

Your Blood. Their Hope.®



MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

1465 Valley Center Parkway, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Administrative Fax 610-691-5423

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1-800-B-A-DONOR

GIVEaPINT.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 29, 2024

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**FINAL ROUND OF 2024 BOOTS AND BADGES BLOOD DRIVE
COMPETITION ANNOUNCED**

*Allentown Fire Department & Allentown Police Department Collecting
Blood Donations to Benefit Regional Hospital Patients*

LEHIGH VALLEY, PA – Officials at Miller-Keystone Blood Center (MKBC) have announced that the final round of the 2024 Boots and Badges Blood Drive Competition between the Allentown Fire Department and the Allentown Police Department will take place beginning Sunday, December 1 through Thursday, December 12, at Miller-Keystone's Hamilton Donor Center (Five City Center, 740 Hamilton Street, Suite 120). Beginning in February 2024, this year's friendly competition currently sees the Allentown Firefighters edging out the Allentown Police Officers by just a handful of blood donations.

"The goal of the Boots and Badges blood drive competition is not only to save lives, but to demonstrate and inspire others to give the gift of life as well," says Dara Gonzalez, Community Liaison, MKBC. "We are sincerely grateful to our first responders for their lifesaving commitment to the health and welfare of our community by giving the gift of life."

"As the only community blood center serving our local hospitals, Miller-Keystone Blood Center needs to recruit approximately 350 blood donations every day," she adds. "These donations save the lives of not only accident victims, but also cancer patients, premature babies, surgery and transplant patients, and individuals with inherited blood disorders. We encourage all eligible blood donors to support the Allentown Boots & Badges Competition by rolling up their sleeves to donate blood at this time."

Donors scheduling to donate at any MKBC during the month of December can also take advantage of several promotional giveaway opportunities that the Blood Center is offering, including::

- Platelet donors registering in December will be automatically entered to win one of three e-gift cards. One \$500 and two \$250 e-gift cards will be awarded.
- Blood donors registering from December 1 – December 12 can enter to win four tickets to Disney on Ice, taking place at the PPL Center on December 1.

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. - - Miller-Keystone Blood Center - -

- - pg 2 of 2 - -

- Blood donors registering from December 1 – December 29 can enter to win four tickets to the Philadelphia Eagles vs. New York Giants game on January 5.
- Individuals donating now through December 15 can enter to win four tickets to the Penn State playoff game at Beaver Stadium. *(Game date, opponent and availability are subject to change based on season outcome.)*

In addition, all individuals registering to donate at any MKBC donor center will receive a complimentary, limited-edition holiday T-shirt (while supplies last)!

In order to donate, individuals must be 16 years of age* or older, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be feeling healthy; they must not have donated in the past eight weeks. Donors must also provide valid identification. (* parental consent required for 16-year-old blood donors)

A full list of blood donor eligibility guidelines can be found on MKBC's website at GIVEaPINT.org. To schedule your next lifesaving blood donation, visit GIVEaPINT.org, download the MKBC Donor Mobile App for your Android or Apple device, or call 800-B-A-DONOR (223-6667); and be sure to include the Group ID # for either the Allentown Fire Department (# E187) or Allentown Police Department (# E186).

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