

## **Our Story Begins.....**

**Outline of Need: The Kentucky Blood Center (KBC) formerly the Central Kentucky Blood Center (CKBC) was created by the Fayette County Medical Society in 1968 to provide blood to the Lexington hospitals. Through the years, KBC has grown into a regional blood bank that provided blood products to 67 hospitals and clinics in 59 central and eastern Kentucky counties. While headquartered in Lexington, KY, KBC has donor centers in Pikeville, Prestonsburg and Somerset. From these donor centers blood collection drives are conducted throughout the service area. All collected blood is transported back to the Lexington Donor Center where it is tested, processed and prepared for transport to the medical facilities. Last year KBC registered more than 90,000 people and provided blood products for more than 120,000 transfusions.**

**KBC is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, does not receive tax support or United Way funding and is a 501(c) non-profit organization.**

**Mobil blood drives generate 65% of all blood collections. Bloodmobiles travel to the donors, making it easy for donors to donate blood close to home or work. Bloodmobiles also allow KBC to conduct blood drives at locations where it is not possible to set up a drive inside the building, such as factories that are not air conditioned or churches or offices without the necessary interior space.**

**KBC has three bloodmobiles stationed at the Lexington Donor Center while Pikeville and Somerset Donor Centers each have one. The Prestonsburg**

Donor Center was dependent on one of the Lexington Donor Center bloodmobiles more than 200 miles away. This bloodmobile had approximately 160,000 miles on it, needing frequent repairs and being out of service for hours or days at a time. Blood collection suffered when the bus was not operable. Some drives had to be cancelled or postponed resulting in less blood being collected.

**How Rural Development Helped:** In February 2007 KBC contacted USDA Rural Development, inquiring about possible assistance in purchasing a new bloodmobile to primarily serve the Prestonsburg Donor Center.

The USDA Rural Development area and state office staff assisted KBC in putting together an application for federal assistance through the Rural Housing Service for a Community Facilities Grant. A \$100,000 Community Facilities Grant was awarded to KBC on June 14, 2007 through the "Economic Impact Initiative." This special initiative was intended to assist counties with a high rate of under employed which Floyd County qualified for.

**The Results:** Almost 30 percent of blood collected by KBC is collected through educational institutions, such as high schools and colleges. To recognize the significance of these facts, KBC and USDA Rural Development dedicated the new bloodmobile during a "Ribbon Cutting" ceremony at Prestonsburg High School on August 23, 2007.

"As a result of this USDA Rural Development Grant, there will be more opportunities for people to donate blood close to home, work or school and ensuring blood for our rural community hospitals," said Susan Berry-Buckley, CEO of the Kentucky Blood Center. "Last year, Kentucky high school students

contributed more than 8,000 pints of blood that continues to live on in the Kentuckians whose lives they saved,” Berry-Buckley said.

Support for the funding also came from the offices of U.S. Senators Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning and U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers.



**August 23, 2007 “Ribbon Cutting Ceremony” at Prestonsburg High School**  
Left to Right, Vernon Brown, USDA Community Programs Director, Darlynn Barber, Field Representative for Senator Bunning, Kenneth Slone, USDA Rural Development State Director, Susan Berry-Buckley, CEO Kentucky Blood Center, Pat Wooten, Field Representative for Congressman Rogers, Donna McClure, Field Representative for Senator McConnell