



The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

Our family sponsored our very first blood drive in Carol's memory in October 2008. Back then...

Our daughter was 3 years old

Lankenau Medical Center was known as Lankenau Hospital

The Phillies were on the cusp of winning the World Series

Now, as we celebrate the 10th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive at Lankenau...

Our daughter is about to turn 13 (and many of our donors have watched her grow up!)

Lankenau Medical Center has built new, state-of-the-art facilities and opened a Level II Trauma Center

And the Phillies...well, that's a story for another time!

Much has changed since that first blood drive—and the blood drive itself has changed, too! Here's a look back.



Summer 2008

After having become dependent on transfusions of blood and platelets a year earlier while receiving treatment for multiple myeloma, Carol began to experience new complications that led to several hospitalizations and numerous additional transfusions during May and June. She passed away at Lankenau on July 1.

During her frequent hospital stays, Carol had made many friends among the Lankenau doctors, nurses, and staff. We were very grateful for the care and support that she had received, as well as for the concern that so many people at Lankenau showed for us during those last difficult weeks.

In an effort to show our appreciation to Lankenau and also give back to the blood donor community that had given us more time with our loved one, our family decided to explore the possibility of sponsoring a special blood drive in Carol's memory at the hospital.

October 2008

The very first Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive was held at Lankenau on October 23 and 24, 2008. The refreshment table was stocked with doughnuts, hoagies, and chocolate-covered pretzels, and every donor received a small gift bag filled with chocolate—just what Carol would have liked! We were honored to meet many of the individuals who had helped her during her hospital stays, from doctors and nurses to food-service and transport employees. Her sense of humor and positive outlook had made her a memorable patient!

We were thrilled with the blood drive's outcome: 136 units collected, which meant that as many as 408 patients and their families would be helped in the same way that blood donors had helped our family during Carol's illness. We learned that this had been Lankenau's most successful blood drive ever! We were happy, but had no plans to hold another drive. Until...

Spring 2009

Our American Red Cross representative contacted us to say that if we had any interest in sponsoring another blood drive that fall, both the hospital and the Red Cross would be happy to work with us. After talking it over, we decided that holding another drive would not only be a way to continue to help other families, but would also enable us to continue to celebrate Carol's legacy of care and concern for others.

October 2009

The second Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive was a great success, collecting even more blood products than the 2008 drive. We decided to turn the blood drive into an annual event, held every October at Lankenau.

2010 – 2011

We were thrilled to see our blood drives at Lankenau continue to grow! By the end of our fourth drive, we had collected more than 640 units of blood, with the potential to have saved almost 2,000 lives. That was great motivation for us to think about how we could help even more patients and families!

2012

We decided to explore the possibility of holding a spring blood drive at a different location. Thanks to the support of officials and community members in the town where we live, we were able to secure space in the Radnor Township Municipal Building. Our first spring blood drive took place there just after Mother's Day, and the collection total surpassed our goal. Since then, our May blood drive has been an annual event in Radnor.

2013

One of our most loyal donors presented us with the opportunity to hold a summer blood drive in a new location. Knowing that summer is often a critical time for blood donation, we jumped at the chance to do our part to help. The Reserve at Gwynedd in Lansdale graciously hosted our first summer blood drive in mid-July. Once again, we were extremely fortunate to have incredible support from the community, enabling the blood drive to surpass its goal and starting us on a path of holding three blood drives every year.

2014 – 2016

Participation in the blood drives continued to grow, and so did the collection totals! By the end of 2016, we had held four summer drives in Lansdale (and doubled the length of that drive from five hours to ten), five spring blood drives in Radnor, and nine fall blood drives at Lankenau. And, since our very first drive, we had collected a total of 2,682 units of blood, potentially saving as many as 8,046 lives.

2017

In February, we fulfilled our goal of holding a blood drive in every season when we partnered with The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr for our first winter drive. We had the privilege of interacting with many students who were donating blood for the first time. It was wonderful to welcome the next generation of blood donors!

At our Radnor blood drive in May, we enjoyed our highest one-day collection total ever, with 173 units collected. And in July, our collections went almost 50% higher than our goal! As we crunched the numbers, we realized that we were truly heading toward a milestone drive at Lankenau in the fall...

October 2017

As the 10th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center begins, we have held a total of 21 blood drives, in four different locations, that have collected a total of 3,109 units of blood. And those 3,109 units of blood have helped as many as 9,327 people! This means that, by the end of our two-day blood drive at Lankenau this October, we may have collected enough blood products to have saved 10,000 lives in Carol's name.

Whether you donate blood, facilitate our planning, help us organize, volunteer your time, donate food or drawing prizes, help spread the word about the drive, or otherwise ensure that our donors have a positive experience, we consider you to be part of our extended "blood drive family." We look forward to seeing the donors, volunteers, and Red Cross staff year after year, and we are always excited to meet new people.

It is incredible to think that from a single blood drive in 2008 that collected 136 units of blood and may have helped 408 people, we are now talking about thousands of units collected, and as many as 10,000 patients helped. It is truly humbling for us to realize what has been made possible, thanks to the many people who have been so generous with their assistance and support.

You, the members of our blood drive family, have enabled us to build an extraordinary legacy for Carol. We can't thank you enough!

Sincerely,

Michelle, Dan, and Emily Scolnick 

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE UPDATE

This October, our Community CHALLENGE will benefit **Peter's Place** and Lankenau's **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**.

Peter's Place

Offering a safe, supportive environment for grieving children and their families.

Peter's Place

336 King of Prussia Road ♦ Radnor, PA 19087 ♦ www.petersplaceonline.org



Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Lankenau Medical Center

Providing expert care to premature and high-risk newborns.

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Lankenau Medical Center

100 E. Lancaster Avenue ♦ Wynnewood, PA 19096

www.mainlinehealth.org/specialties/neonatology

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

*We look forward to seeing you at one of our
blood drives in 2018!*

For dates and information, please visit www.chablooddrive.org

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I CHANGE LIVES

I DONATE BLOOD

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