

# The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

## Upcoming Blood Drives

**May 12, 2015**

Radnor Township Municipal Building  
Wayne, PA



**July 15, 2015**

The Reserve at Gwynedd  
Lansdale, PA



**October 12 & 13, 2015**

**8th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial  
Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center**  
Wynnewood, PA



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

We invite you to “Like” our Facebook page  
and follow us on Twitter: @CHABloodDrive

Our household is a household of Phillies fans. Each winter, we look forward to the start of spring training and the arrival of Opening Day. But for us, spring also heralds the start of “blood drive season.”

Our “season” includes three blood drives that take place between May and October, each held at a different location and scheduled in a way that ensures that friends, family members, and supporters who may wish to donate at all three drives will be eligible to do so.

And while we may not have a staff like the one at Citizens Bank Park, we are indebted to many dedicated people who work hard on our behalf. We are grateful to all of them: those who give permission for us to use the spaces where we hold the drives; those who ensure that the rooms are prepared and ready when the Red Cross trucks arrive with the equipment; those who help us publicize the drives in their community; and those who tell their friends, neighbors, and colleagues about the drives and encourage them (sometimes in not-so-subtle ways!) to donate blood. Some supporters provide food and prizes, and others volunteer their time to help out at the registration and refreshment tables. And we appreciate the hard work of the Red Cross employees who make every donor feel important and well cared for.

All of these people, along with all of you—the blood donors who support our efforts to honor Carol’s memory by helping other families—are the people who make it possible for us to continue to hold these blood drives, and who make it enjoyable for us to look forward to “blood drive season” each year.

Of course, the most important thing is that everybody’s efforts always come together at each drive to represent a “win” for the hospital patients who need blood transfusions, and for their loved ones.

Heading into our 2015 season, the Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive has a record that makes us very proud and happy: 1,760 units of blood collected, over the course of 12 blood drives, since 2008. This means that, so far, the blood drives we have held in Carol’s memory have potentially helped as many as 5,280 people.

We hope you share our pride in knowing that you are part of a team that has done so much for so many, and we hope you feel our gratitude for your role in making our season successful, year after year.

Sincerely,  
Michelle and Dan Scolnick



## 2014 IN REVIEW...

**412 units collected; as many as  
1,236 recipients helped!**



May 2014, Radnor  
Township: 117 units  
collected



July 2014, Lansdale:  
58 units collected



7th Annual Carol H.  
Axelrod Memorial  
Blood Drive at  
Lankenau Medical  
Center (October  
2014): 237 units  
collected

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!

#### **Our Mission...**

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.

## COMMUNITY CHALLENGE UPDATE

This May, our Community CHALLENGE will benefit two important organizations that help children who have suffered losses: the **Hero Scholarship Fund of Delaware County** and **Peter's Place**.

We look forward to announcing the beneficiaries of our July blood drive in Lansdale soon! As always, you can visit [www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org) to learn more about all of the organizations that have been part of our CHALLENGE.

#### **Hero Scholarship Fund of Delaware County**

Provides scholarship aid to the children of Delaware County police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel who die in the line of duty.

**Hero Scholarship Fund of Delaware County**  
P.O. Box D  
Media, PA 19063

#### **Peter's Place**

Provides grieving children and their caregivers with supportive services, including peer support groups; also offers workshops and trainings in school and community settings.

**Peter's Place**  
150 N. Radnor-Chester Road  
Suite F-130  
Radnor, PA 19087  
[www.petersplaceonline.org](http://www.petersplaceonline.org)

**DID YOU KNOW...** People with type AB Positive (AB+) blood are both “universal recipients” of blood AND “universal donors” of plasma. This means that people with type AB+ blood can receive transfusions of any other blood type, and their plasma can be given to patients of all blood types.

### ***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 more than a week, 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. 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).*