



# The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

Our family is eagerly looking forward to another year of successful blood drives held in Carol's memory! In the fall of 2012, we celebrated a milestone when we held the fifth annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center. At that drive, more than 260 donors registered, and 237 units of blood were collected—allowing the blood drive to help as many as 711 hospital patients and their families. We were so pleased to be able to honor Carol in such a meaningful way.

In 2013, for the first time, we will hold **three** blood drives! The first will take place in Radnor Township on May 14. This will be our second drive in Radnor, and it will be held just two days after Mother's Day. It is hard for us to think of a better way to pay tribute to someone who always put her family first. While things were not always easy for her, Carol made it possible for her two daughters to follow their dreams. Family came above all else—and we believe it is fitting that part of Carol's legacy is a blood drive that gives other people the gift of more time with their loved ones.

This summer, we will have the opportunity to take our blood drive to a new location and work with a new group of donors. On July 17, we will hold a drive at the Reserve at Gwynedd, in the Upper Gwynedd/Lansdale area. Summer can often be a difficult time for blood collection; donors go on vacation, and high schools and colleges are out of session and therefore not holding blood drives. However, summer is a time of year when the demand for blood often increases. We are looking forward to doing our part to ensure a robust and stable blood supply during the summer season!

This year, our annual blood drive at Lankenau Medical Center in Wynnewood will take place on October 7 and 8. It is always a pleasure to return to the site of our "original" blood drive. We are honored to have received so much support not only from the community, but also from the many people who work so hard to save lives at Lankenau each and every day. We are happy to be able to continue this collaboration with them!

As always, we want to acknowledge all of you—the many relatives, friends, local business owners, prize sponsors, and community members who support us, assist us, and allow our blood drive to be a part of your lives. You have enabled us to see our ideas come to fruition, and we are grateful for everything you have done. Thank you all for helping this blood drive continue to grow!

Sincerely,

Michelle and Dan Scolnick

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 cannot donate blood!

## 2013 Blood Drives

**May 14, 2013**

Radnor Township Building  
Wayne, PA 19087

**July 17, 2013**

The Reserve at Gwynedd  
Upper Gwynedd, PA 19446

**October 7 & 8, 2013**

Lankenau Medical Center  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

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

## Our Family's Story

Thanks to blood donors, Carol Axelrod was able to celebrate her 60th birthday.

Thanks to blood donors, Carol was able to see her only grandchild turn three years old.

And thanks to the generosity of blood donors, our family received an enormous gift—an extra year with the mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and aunt we loved. Because when you donate blood, you're doing more than helping an accident victim survive or improving the quality of life of a chronically ill patient. You are also giving families the opportunity to spend more time with someone who means everything to them.

Carol was a single mother who raised two daughters and sent both of them to Ivy League colleges. She 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 that her doctor recommended she  
*(please see other side)*

### **Our Family's Story** *(continued)*

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. It took almost a full year for her to recover from the procedures, but by the end of 2005 the cancer was in remission.

When Carol chose to undergo the stem-cell transplants, she did so because she believed that they represented her best hope for going into a long remission. Her top priority was to spend as much time as possible with her family. In the end, though, her remission lasted for less than a year, and the cancer returned in an extremely aggressive form. None of the treatments the doctors tried worked for more than a short time.

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 eventually her body would start to do what it needed to do to heal itself.

For a week, Carol received more than one blood transfusion each day. The doctors said that she could die at any time, especially if they were not able to get the blood products that 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. Two months later, she celebrated her 60th birthday at her favorite restaurant, with her family around her. The following month, she attended a family anniversary party. And in November of that year, she was sitting with her granddaughter as Emily blew out the candles on her third birthday cake.

After that hospitalization in July 2007, Carol's body never regained enough strength to allow her to resume treatment for the cancer. Yet she lived until July 1, 2008, enabling her to celebrate a year's worth of holidays and special occasions with her family.

During that year, she went to the hospital for blood transfusions at least twice a week. Occasionally, if she was hospitalized, she required more than one transfusion a day. But she was able to live independently and enjoy almost all of her usual activities.

Our family feels that we owe all the special memories of that last year to the generosity of blood donors. The doctors told us that they had never seen someone like Carol. 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 products. 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 blood 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 position 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.

### **RECENT BLOOD DRIVES**



*May 2012  
Radnor Township  
81 units collected*



*October 2012  
Lankenau Medical  
Center  
237 units collected*

#### **DID YOU KNOW...**

**A healthy blood donor can give blood every 56 days—  
up to 6 times per year!**



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.