

The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone in the Shipley community for their incredible support of the Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive over the past few months! My family has been holding blood drives in memory of my grandmother since 2008, and at Shipley since 2017, and we are incredibly grateful for the help and support we've received.

This is a bittersweet moment, as today's blood drive is the last one my family will hold. Since 2008, the blood we've collected has had the potential to have helped more than 16,000 people, and the units collected today will add to that total.

As I finish my senior year and start planning for college, I'm grateful to have been able to plan and promote this drive to my friends in the Upper School, to the parents of all Shipley students, and to faculty members from all divisions. Since this drive was open only to members of the Shipley community due to the pandemic, it was even more important to promote the drive wherever we could, and I'm thrilled that so many donors were able to participate.

Again, a big thank you to everyone at Shipley who has supported our blood drives throughout my time here. Even though our blood drives are ending, we hope that everybody who came today will continue to donate blood and save lives!

Sincerely,

Emily Scolnick (Shipley 12th grader) 



*Special thanks to Shipley 10th grader
Emily Kucharczuk for designing this year's
laptop sticker giveaway!*

**I CHANGE LIVES
I DONATE BLOOD**

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

Today's blood drive is dedicated to the memory of another very special person, Jackie Myers Simms, mother of Shipley senior Jon Myers.

Jackie was a great friend to Shipley as well as a supporter of our family's blood drives, and we are proud to dedicate this event to her.

For every unit of blood collected today, my family will make a donation to Unite for HER, an organization that was important to Jackie.

Unite for HER provides support to people recently diagnosed with breast cancer or ovarian cancer. To learn more or to support this organization, visit uniteforher.org.

We are glad to be able to honor Jackie in this way. Many thanks again to the entire community for your support of today's event.

***Thank you to everyone who
donated blood today!***

Today's **whole blood donors
will be eligible to donate again
on June 3, 2022.**

Today's **power red donors will
be eligible to donate again on
July 29, 2022.**

**For donation opportunities in
your area, visit
redcrossblood.org and enter
your ZIP code.**

Special thanks to:

Michael Turner

Kris Ryan

Margie Winters

Anna Dejdar

Shane Kinsella

Bill Lyon

Timothy Lightman

Betsy Leschinsky

ShIPLEY Service Committee & Blood Drive Committee

ShIPLEY Athletic Department

Physical Plant staff

ShIPLEY students, colleagues, and parents

*Thank you for your support of and
help with today's event!*

The Story Behind Our Family's Blood Drives: Giving Blood to Give Time

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 granddaughter 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; 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.