



The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

As we prepare to hold another year of blood drives in Carol's memory, we know that it will be hard to top 2013, when we expanded the blood drive to a new location and a new season (Lansdale, PA, in mid-summer), and welcomed the donor who helped us achieve one of our biggest milestones to date—collecting the 1,000th unit of blood donated at a Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive held at Lankenau Medical Center! In 2013 alone, our three blood drives collected a total of 389 units, and helped as many as 1,167 recipients receive the transfusions they needed. Many, many thanks to all of the donors, volunteers, and supporters who have made these achievements possible!

A few years ago, we came up with a way to ensure that our blood drives could have an immediate and direct impact in the communities where they are held. We viewed it as another way to spread the word about the importance of blood donation, but also as an opportunity to bring attention to very worthy organizations that can use support as they strive to carry out their own missions.

In conjunction with a blood drive, we issue a “community challenge,” whereby our family pledges to make a monetary donation to a designated organization in honor of the drive. The amount of the donation is based on the number of units of blood that are collected at the blood drive. And if we surpass the previous year's collection total at that blood drive location, we double our donation to the organization!

Our first community challenges were held in conjunction with our October blood drives, and Lankenau Medical Center was the recipient of those contributions. But in 2013, when we held our second blood drive in Radnor Township, we had the opportunity to assist the Radnor ABC House. This year, in association with our Radnor blood drive in May, we are designating two local organizations, Francisvale Home for Smaller Animals and the Women's Resource Center, as the recipients of the challenge. And looking ahead to our July blood drive in Lansdale, we will work with an organization called Laurel House. More information about these groups is included on the other side of this newsletter. Please take a moment to read about the very important work they do!

Thank you for helping us find new ways to carry on Carol's legacy. We couldn't do the things we do without your support, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our blood drives in 2014!

Sincerely,
Michelle and Dan Scolnick

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.

Upcoming Blood Drives

May 13, 2014

Radnor Township Building
Wayne, PA



July 16, 2014

The Reserve at Gwynedd
Lansdale, PA



October 6 & 7, 2014

7th 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.



Visit 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!

During two very busy days at Lankenau Medical Center in October 2013, we collected 226 units—including the 1,000th unit donated at one of our drives at the hospital!



THE COMMUNITY CHALLENGE...

Through the “community challenges” that we have created in conjunction with our blood drives, we have been proud to support the following organizations. We encourage you to learn more about them!

Women’s Resource Center

An organization that offers numerous services to support women, strengthen families, and build communities.

Women’s Resource Center
113 W. Wayne Avenue
P.O. Box 596
Wayne, PA 19087
(610) 687-6391

www.womensresourcecenter.net

Laurel House

Supports and advocates for adults and children who are affected by domestic violence.

Laurel House
P.O. Box 764
Norristown, PA 19404
(610) 277-1860

www.laurel-house.org

Lankenau Medical Center

The hospital where Carol received blood transfusions multiple times per week. We will always be grateful to the warm, caring staff for their efforts.

Lankenau Medical Center
100 E. Lancaster Avenue
Wynnewood, PA 19096
www.mainlinehealth.org/lankenau

Francisvale Home for Smaller Animals

A no-kill shelter that provides caring, temporary shelter for cats and dogs until they can find suitable, loving, permanent homes.

Francisvale Home for Smaller Animals
328 Upper Gulph Road
Radnor, PA 19087
(610) 688-1018

www.francisvalehome.org

Radnor A Better Chance

The national A Better Chance program helps academically talented and motivated students from disadvantaged areas attend top high schools, including Radnor High School.

Radnor A Better Chance
P.O. Box 8091
Radnor, PA 19087

www.radnorabc.org

DID YOU KNOW...

While many donors choose to donate a unit of whole blood, some donors donate only specific blood components—such as red cells, plasma, or platelets—in a process known as apheresis.

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 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 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 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 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.