



The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

This year's Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center has the number "9" all over it. It is, of course, our family's 9th annual blood drive at Lankenau. And it is the 18th blood drive that we have held in Carol's memory—so it's our "double 9" blood drive. Finally, the first day of the drive is October 19—which just happens to be Michelle and Dan's 19th wedding anniversary. So we are seeing "9"s everywhere we look!

Could the universe be sending us some kind of message, we wondered? Just for fun, we decided to look at a few numerology websites to see if the number 9 has any special meanings. On the first website we checked, we found this:

...9, more than any other number...[is] a reservoir of giving....It is a humanitarian....

From www.numerology.com

Well, that did sound fitting for a blood drive! And a different website informed us that

the ultimate goal of the number 9 is to serve humanity. [It] has come to serve the world and make it a better place for all to live in.

From <http://numerology-thenumbersandtheirmeanings.blogspot.com>

Hey, that also sounded pretty good! We are always amazed by, and so grateful for, the blood donors, the volunteers, the Red Cross staff, and everyone else who plays a part in making the world "a better place for all to live in" by ensuring that blood products are available for those who need them.

We were starting to get very excited about the special significance of this being our 9th annual blood drive at Lankenau—and then we found this:

[N]umber 9 relates to disconnection, lethargy and an inability to concentrate and focus.

From <http://numerology-thenumbersandtheirmeanings.blogspot.com>

Well, no number is perfect. But at that point, we decided that we should just leave numerology to the experts, and focus our attention on matters that are more familiar to us!

No matter how you look at it, our 9th annual blood drive at Lankenau Medical Center is something special, and it wouldn't be possible without everybody who provides so much help and support to this effort. But the truth is that every single blood drive that takes place in any location is special and important—because every blood drive is providing help and hope to a patient and his or her family.

And some families may even experience that need more than once.

This past summer, Carol's 96-year-old mother (the family matriarch!) suffered a hip injury that required surgery. Her doctors wanted to give her a blood transfusion before the procedure in order to boost her strength.

As we watched the blood transfusion take place, we were reminded of the numerous times that family members had sat with Carol as she received blood products during her cancer treatment. And here we were, once again at the bedside of a loved one at Lankenau Medical Center, knowing that blood donated by a stranger was going to have a significant impact on our family.

We had held our July blood drive in Lansdale only two weeks earlier, and we couldn't help but think about the timing. While we knew that it was extremely unlikely that Carol's mother would receive blood that had been donated at the drive that we had just held in Carol's memory, we thought about all of the people who ultimately would benefit from the blood that had been collected that day. It also renewed our appreciation for everyone who is involved in the collection and processing of blood products every day; it is a monumental effort, and the need remains great.

Witnessing a blood transfusion is incredibly powerful, because it really brings home the message that one person, taking a little time out of his or her day, can change the outcome of someone else's medical emergency. We are very happy to say that, with the help of that blood transfusion, Carol's mother came through her surgery well.

So, once again, our family wants to say a very special thank you to everyone who attends our blood drives at Lankenau, in Radnor, and in Lansdale. While we hope that nobody you love will ever require a blood transfusion, we want you to know that we will continue to do everything we can to encourage more blood donations and help patients continue to make memories with their loved ones.

Sincerely,

Michelle and Dan Scolnick 

**I CHANGE LIVES
I DONATE BLOOD**

**The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive
www.chablooddrive.org**

Looking
ahead!

Mark your calendars!

**The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial
Blood Drive - 2017 Dates**

May 9, 2017

**Radnor Township Municipal Building,
Wayne, PA**



July 12, 2017

The Reserve at Gwynedd, Lansdale, PA



October 9 & 10, 2017

Celebrating a very special milestone!

**10th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial
Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center**

For more information about any of our blood drives,
please visit www.chablooddrive.org

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @CHABloodDrive

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE UPDATE

This October, our Community CHALLENGE will benefit

Main Line Meals on Wheels and the
Ardmore Avenue Community Center.

Visit www.chablooddrive.org to learn more about all of the
organizations that have taken part in our CHALLENGE!

Main Line Meals on Wheels

Providing nutritious meals to senior citizens and homebound residents in
communities up and down the Main Line.

Main Line Meals on Wheels

235 Lancaster Avenue ♦ Devon, PA 19333
www.mainlinemealsonwheels.org



Ardmore Avenue Community Center

Offering young people in the community a wide range of educational, social,
cultural, and recreational resources and opportunities.

Ardmore Avenue Community Center

122 Ardmore Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003
www.aaccnow.org

DID YOU KNOW... The Penn-Jersey Blood Services Region of
the American Red Cross provides blood products to hospitals
throughout Bucks, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, and
Philadelphia Counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania, as well as
the entire state of New Jersey. In order to meet the needs of
about 100 hospitals in that territory, the Penn-Jersey Region
must collect approximately 800 units of blood each and every day!

The Story Behind the Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

Our family knows from personal experience that blood donors give hospital patients and their loved ones an incomparable gift: the gift of time. Whether a blood donation is used to save a life, to prolong a life, or to improve the quality of life, it allows families to spend more time together, making special memories. Thanks to the generosity of blood donors, our family was given another year with the mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and aunt we loved.

Carol, a single mother of two daughters, was an elementary school teacher in Philadelphia for over 30 years. In April 2003, she was 55 years old and starting to look ahead to retirement when she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, an incurable cancer of the blood and bone marrow. In 2004, Carol's disease progressed to the point where her doctor recommended that she undergo two autologous stem-cell transplants, the most aggressive treatment then available to myeloma patients. Although the procedures did put her disease into remission, the cancer returned less than a year later, and in an extremely aggressive form.

In July 2007, just two months before her 60th birthday, Carol was hospitalized as the result of a complication of her illness. At that point, the only thing the doctors could do to try to stabilize the situation was give her multiple transfusions of blood and platelets and hope that her body would eventually start to do what it needed to do to heal itself.

For almost two weeks, Carol received multiple transfusions each day. The doctors said that she could die at any time, especially if they were unable to find the blood products she needed. But somehow, those blood products were always there—because of all the people who had donated the blood that the doctors were using to try to save her life.

Thanks to blood donors, Carol ultimately was able to leave the hospital. Although her body never regained enough strength to allow her to resume treatment for the cancer, she was able to live independently and enjoy almost all of her usual activities because, for nearly a year, she received blood and platelet transfusions at least twice a week. Thanks to blood donors, she was able to celebrate her 60th birthday and see her only grandchild turn three years old. And thanks to blood donors, Carol lived until July 1, 2008, enabling her to make a year's worth of memories with her loved ones.

Our family feels that we owe all the special memories of that last year to the generosity of blood donors. Carol's doctors told us that they had never had a patient who was transfusion-dependent for as long as she was. They were amazed that she lived as long as she did, with her only treatment being transfusions of blood and platelets. We were amazed that the blood products she needed were always available for her—and, of course, we were extremely grateful.

After Carol passed away, our family organized a blood drive in her memory at Lankenau Medical Center, the hospital where she had received the transfusions. Held in October 2008, it turned out to be the hospital's most successful blood drive up to that point. We decided to turn the blood drive into an annual event and hold it in multiple locations. With every blood drive we hold, we hope to be able to help even more people who need transfusions. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood; and nine out of ten people will require a blood transfusion at some point during their lives.

Human blood cannot be manufactured, and there is no substitute for it. Blood donors were the only people who could give our family an extra year with Carol. We created this memorial blood drive in order to help other patients and families by doing our part to ensure that blood products are always available for those who need them. Thanks to donors who are willing to take a little time out of their day to give blood, these patients are able to continue to fight their illnesses—and spend more time with their loved ones.

To learn more about our family's story, please visit www.chablooddrive.org/our-family-story.html.