



MILLER-KEYSTONE

BLOOD CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Marie D'Amato, Donor Resources Representative
570-455-2018 * mdamato@hcsc.org

MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER ANNOUNCES BI-MONTHLY PLATELET COLLECTIONS AT HAZLETON DONOR CENTER

HAZLETON, PA – Miller-Keystone Blood Center has announced that effective January 2011, it will host bi-monthly platelet collections at its Hazleton Donor Center, located in The Beltway Commons, 426 Airport Road, Hazle Township. Platelet collections will take place on the **1st and 3rd Friday of each month, from 7:30am-6:00pm.**

“In response to multiple donor requests, Miller-Keystone recently hosted several platelet collection drives at our Hazleton location,” explains Romina Manucci, Manager of Telerecruitment. “The success of this activity has now resulted in regularly scheduled platelet collections at this site.”

“Platelets are blood cells that help control bleeding,” says D. Kip Kuttner, D.O., Vice President & Medical Director, noting that when a blood vessel is damaged, platelets activate substances in plasma which form a clot and allow the wound to heal. “Platelets are often needed during the course of care for premature infants, cancer patients and accident or burn victims, as well as by patients undergoing cardiac surgery, organ or bone marrow transplants.”

Dr. Kuttner explains that that through specialized technology, platelets are removed from the blood stream and the remaining blood components are returned to the donor's body. “The most powerful benefit of automated donation is a stronger, more concentrated and consistent product for hospital patients,” he adds. “Most donors find the automated donation experience more comfortable, as plasma – which contains all of

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your vitamins, minerals and nutrients – is returned to the individual during the donation process, along with a small amount of saline solution. This leaves the donor more hydrated than they would be from a ‘traditional’ blood donation.”

Kuttner elaborates that through this automated technology, the Blood Center is able to more effectively collect and distribute not only platelets, but other blood products such as plasma and red blood cells needed by our area hospitals, by extracting specific blood components needed for transfusion. “Dependant both on a donor’s blood type, and the specific needs of our regional hospitals on any given day, we are able to collect the red cell, platelet and plasma products needed to save lives. This automated technology allows us to better assist in the transfusion needs of our regional hospitals by providing more precise control of the blood products MKBC collects for our local hospital patients.”

Manucci also confirms that for those donors who still prefer the “traditional” blood donation process, that Miller-Keystone’s Hazleton Donor Center (426 Airport Road,4 Beltway Commons, Hazle Township) is open for whole blood collections weekly. Hours of operation are:

- Mondays 7:30am-1pm
- Thursdays 2pm-7pm
- Fridays 7:30pm-1pm
- Saturdays 7:30am-12pm

To schedule a donation at the Hazleton Donor Center, call 570-454-7820 or 800-223-6667; or for more information on automated collections, call the Blood Center’s Director of Donor Collections, Diane Wiest RN, at 800-223-6667, ext. 1245 or dwiest@hcsc.org.

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