammerstein's theaters were used by various Minsky Brothers for burlesque shows. The most famous of the Minsky theaters was on 42nd Street. That theater, now called the New Victory, is still in existence, and is now a theater dedicated exclusively for children's performances."

Ron is also an avid supporter of the community. He supports Miller-Keystone Blood Center through blood donations and financial support (he's even kicking around volunteering). He looks for organizations he feels are a good fit for him

> from a philanthropic standpoint. In addition to area food banks and church appeals, two favorites for Ron are: Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the Theater Development Fund. Broadway Cares helps those throughout the performing arts community in need of all types of assistance and provides grants for food banks

and other supportive endeavors. Recently, Ron participated as a volunteer for its Red Bucket appeal, which raised millions to help people receive lifesaving medications, health care, counseling, and nutritious meals.

The Theater Development Fund provides New York City School students with an opportunity to learn more about the theater through its various in-school mentoring programs. These programs culminate in an actual Broadway performance. Specialized performances are also provided for special needs students with auditory, and visual challenges, as well as autism.

Ron has no intention of slowing down. According to Ron, there are advantages to being single. He does have a lot of flexibility in his schedule, and he claims he will continue to pursue adventure after adventure and support the things he's passionate about for as long as he can.

SAVE MORE LIVES BY DONATING PLATELETS!



Platelets are a vital blood product collected at Miller-Keystone Blood Center – and they have a shelf-life of only seven days!

Platelets are particles circulating in our blood that help control bleeding. They are crucial for accident victims, surgery patients and burn victims. In fact, cancer patients are the #1 patient user group requiring platelet transfusions. This is because some cancer treatments can result in anemia and a decreased platelet count. When platelet levels fall too low, patients require transfusions to replenish their supply and prevent life-threatening hemorrhages. Many cancer patients require daily platelet and red blood cell transfusions for several weeks.

With a usable lifespan of only seven days. platelets are in constant demand for life-saving treatments. You can safely give platelets every two weeks, up to 24 times per year; and it is up to people like YOU to ensure we have enough platelets for patients in our local hospitals.

Make your commitment to donate platelets by joining our Platelet Warrior Club today. By donating 12 times during a 12-month period, you will earn exclusive MKBC merchandise, such as:

- > an exclusive, embroidered polo shirt
- > an MKBC wind breaker all-season coat
- > an embroidered MKBC duffle bag
- > Yeti coffee mug

For more information and to sign up, visit GIVEaPINT.org/community_posts/plateletwarrior-club today.







800-B-A-DONOR GIVEaPINT.org WALK-INS WELCOME

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR MKBC CHALLENGE COIN?

It is always a privilege for our staff to present our blood donors with an MKBC Challenge Coin, a token of thanks and appreciation for their military service. If you have served or are serving, and have not yet received your MKBC Challenge Coin, be sure to let our staff know the next time you visit us to donate!









COMMUNITYCONNECTION WINTER 2023

MKBC HONOR ROLL **OF BLOOD DONORS**

Miller-Keystone Blood Center is sincerely grateful to acknowledge our lifesavers by presenting our Honor Roll of Blood Donors. Individuals on this list have generously donated blood at least once during the July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 fiscal year. Because there are more than 25,000 honorees, we are listing our 25-100 gallon donors here. To review the full list, including donors with up to 25 gallons, please visit GIVEaPINT.org/get_involved_ posts/mkbc-blood-donor. It is because of your ongoing support and generosity that we are able to save and sustain lives...one pint at a time.

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MKBC ANNUAL REPORT OF FINANCIAL GIFTS

Miller-Keystone Blood Center is grateful to have a generous community of financial supporters. We are pleased to present the following Annual Report of Financial Gifts. Donors on this list have made a gift during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and up to October 16, 2023 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Because there are nearly 4,000 honorees, our Champions, Benefactors, and Partners are listed here. To review the full list, including our MKBC Sustainers, please visit GIVEaPINT.org/get_involved_posts/mkbc-honor-roll. Every gift contributes to our lifesaving mission, and we thank you for your generosity and ongoing support!

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COMMUNITYCONNECTION WINTER 2023

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See what some of our recent donor recipients have to say throughout our gift listina!

(These are just a few of the messages recently received.)



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To review the full Annual Report of Financial Donors, including those making gifts up to \$99, please visit GIVEaPINT.org/get_involved_posts/mkbc-honor-roll.

MKBC "DROPS" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

Through our "Drops" campaign, local businesses can partner with MKBC to increase blood donations, recruit volunteers and increase fundraising!

The Blood Center's "Drops" campaign is a communication and employee engagement program designed for organizations to engage and educate their employees on the importance of blood donation. Participants receive a monthly "Drops" communication



from MKBC that can be distributed to employees through various communication vehicles such email, social media employee newsletter, or digital display.

Content in these monthly emails may include general information on our community blood supply, donor eligibility guidelines, MKBC locations/hours of operation, information on MKBC community engagement programs, etc. These "Drops" are designed to educate and engage your employees, inspire regular blood donations for those that are interested in supporting the community, and highlight individuals for your internal communications with photos/stories of their donations.

We also track donations on a quarterly basis and provide participants with a performance report in order to celebrate the support of their employees, and to recognize your organization and others on our social media and through our Local Leaders program (for organizations collecting 200 or more donations during the calendar year).

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