



# The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

For our family, the fall season means many things: the start of school, several birthday celebrations, a wedding anniversary—and another special blood drive at Lankenau Medical Center! In the five years since our first blood drive in Carol's memory took place at Lankenau, we have had the privilege of meeting and working with numerous donors, coordinators, volunteers, sponsors, and others who have been extremely generous with their time, their resources, and their advice. It is hard for us to adequately express how much all of these people have done to make this blood drive successful. However, we can try to let some numbers tell the story.

In October 2008, at the first Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive at Lankenau, 136 units of blood were collected. At last year's blood drive, our fifth at Lankenau, 237 units were collected. Every year in between, the blood drive grew. And we are very proud and excited to be able to say that so far, the Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drives held at Lankenau Medical Center have brought in a total of **878 units** of blood—meaning that, because every unit of donated blood can be separated into components that can be transfused to as many as three recipients, the blood drives that our family has held in Carol's name at Lankenau have helped as many as **2,634 patients** spend more time with their loved ones!

At the 6th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center, which will take place on October 7 and 8, we look forward to collecting our 1,000th unit of blood at the hospital, knowing that the 3,000th patient may benefit from this collaborative effort. We can't thank all of you enough for helping to make this happen!

This year has been a successful one in other ways. In May, we held our second blood drive in Radnor Township, where 117 units of blood were donated. And in July, we had the opportunity to hold our first blood drive in the Lansdale area. We were excited to work with a new group of donors, and honored when enough people donated at the Reserve at Gwynedd to enable us to surpass our collection goal. The donors at the Radnor and Lansdale drives made it possible for almost 500 additional patients to receive the transfusions they needed!

We leave every drive feeling very thankful for all of the people who have been willing to make this blood drive a part of their lives. We hope that all of you know how very much we appreciate your generosity and your support. We know from personal experience what an incomparable gift a blood donor can give to a hospital patient and his or her family. Thank you so much for helping us give that gift to others.

Sincerely,  
Michelle and Dan Scolnick

## Upcoming Blood Drives

**October 7 & 8, 2013**  
*6th Annual Carol H. Axelrod  
Memorial Blood Drive  
at Lankenau Medical Center*  
Wynnewood, PA

**May 13, 2014**  
Radnor Township Building  
Wayne, PA

**July 2014**  
The Reserve at Gwynedd  
Upper Gwynedd, PA

To register for any of our drives, please  
visit [www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org).

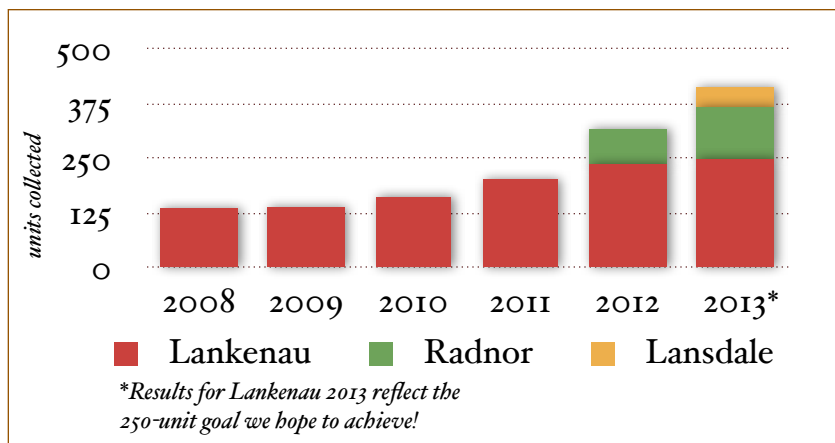
### DID YOU KNOW...

There is no substitute for human blood; it can come only from generous volunteer donors! The blood used in emergency situations must be on the shelves before an incident occurs so that it will be ready for any patient who might need it. This is why it is so important for a stable blood supply to be maintained year round.

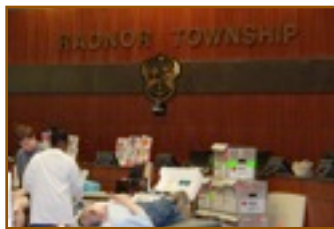


Visit [www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org)  
to register for upcoming blood  
drives, discover more about  
what we do in the community,  
and learn about ways that you  
can help, even if you are not  
able to donate blood!

## The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive Has Grown!



## Recent Blood Drives



May 2013  
Radnor Township  
100-unit goal  
117 units collected



July 2013  
The Reserve at Gwynedd, Lansdale  
45-unit goal  
46 units collected

### 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 an extra 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 that has no known cause. In 2004, Carol's disease progressed to the point where her doctor recommended she undergo two autologous stem-cell transplants, the most aggressive treatment then available to myeloma patients. Just a few weeks after her granddaughter, Emily, was born, Carol entered the hospital to prepare for the transplants. 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 with a bleeding problem. It was a complication of her illness, and the only thing that the doctors could do to try to stop the bleeding was give her multiple blood transfusions and hope that her body would eventually start to do what it needed to do to heal itself.

For a week, Carol received multiple blood transfusions each day. The doctors said that she could die at any time, especially if they were not able to get the blood products she needed. She was awake; she knew everything that was going on. And she was grateful to the unknown 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. Thanks to blood donors, she was able to celebrate her 60th birthday two months later, 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 family.

After that hospitalization in July 2007, Carol's body never regained enough strength to allow her to resume treatment for the cancer. Yet she was able to live independently and enjoy almost all of her usual activities because, for nearly a year, she received blood transfusions at least twice a week.

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 there 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 her 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. Every year, we have collected more blood than we did the previous year. And with every blood drive we hold, at Lankenau and elsewhere, 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. Many, many other families find themselves in the same situation every day. Blood is used in emergency rooms and operating rooms, but people with cancer and other chronic illnesses also require blood transfusions, often on a regular basis. Thanks to donors who are willing to take an hour 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](http://www.chablooddrive.org/our-family-story.html).

The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive was created as a way of "giving back" to the organizations and blood-donor community that made it possible for Carol to receive all of the blood and platelet transfusions she needed during her treatment for cancer. Our mission is to help other patients and their families spend more time together by doing our part to ensure that blood products are always available for those who need them. Our goal is to help the blood donors at our drives have an enjoyable and positive donation experience.