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## **MILLER-KEYSTONE** BLOOD CENTER

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Date**

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## **MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER RECOGNIZES COLLECTIONS PROFESSIONALS DURING SEVENTH ANNUAL BLOOD COLLECTORS WEEK**

LEHIGH VALLEY, PA – During the week of September 11-17, Miller-Keystone Blood Center joins other blood centers across the country to celebrate Blood Collectors Week. Sponsored by AABB and Fenwal, Inc., this annual recognition week recognizes and celebrates the critical role blood collectors serve in helping to ensure blood is available to patients in need.

“Last year, Miller-Keystone Blood Center collected nearly 90,000 units of blood, which were processed into more than 185,000 life-saving blood products,” said J. Michael Lee, DBA, President-CEO. “This could not have been achieved without the hard work and commitment of our Collections Specialists, who work to ensure both a safe and pleasant experience for our blood donors.”

According to AABB, about 30 million units of blood components are transfused annually in the United States, and every day in Eastern Pennsylvania, more than 450 donations are necessary to meet the transfusion needs of our community hospitals. Blood transfusions are a critical component in the treatment of people with serious medical conditions, including cancer patients, organ transplant recipients, and accident and trauma victims. Volunteer blood donors are the primary source of blood used for transfusions.

Blood collection professionals serve an important role in educating donors and helping to ensure a safe and comfortable donation experience. Blood collection staff will help facilitate either a whole blood or automated donation. In a whole blood donation, a pint of blood is collected and then divided into its therapeutic components for transfusion. With an automated donation, a donor gives a specific therapeutic component—platelets, plasma or red blood cells. Red blood cells represent the blood component in highest demand with about 16 million units transfused annually.

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**Member, AABB, America's Blood Centers & ISO Certified**

*Miller-Keystone Blood Center is an Affirmative Action / Equal Employment Opportunity Employer  
HCSC-Blood Center t/a Miller-Keystone Blood Center, a Pennsylvania not-for-profit corporation*



[www.mkbloodline.blogspot.com](http://www.mkbloodline.blogspot.com)

“When people volunteer to donate blood, the quality of their experience is often determined by their interaction with blood collection staff,” said Karen Shoos Lipton, chief executive officer of AABB. “Blood collection staff play an integral role in helping to ensure that blood is readily available whenever and wherever it is needed.”

“We are proud to once again partner with AABB in recognizing all the individuals that dedicate their efforts to blood collection,” said Ron Labrum CEO of Fenwal, Inc. “Their efforts save and improve lives everyday in our communities and Blood Collector’s Week presents the perfect opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to them. At Fenwal we feel privileged to work and support such an important need.”

**About Miller-Keystone Blood Center**

Established in 1971, Miller-Keystone Blood Center is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) community organization that serves as the only blood provider to the hospitals in ten (11) Pennsylvania and New Jersey counties. One of the nation’s best-regarded, highly experienced blood centers, our history of compliance with FDA requirements, combined with our ISO9001:2008 certification demonstrates our commitment to quality and service excellence. For more than 40 years, we have delivered the safe, reliable blood products that the community needs.

**About AABB**

Established in 1947, AABB (formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks) is an international, not-for-profit association dedicated to the advancement of science and the practice of transfusion medicine and related biological therapies. The association is committed to improving health by developing and delivering standards, accreditation and educational programs and services that optimize patient and donor care and safety. AABB membership consists of approximately 1,800 institutions and 8,000 individuals, including physicians, scientists, administrators, medical technologists, nurses, researchers, blood donor recruiters and public relations personnel. Members are located in all 50 states and 80 countries.

**About Fenwal, Inc.**

A pioneer in transfusion medicine, Fenwal, Inc. is one of the world’s largest suppliers of advanced technologies that help ensure a safe and plentiful global blood supply. Our global team is focused on the research and development, manufacture and marketing of products that allow blood centers, hospital blood banks and plasma collection centers to collect, separate, process, filter, store and administer whole blood and blood components for therapeutic use. Our innovations support our customer’s mission to save and improve lives. We are focused on creating the future of transfusion medicine by delivering new and better solutions and products, developed in collaboration with our customers, backed by our personalized service and support.

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