

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION Drops

A MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER PUBLICATION



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## MIRACLE BABY, MIRACLE BLOOD - TWICE!

When Claudia Aplicano was five months pregnant with her third child, she developed a condition known as placenta previa; she experienced severe bleeding and was put on immediate bedrest in the hospital. After receiving one unit of blood, however, something amazing happened - the bleeding stopped. The pregnancy progressed normally at home for several months. When bleeding returned, though, baby David was ready to make his appearance to the world and the beautiful, healthy boy was delivered by C-section. Claudia, on the other hand, was weak and there was fear of hemorrhage. Time for another blood transfusion - of seven units.



[\*\*READ CLAUDIA'S FULL STORY HERE\*\*](#)

*Thank You*  
**HEALTHCARE  
HEROES**

## CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL HEALTHCARE HEROES!

At MKBC, we're honored to celebrate the incredible healthcare heroes in our community who dedicate their lives to saving others.

In honor of Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (April 21 – April 25), National Nurses Week (May 6 – May 12) and National Hospital Week (May 11 – May 17), and to show our appreciation, hospital and healthcare workers, medical laboratory practitioners, and EMS professionals who donate blood at any MKBC donor center, MKBC satellite location, select MKBC community blood drives or blood drives held at a healthcare facility in April or May will receive a special, limited-edition "Healthcare Hero" Donor pin—a small token of our gratitude for your lifesaving work.



**SCHEDULE NOW TO RECEIVE YOUR LIMITED EDITION  
HEALTHCARE HERO DONOR PIN - [CLICK HERE](#)**



**[Cosmic Baseball is Coming... and You Can Be There](#)** | March 1 - April 30

**[Honoring our Healthcare Heroes](#)** | April 1 - May 31

**[Win Season Passes to Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom](#)** | April 1 - April 30

**[Race to Save Lives at Nascar's Tricky Triangle!](#)** | May 1 - June 15

**CLICK HERE FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LIST OF PROMOTIONS  
& GIVEAWAYS!**

## **EAST PENN MANUFACTURING AND D. KIP KUTTNER, D.O., RECOGNIZED BY AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS**

At this year's [America's Blood Centers \(ABC\)](#) Annual Meeting, [East Penn Manufacturing](#) (Lyon Station, PA) was named ABC Corporation of the Year! MKBC proudly nominated the organization for this honor, recognizing their exceptional and unwavering dedication to supporting both the Blood Center and the broader community. In addition to sponsoring 12 on-site blood drives annually, East Penn Manufacturing and the Breidegam Family Foundation - which is closely connected to the company's leadership - generously present MKBC and other charitable organizations in the region with financial gifts. Their contributions play a vital role in advancing the mission of these organizations and strengthening our entire region.

In addition, Miller-Keystone Blood Center's Medical Director, D. Kip Kuttner, D.O., was presented with a Distinguished Service Award in recognition for his years of service as the chair of ABC's SMT (Scientific, Medical and Technical) Committee, and for his many contributions to America's Blood Centers, the blood bank community, and evidence-based medicine.

**Congratulations to both East Penn Manufacturing and Dr. Kuttner on these distinguished and well-deserved honors!**





## THE IMPORTANCE OF PLATELETS

Platelets are one of the main components of blood, and help to control bleeding and bruising, by helping to form clots and allow wounds to heal.

Since they help control bleeding, platelets are very important for heart surgery patients, burn victims, organ transplant patients, bone marrow transplant patients, accident victims, premature babies, and especially cancer patients, who are the largest patient group requiring platelet transfusions.



Eligible donors can safely give platelets as often as every eight days (up to 24 times per year). What's important to understand is that platelets have the shortest shelf life of all blood components, **lasting only 7 days**. Therefore, there is a constant need for platelets - and platelet donors - to help ensure that they are available for lifesaving treatments at our regional hospitals.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT PLATELET DONATION  
HERE](#)

## MKBC's PLATELET WARRIOR CLUB

Donors who make the lifesaving commitment to donate platelets are encouraged to join MKBC's **Platelet Warrior Club**! By donating 12 times during a rolling 12-month period, our Platelet Warriors earn exclusive MKBC merchandise, such as an exclusive, embroidered polo shirt, MKBC windbreaker, MKBC backpack or Yeti coffee mug.



[CLICK HERE FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS OR TO OPT-IN TO OUR  
PLATELET WARRIOR CLUB](#)





## Top 10 Excuses For Not **DONATING BLOOD**



### **#9: "They'll take too much blood, and I will feel weak."**

After giving blood, we want to make sure you're feeling good and reenergized! We ask you to spend a few minutes in our canteen area, where our friendly volunteers will offer you refreshments and snacks to help restore your energy and replenish essential fluids. This short break allows us to ensure you're feeling well before you head out to continue your day.

Schedule your lifesaving blood donation today at [GIVEaPINT.org](https://GIVEaPINT.org)!

## MKBC's MARCH PODCAST

MKBC's monthly podcast, [Your Blood. Their Hope.](#) explores the world of blood donation – featuring stories from some of our amazing blood donors and blood drive sponsors, as well as grateful transfusion recipients and our dedicated Blood Center staff. In addition, we share information on why it is important to donate blood, how easy it is to sponsor a blood drive, what current donation eligibility guidelines are, and more.

Our most recent edition is a two-part interview with Lehigh Valley resident and transfusion recipient, Sofia Groves. When Sofia was a sophomore in college, she suffered a toxic reaction to a Lupus medication, which caused a stroke, seizures and a 95-day hospitalization. Listen now to hear Sofia's inspiring interview!



**LISTEN TO OUR MOST RECENT PODCAST  
HERE**



Thank you for donating your blood. I needed it after delivering my daughter, and it is the reason I didn't need a second surgery. For that, I am grateful!



**SEARCH FOR A COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE NEAR YOU!**



**LISTEN TO MKBC'S "YOUR BLOOD. THEIR HOPE." PODCAST NOW ON**



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Miller-Keystone Blood Center | 1465 Valley Center Parkway | Bethlehem, PA 18017 US

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