

Your Blood. Their Hope.®



MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

Dear Chamber Members,

On behalf of the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, the local hospitals and patients we serve, I want to thank you for your incredible support. Just a few short weeks ago, we were faced with a dire situation as the inventory of blood products, which we need to maintain for the local hospitals, was at a dangerously low level. In addition, we faced an ominous horizon as all mobile blood drives were cancelled due to school and business closures mandated by the Governor's office.

We asked for your help and the response by members of the Chamber and community has been remarkable. Within five short weeks thousands of donors traveled to our collection centers across the region and donated the gift of life. As a result, our blood inventories are now at safe levels and we are well positioned to ensure every patient that needs blood will have it available. This has truly been a heroic community effort and we wanted to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and thank the Chamber members and leaders.

Our work is only beginning. On March 15th, the FDA announced that a national clinical trial was being initiated using plasma from donors that had recovered from COVID-19. The plasma that contains the antibodies from those that have recovered, are being used to treat patients that are hospitalized with the virus. Miller-Keystone along with over 40 community blood centers across the country have been working with the FDA to scale this therapy and potentially offer it to thousands of COVID-19 patients. We have been collecting convalescent plasma over the past ten days and several of the regions hospitals are now treating patients with some encouraging results. I have included a short PSA that we hope you can view and share with your teams and help us save the lives of COVID-19 patients here in our community.

<https://vimeo.com/asrmedia/mkbccovid-19psa>

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to the community. You have enabled the Miller-Keystone team to do our job under these continued challenging times.

Sincerely,

Peter Castagna, President & CEO
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