

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION Drops

A MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER PUBLICATION

FEBRUARY 2024



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[Schedule A Lifesaving Blood Donation](#)

[Blood Donation Eligibility Guidelines](#)

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## A Message from Miller-Keystone Blood Center (MKBC)

Dear Friends - Did you know that Miller-Keystone Blood Center operates [seven donor center locations and more than 10 satellite locations](#)? In addition, we work with hundreds of schools, churches, businesses and other organizations to host [more than 750 community blood drives](#) annually. This is no easy task, and we are fortunate to have more than 50 experienced collections specialists who use excellent phlebotomy technique in order of collect life-saving blood. **February 12-16 is National Phlebotomist Recognition Week**, a week designed to recognize these professionals for the critical role they play within the healthcare system. Their expertise in performing phlebotomy to obtain blood for transfusion and test samples, and their ability to address donor concerns and answer any questions our donors might have, is crucial to fulfilling our mission to save lives by partnering with our community to provide a continuous supply of blood products and services. We are proud to recognize the excellent phlebotomy skills of our collections specialists - not only during Phlebotomist Recognition Week, but all year long - and the very important role they play within our organization and our community.



**February is Black History Month**, a monthlong commemoration of African American history and achievement in the United States. One inspiration to many working in transfusion medicine was Dr. Charles Drew - an African American surgeon who pioneered methods of storing blood plasma for transfusion and organized the first large-scale blood bank in the nation. This is also a time to reflect on the importance of diversifying the blood supply in our community. One in thirteen African Americans are born with the sickle cell trait, and those diagnosed with sickle cell disease rely on the generosity of blood donors to survive. Blood donor diversity is important for improved patient outcomes, as rare and uncommon blood types are often found in similar ethnic populations. Blood type is inherited; therefore, a more compatible donor is often someone of a similar ethnic background.

**February is also American Heart Month.** Did you know that every time you donate

blood, you receive a mini-health screen that includes pulse, temperature and blood pressure, as well as a complimentary cholesterol screening test? The health of our blood donors is very important to us, and we encourage you to be heart smart. Know what your blood pressure and cholesterol numbers are, exercise regularly and remember to keep current on your doctor appointments and medications as part of your self-care routine.

**D. Kip Kuttner, D.O.**  
Vice President & Medical Director

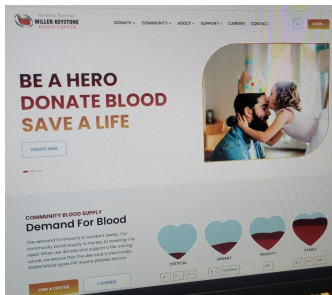
### NEW MKBC SATELLITE LOCATION!

## South Side Community at BSI Corporate Benefits

Starting in January 2024, a new monthly satellite location for MKBC opened at the BSI Corporate Benefits headquarters in South Bethlehem. This new site is slated to be open on the second Friday of each month, from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Following the site's soft opening in January, the grand opening and ribbon cutting is slated for **Friday, February 9, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**; individuals wishing to schedule a lifesaving donation as part of Friday's grand opening can do so by scanning the QR code or [clicking here!](#)



## MKBC Launches Newly Redesigned Website



In January, MKBC launched our [newly redesigned website](#) focused on providing visitors with an enhanced, more user-friendly experience. The easy-to-navigate site, which continues to be located at [GIVEaPINT.org](http://GIVEaPINT.org), includes updated menu options providing clear and easy-to-find links to important items such as online appointment scheduling, MKBC locations and hours, iScreen (*the Blood Center's online medical screening application*), current

blood donor eligibility guidelines, how to make a financial donation, career opportunities, and more.

The site also includes "real time" information on the status of our community's blood supply, upcoming community blood drives, blood donor promotions and events, stories from grateful transfusion recipients, and more.

Donors can continue to access their private, confidential online portal via the website as well. After logging into his/her account, donors can view past donation history, view test results, confirm Lifesaver Rewards Points, and more. If you haven't already, be sure to visit our new redesigned website soon!

## Congratulations to our latest 50-Gallon Donor Honorees!



Michael Joseph, Easton



Denis Pancoast, Allentown



Brian Bobbin, Northampton

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## Benefits of an MKBC Contribution

As you sit down to do your taxes this year, we wanted to share ideas on how your philanthropic giving might impact your taxes and support the critically important work that we do at MKBC to save lives. We hope you might enjoy some advantages when making a philanthropic gift to a favorite charity like MKBC.

Did you know that MKBC can accept gifts of securities electronically? In fact, appreciated securities held for more than one year may provide benefits to you and may provide a way to help you to achieve your long-term financial objective of reducing your income and estate taxes. And, supporters who donate appreciated stock may save on taxes while also providing much needed funding for MKBC

Other options that may be open in terms of financial support to MKBC are for those financial supporters who are age 70 or older. You can make gifts from your retirement IRA fund, called Qualified Charitable Distributions. You might reduce your future tax burden and you might also meet your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) if you are required to make one. In all cases, MKBC welcomes the opportunity to be your "charity of choice" when making philanthropic gifts.

When considering these financial decisions, please speak with your financial planner, tax preparer, legal counsel or other advisor. We appreciate your consideration of choosing MKBC when making your philanthropic choices. [Please feel free to contact Lina Barbieri, Chief Philanthropy Officer, MKBC](#), to discuss your philanthropic wishes in more detail.\*

*\* This information is not meant as tax, legal or financial advice. We strongly recommend speaking with your financial advisor or legal counsel for information/advice specific to your situation.*

## Did You Know...



## How Much Blood Is Used During Heart Surgery?

On average, a heart surgery patient may receive 3-8 units of Red Cells, 1-10 units of Platelets and 2-5 units of Plasma during his/her procedure.

MKBC is grateful for the schools, churches, businesses and other organizations that sponsor on-site bloodmobile drives. Our "Coordinator Corner" segment offers blood drive coordinators tips on ways to attract additional donors and make your blood drive events even more successful!

Do you host multiple drives on a regular basis with us? If you do, consider signing folks up for your NEXT blood drive while they are at the current one. If your next drive is already on the calendar, we can provide you with a copy of the schedule that you can use to fill in their next appointment. Later, you can enter their appointments into the online schedule or send them to your account manager - but do this ASAP! Or give your donors a "Save the Date" card for your next blood drive, so they won't forget. We can even create Save the Save sheets for you - just ask your MKBC account manager.



Remember - even if you only do one or two blood drives a year, it's good to get the word out as soon as possible. If you have regular blood donors, you want to make sure they prepare to be eligible for your blood drive. Whole blood donors can donate every 56 days, so they need to be aware of your blood drive at least two months in advance.

For more tips on ensuring the success of your blood drive events, [click here!](#)

## Thank You MKBC Sponsors!

Financial contributions directly impact our mission by supporting the purchase of vital supplies, maintaining equipment, and covering operating expenses, ensuring the availability and safety of the region's blood supply. Every gift counts. Thank you for your generosity and support!





Thank you very much for your selfless act of donating blood. I never needed a blood transfusion before but had internal bleeding from a heart catheterization. Thank you and God bless you.



**Search for a Community Blood Drive Near You!**

Hospitals Served By MKBC

MKBC Board of Directors

Thank the Donor Program

MKBC Tech Heroes Campaign

Veterans Still Serving Initiative

Join the MKBC Biolinked Network!

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BLOOD CENTER



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