

Blood Donations Keep Leukemia Patient Alive

By Sam Kennedy

LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP - For years, James Farrand of Lower Saucon Township would donate blood when he could. Most of his donations happened when his church or workplace would hold a blood drive. A mobile van made it very convenient, he says. Occasionally, he would go to Miller-Keystone Blood Center to donate directly.

At 72, Farrand was diagnosed with leukemia. For eight years, he was treated successfully with chemotherapies. Two years ago, his chemo regime stopped working.

"Blood transfusions are the only thing keeping me alive," says Farrand, now 82.

Farrand knows the blood transfusions wouldn't happen without blood donors like he was in his younger days. "Although I frequently gave blood when I was younger and healthy," Farrand says, "my current condition makes me wish I had given more. Now I know how important it is."

How often Farrand needs a transfusion varies. He has gone as long as four months between transfusions and as little as five days. He can tell when he needs a transfusion because "I just drag," he says. "I do the slightest thing, and I start gasping for breath."

Farrand gladly tells his story in the hopes that it will encourage others who are able to donate blood when they can.

St. Luke's, a founding member of Miller-Keystone Blood Center over 50 years ago, continues its unwavering commitment as the only local health care network that identifies MKBC as its primary blood supplier. Without St. Luke's steadfast support for MKBC, the Lehigh Valley could run out of the blood necessary to provide lifesaving care for patients, particularly during a regional or national blood shortage or other crisis.

MKBC has locations in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Reading, the Poconos, Pittston and Ewing, NJ, and holds blood drives at area businesses and other locations.

"I really have been blessed to have outlived all the initially predicted shorter lifespans for me," Farrand says. "I thank the Lord for his grace in letting me live this long, thank St. Luke's medical staff for guiding a very effective treatment program and now many thanks to the generous blood donors who keep me going."

"You are all my heroes!"



Opening Of The History Of "African Americans In Bethlehem And The Lehigh Valley" Banner Project

By Britney Waylen

Easton, PA – Northampton County Executive Lamont G. McClure, in collaboration with the Esther M. Lee African American Heritage Center, invites the community to the unveiling of a new banner project titled "African Americans in Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley." This initiative aims to honor and highlight the rich history and contributions of African Americans in our region. The banners will be displayed in the Northampton County Courthouse Rotunda until February 28, 2025.

The unveiling ceremony will take place on Friday, January 17, 2025, at 1 PM at the Northampton County Courthouse Rotunda, located at 669 Washington Street, Easton, PA 18042.

The banner project features nine informative displays, each telling a unique story of African American heritage, triumphs, and challenges from the 1860s to the present day. Topics include the legacy of early African American workers in the Lehigh Valley, the establishment of community organizations, and the achievements of notable individuals such as Abraham Lane and R. Wakefield Roberts.

County Executive McClure expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "This project is not just about recognizing the rich history of the Lehigh Valley; it's about honoring the diverse stories that shape our community today. We stand together to acknowledge our shared past while inspiring future generations to continue the journey of inclusion and understanding."

We invite everyone to join us in this celebration of heritage!

COLUMBIA SELF STORAGE Content Sale

Columbia Self Storage will sell the contents of the occupant's leased space at public auction to satisfy the owner's lien on StorageTreasures.com all personal property stored in this facility by: Unit #124 Robert Oppenheimer, consisting of televisions, clothing and misc. items. Unit #245 Shana Ceaser, consisting of boxes, toys and misc. items. Items will be offered for sale by auction to the highest bidder for enforcement of storage liens.

Auction will be held at 10AM, Tuesday, January 28, 2025 on StorageTreasures.com.

All auction sales are FINAL. Cash only and paid at Columbia Self Storage, 1059 Pennsylvania Ave., Pen Argyl, PA 18072. Columbia Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid.

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