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MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEHIGH COUNTY AWARDS GRANT FOR NEW BLOODMOBILE

LEHIGH VALLEY, PA – Officials from Miller-Keystone Blood Center (MKBC) and the County of Lehigh are proud to announce the awarding of a \$250,000 grant designated for the purchase of a new community bloodmobile vehicle.

“We recognize the lifesaving work that Miller-Keystone Blood Center brings to our community and Lehigh County citizens,” said Philips Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive. “Lehigh County is excited to provide this grant in support of Miller-Keystone Blood Center’s ongoing mission of saving lives by partnering with the community to provide a continuous supply of blood product and services.”

According to Rami Nemeh, President & CEO of Hospital Central Services, Inc. & its affiliates including Miller-Keystone Blood Center, the new bloodmobile will help to bolster the community blood supply by increasing donations via blood drives. “Approximately 40% of our community’s blood supply comes from donations collected at blood drives hosted by local businesses, high schools, colleges, churches, community centers, and other organizations,” shared Nemeh. He said that Miller-Keystone Blood Center maintains a list of more than 2,000 community blood drive partners, with 386 active groups in Lehigh County alone.

“These organizations are essential in educating the community and creating opportunities for individuals to roll up their sleeves and donate the gift of life,” Nemeh added, explaining that during the pandemic, the Blood Center faced a sharp decline in blood donations through mobile drives due to shutdowns and stay-at-home orders.

“As we have moved into the post-pandemic era, we are seeing a shift back to a ‘mobile-drive culture,’” he said. Nemeh added that the Blood Center provides more than 100,000 transfusable blood products to our regional hospitals annually, with about 40% collected at mobile blood drive locations.

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“We host blood drives seven days per week,” he stated, confirming that adding this new vehicle enables MKBC to retire at least one of the Blood Center’s older vehicles, which has exceeded its life expectancy.

“Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood,” he noted. “This poses an enormous challenge for community blood centers as we are faced with the ongoing, critical task of recruiting new and additional blood donors, and ensuring that a safe and constant supply of blood products is available for cancer patients, accident victims, premature infants and others in need of lifesaving transfusions at our regional hospitals.”

“While the primary mission of Miller-Keystone Blood Center is to collect and distribute lifesaving blood products to our regional hospitals, our ability to operate efficiently relies on the generous financial support of individuals and organizations within our community,” added Lina Barbieri, Chief Philanthropy Officer, MKBC.

“We are sincerely grateful to the Honorable Philips Armstrong, County Council and the residents of the County of Lehigh for their partnership and generosity,” said Ms. Barbieri. “This grant, which supports the purchase of a new community bloodmobile, reflects their commitment not only to Miller-Keystone Blood Center but also to the health and well-being of our entire community.”

The new bloodmobile vehicle is expected to be placed in-service in the Lehigh Valley in late 2026.

For more information on the grant presentation or new community bloodmobile, contact Lina Barbieri, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at lbarbieri@giveapint.org; or for more information on hosting a blood drive at your location, call 800.223.6667 and ask to speak with someone in Donor Relations.

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