



The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

With our 2016 “blood drive season” in full swing, we are thrilled to have been given the opportunity to expand our July blood drive in Lansdale from five hours to ten. This change will allow us to welcome additional donors and, of course, help many more hospital patients and their families!

Summer is a particularly critical time for blood donation. High schools and colleges, which hold blood drives throughout the school year, are no longer in session, and regular donors may not keep to their normal donation schedules because they go on vacation or, perhaps, travel to an area that causes them to defer their donations for a time. In the meantime, with more people “on the go,” the need for blood can often increase during the warm-weather months. We know that everyone who supports our blood drive in Lansdale will be going the extra step toward helping others!

As we organize blood drives in Carol’s memory, our proudest moments come when we hear from our donors that they have enjoyed donating with us, or that they intend to donate again—at one of our drives or elsewhere—because they had a positive experience at our blood drive. The blood donor community is not a large one, and that is why it is so important to us that all of our donors leave our drives feeling that they would like to continue to donate.

According to blood collection agencies, including the American Red Cross, approximately 38% of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood, but less than 10% of those who are eligible actually donate.

To help illustrate this, think of Citizens Bank Park. If every seat in the Phillies’ stadium were filled, there would be 43,651 fans watching the game. Approximately 16,587 members of that fan population may be eligible to donate blood, but only about 1,658 of them actually would donate.

Meanwhile, someone in the U.S. needs blood about every 2 seconds. If that Phillies game at Citizens Bank Park took three hours to play, during the game approximately 5,400 people would need a blood transfusion—and that is more than three times the number of eligible fans who would donate.

While medical advances and blood management programs have enabled some hospitals to reduce the number of blood transfusions that are performed during surgical procedures, the fact remains that blood products are always needed and can represent a critical component of patient care. Therefore, blood donors are always needed as well!

Upcoming CHA Memorial Blood Drives

July 13 ❖ The Reserve at Gwynedd, Lansdale, PA

October 19 & 20 ❖ 9th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center

To register for any of our blood drives, please visit
www.chablooddrive.org

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @CHABloodDrive

Our family enjoys creating a warm and welcoming environment for our donors, because doing so helps us continue to carry out our mission of helping patients and families spend more time together. But we couldn’t do our part to ensure that blood products are always available for those who need them without everyone who makes it possible for us to achieve that goal, and we are always grateful to you.

For us, one of the highlights of 2015 took place in October, when the Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive collected its 2,000th cumulative unit of blood. To date, our blood drives have collected a total of 2,354 units—enough blood to help as many as 7,062 recipients and their families. And every single one of those donated units represents the care and generosity of a blood donor, a person who wanted to make a difference in someone else’s life!

If you know people who may be eligible to give blood but have never tried to donate, we hope you will consider asking them to join you the next time you donate. They will quickly learn how good it feels to help save a life! And if you bring them to one of our drives, we will do everything we can to make sure that they have a positive and successful donation experience.

Thank you for joining us at our “expanded” summer blood drive. Together, we can help change lives!

Sincerely,
Michelle and Dan Scolnick 

**I CHANGE LIVES
I DONATE BLOOD**

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

A "Very Special Person," Indeed!

We know that many of the donors at our blood drives at the Reserve at Gwynedd already know Marc Satalof. Although he is remarkable for many reasons, Marc holds a special place in our hearts—not only for his support of our blood drives, but also for his views on the importance of donating blood.

At our family's blood drive at Lankenau Medical Center in October 2015, Marc donated his 240th unit of blood—the equivalent of 30 gallons! We were honored that Marc chose to celebrate such an incredible milestone at our blood drive.

As a result of his achievement, Marc was featured on the national website of the American Red Cross in March, when Red Cross Month is observed.

In describing his lifelong commitment to blood donation, Marc said, "Donating blood is one of the opportunities in our lives that takes very little time and provides a vital substance that science has yet to be able to successfully duplicate. It can often extend the lifetime of those whom we love, from family members and friends, to multitudes of individuals whom we have never met. The implicit benefit of donating blood is the underlying truth that the donation of this most precious substance truly does save many lives. For me, no other incentive is needed. I have met countless other people who feel the same way. Anyone who donates even one pint of blood in their lifetime is to be considered a very special person."

We couldn't agree more! Thank you, Marc, for everything you have done—and continue to do—to help patients and their families spend more time together.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE UPDATE

This July, our Community CHALLENGE will benefit the **Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund** and **RSVP**. Visit www.chablooddrive.org to learn more about all of the organizations that have taken part in our CHALLENGE!

Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund

Lightening the burden and lifting the spirits of families caring for children with serious illnesses, disabilities, and injuries.

Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund
580 Virginia Drive, Suite 110 ♦ Fort Washington, PA 19034
www.dolanfund.org

♦ ♦ ♦

RSVP

A multi-service organization that responds to critical human needs in the community through volunteerism.

RSVP
901 East 8th Avenue, Suite 200 ♦ King of Prussia, PA 19406
www.rsvpmc.org

DID YOU KNOW... In an emergency, when there is no time to determine blood type, type O negative red blood cells can be given to any patient. Because only a small percentage of the U.S. population has type O negative blood, it is always in great demand. Donors with this blood type are encouraged to donate frequently, helping to ensure that hospitals can maintain the supply they need in order to help any patient who comes through their doors.

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 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 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. 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.

To learn more about our family's story, please visit www.chablooddrive.org/our-family-story.html.