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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLOOD CENTER HOSTS RIBBON-CUTTING TO CELEBRATE ARRIVAL OF TWO NEW COMMUNITY BLOODMOBILES

“Bloodhound II” and “Bloodhound III” Debuts on May 28 Thanks to Generous Support from the Counties of Lehigh and Northampton

LEHIGH VALLEY, PA – Miller-Keystone Blood Center (MKBC) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its Bethlehem headquarters (1465 Valley Center Parkway) on Thursday, May 28, to celebrate the arrival and launch into service of its two newest bloodmobiles, **Bloodhound II** and **Bloodhound III**. Named in honor of MKBC’s mascot, Half-Pint the Bloodhound, were made possible through significant grant support from Lehigh and Northampton counties.

According to Laurie Hackett, Chair of the MKBC Board of Directors, the celebration represented more than the addition of two new vehicles.

“It’s about collaboration, partnership, and the shared commitment that made this progress possible,” Hackett said. “Today’s celebration marks an important chapter in a much larger story.”

The new bloodmobiles are part of MKBC’s ongoing fleet rehabilitation campaign, an effort to modernize its fleet and better serve donors, hospitals, and patients throughout the region. The vehicles join Bloodhound I, which launched into service in Spring 2025, and will expand the center’s ability to collect lifesaving blood donations throughout the region, an important need at this time due to an ongoing blood shortage across the nation. It is also anticipated that the arrival of these two vehicles will enable MKBC to retire one of the Blood Center’s older vehicles, which has exceeded its life expectancy.

Lina Barbieri, MKBC’s Chief Philanthropy Officer, thanked both counties for their investment in the project.

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“Their partnership and support have had a direct and lasting impact on Miller-Keystone’s ability to serve our community,” Barbieri said.

Northampton County Executive Tara Zrinski emphasized the importance of investing in community health initiatives.

“Our job is to invest in the things that keep people safe, healthy, and connected. This is one of those investments. It’s practical, meaningful, and it will make a real difference in the lives of people in our community,” she said.

Lehigh County Executive Joshua Siegel praised both MKBC and local blood donors.

“At the end of the day, the real heroes are the people who will step onto these buses to donate because they know they can save a life. The quiet heroes who understand that every donation makes a difference,” Siegel said. “That’s the power of community.”

MKBC President & CEO Rami Nemeah noted that bloodmobiles bring opportunities to donate directly to workplaces, schools, churches, community centers, and other locations, while ensuring hospitals have the blood products patients depend on every day.

“Bloodhound II and Bloodhound III represent a significant step forward in reliability, safety, and donor experience,” Nemeah said. “They are built to serve our community for years to come.”

For more information, contact Lina Barbieri, Chief Philanthropy Officer and VP of Communications, at lbarbieri@giveapint.org.

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