

# The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

## WE'RE WORKING TOWARD SAVING 10,000 LIVES BY THE END OF 2017!

When we held our first blood drive in October 2008 at Lankenau Medical Center, we had no idea that we would still be holding drives in 2017. We could never have predicted that we would someday be hosting four blood drives a year, three of them in places other than our original location, and that we would be looking forward to celebrating our milestone 10th annual blood drive at Lankenau.

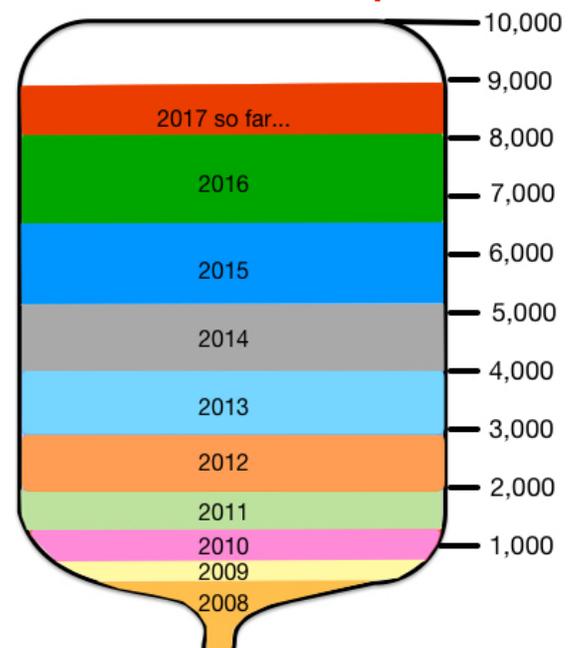
But nothing underscores the expansion of this effort more than the numbers. At that first blood drive in 2008, we collected 136 units of blood, and we were thrilled to realize that the blood drive had had the potential to help as many as 408 patients. **We never imagined that, as of June 2017, the Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive would have collected a cumulative total of 2,985 units of blood—enough to have saved the lives of as many as 8,955 people.**

Now we have our sights set on helping **10,000** patients by the end of 2017, and we are almost there! In order to achieve this goal, we must collect a total of 349 units of blood at our blood drives in July and October. With your continued help and support, we know that we can do it!

The “blood bag” below shows just how close we are to saving a cumulative total of 10,000 lives in Carol’s name. We greatly appreciate your support of our summer blood drive, and we hope that you will join us in October at the 10th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center, where we look forward to celebrating our donors and the monumental effort that they have made possible!

Sincerely,  
Michelle, Dan, and Emily Scolnick

### The Blood Drive's Impact:



Every unit of blood can be used to help three different patients receive the transfusions they need, so collecting 349 more units by the end of 2017 will mean saving as many as 10,000 lives in Carol's name!

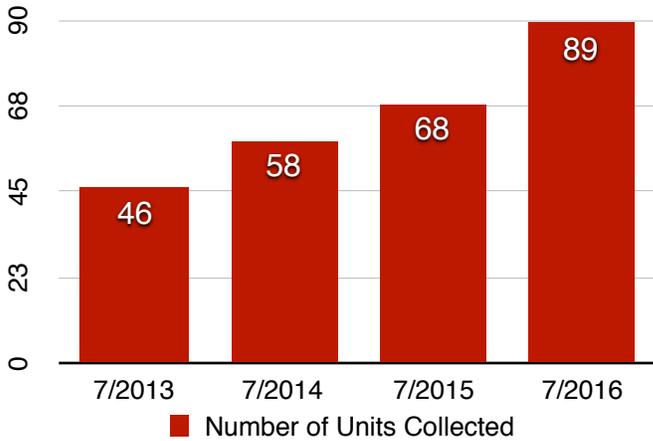
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**  
**The 10th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive**  
**at Lankenau Medical Center**

  
**October 9 & 10, 2017**  
 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days  
 Schedule your appointment at  
[www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org)  
 or [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
 (sponsor code *CHAMemorial*)  
 or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

*Join us at our last blood drive of 2017, supporting the goal of saving 10,000 lives since 2008!*

**The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive**  
**is celebrating 5 years in Lansdale!**

**Our first blood drive at the Reserve at Gwynedd took place in July 2013. Since then, the drive has grown every year. We are so appreciative of the support we have received from the community!**



**COMMUNITY CHALLENGE UPDATE**

This July, our Community CHALLENGE will benefit

**Wissahickon Valley Public Library**  
and

**VNA Foundation of Greater North Penn**

**Wissahickon Valley Public Library**

Committed to supporting literacy, lifelong learning, informational resources, and life enrichment for all of its patrons.

Wissahickon Valley Public Library  
 650 Skippack Pike ◊ Blue Bell, PA 19422  
[www.wvpl.org](http://www.wvpl.org)



**VNA Foundation of Greater North Penn**

Contributing to the health and well-being of area residents through grants that strengthen individuals, families, and communities.

VNA Foundation of Greater North Penn  
 P.O. Box 867 ◊ Lansdale, PA 19446  
[www.npvnafoundation.org](http://www.npvnafoundation.org)

Visit [www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org) to learn more about all of the organizations that have taken part in our CHALLENGE!

**I CHANGE LIVES  
 I DONATE BLOOD**

**The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive**  
[www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org)

**The Story Behind Our Family's Blood Drives**

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 incredibly, 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 she could not 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 so grateful that the blood products she needed were always available for her.

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.

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.

For more information about any of our blood drives, please visit [www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org)

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