

Your Blood. Their Hope.®



MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

1465 Valley Center Parkway, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Administrative Fax 610-691-5423

Medical Fax 610-691-5748

1-800-B-A-DONOR

GIVEaPINT.org

Miller-Keystone Blood Center Pre-Approved Quotes for Media Use

The History

“Since 1971, Miller-Keystone Blood Center has been a lifeline for Eastern Pennsylvania and Western New Jersey,” said MKBC’s Rami Nemeah, President & CEO. “We’ve had the privilege of serving over 3 million residents across a 22-county radius, supplying approximately 100,000 blood products to our hospital partners annually.”

“For more than 50 years, Miller-Keystone Blood Center has served as the primary blood supplier to the hospitals in our region,” said MKBC’s Hope Dorn, Vice President of Operational Services. “As a trusted source for many other healthcare organizations during emergencies - our mission is clear: to provide the lifesaving blood products that our communities depend on.”

The Numbers

“25% of the population will require a blood transfusion during their lifetime,” said MKBC’s Rami Nemeah, President & CEO. “The concern lies in the fact that 60% of blood donors in our region are above the age of 55, while only 5% are between 16 and 24 years of age. This disparity is alarming, as younger generations are not stepping in to replace older donors at the rate needed to sustain our blood supply. We urge everyone to encourage the young people in their lives – children, nieces and nephews, employees, students, neighbors, friends – to donate blood. Our community relies on the younger generation to carry on this vital tradition and to inspire others to do the same.”

“Every two seconds, someone in the United States is receiving a blood transfusion,” said MKBC’s Hope Dorn, Vice President of Operational Services. “The only way to ensure that blood is available for someone in need is for healthy individuals to step up and donate for the community blood supply.”

“62% of the population is eligible to give blood, but only 3% of those individuals donate regularly,” said MKBC’s Monika Kotlarska-Gross, Director of Donor Relations. “If just 1% more of the population committed to donating, we could make a profound impact on reducing blood shortages nationwide.”

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“Miller-Keystone Blood Center is a member of America’s Blood Centers,” said MKBC’s Rami Nemeah, President & CEO. “This is a network of more than 60 community blood centers across the country, including MKBC, which collects and provides 60% of the nation’s blood supply.”

Blood is Perishable

“Every two seconds, someone needs blood,” said MKBC’s Rami Nemeah, President & CEO. “Despite advancements in technology and medicine, blood cannot be manufactured. There is no substitute for red cells, platelets, or plasma. The only way to provide this lifesaving resource is through the generous donations of selfless volunteers.”

“It is important to remember that blood is perishable,” said MKBC’s Hope Dorn, Vice President of Operational Services. “Red blood cells have a shelf life of 42 days, while platelets last only seven days, two of which are reserved for testing. That is why we need approximately 350 donors to walk through our doors each day to help ensure blood is available for the next person in need.”

Summer Obstacles

“Summer is traditionally a challenging time for community blood centers. High school and college breaks, family vacations, and increased travel, combined with accidents and seasonal illnesses, often reduce donor availability,” said MKBC’s Krista Hill, Community Engagement Manager. “However, the need for blood does not take a vacation. We must see approximately 350 donors each day to support cancer patients, accident victims, premature infants, surgical patients, and others in need of lifesaving transfusions in our regional hospitals. We encourage all eligible individuals to roll up their sleeves and donate blood at this time.”

Winter Challenges

“Winter is historically a challenging time for community blood centers. Holiday activities and inclement weather, combined with accidents and seasonal illnesses, often prevent people from donating blood,” said MKBC’s Krista Hill, Community Engagement Manager. “However, more than 350 donations are needed each day to provide lifesaving care

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for cancer patients, accident victims, premature infants, surgical patients, and others in need throughout our community. These patients could be family members, neighbors, coworkers, or friends. We encourage all eligible individuals to schedule a donation and give the gift of life.”

The Need

“Blood donors are needed 7 days a week, 365 days per year,” said MKBC’s Rami Nemeh, President & CEO, explaining the Blood Center needs to collect approximately 350 blood donations daily to meet the transfusion needs of patients in our regional hospitals.

“Red blood cells, platelets and plasma are used daily by our regional hospitals as they care for cancer patients, accident and trauma victims, premature babies, surgery and transplant patients, individuals with inherited blood disorders, and others in need of lifesaving transfusions,” said MKBC’s Hope Dorn, Vice President of Operational Services.

“Cancer patients are the largest user group of blood products, with approximately 25% of our community’s blood supply utilized during the course of their care,” said MKBC’s Monika Kotlarska-Gross, Director of Donor Relations. “This is because treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation may destroy healthy blood cells and/or prevent the body from producing sufficient red blood cells and platelets on its own.”