



The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

Thank you very much for attending the Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive in Haverford Township! We are excited to have been given the opportunity to hold our annual fall blood drive at a new location, and we are so appreciative of everyone at the CREC who made it possible for the drive to take place today. While some of the donors at this drive know our blood drives and our family well, we recognize that many more of you happened to attend simply because you were looking for an opportunity to donate blood. To each and every one of you, we express our heartfelt thanks for your commitment to blood donation, especially during this challenging time. And if you are attending our drive for the first time, we invite you to read our family's story, on the back of this newsletter, to learn how our blood drives started and why our family remains so committed to holding them.

Although this is the first time we have held a blood drive in Haverford Township, it is the 33rd blood drive that we have held in Carol's memory since 2008. Our family has always viewed every blood drive as a celebration, not just of Carol's legacy but also of the very generous people who take time out of their day to save lives! That is why we have always tried to show our appreciation by offering things like homemade refreshments and prize drawings. Today's drive could not include all of our typical special touches, as there was no question that we would follow the regulations and protocols set forth by the Red Cross in order to ensure the safety of all donors and staff at the drive, but we are happy that we are able to provide a gift bag for you today. It is a small way for us to thank you for the wonderful gift that you are giving to someone else!

We are very grateful to you for donating blood today. Our family knows from first-hand experience how important blood donors are, and with fewer donation opportunities available right now, every donation is more important than ever. We thank you for helping other families, particularly during this difficult time, and we hope it won't be long before we can greet you in person at one of our blood drives again!

Sincerely,

Michelle, Dan, and Emily Scolnick 

Our family normally holds four blood drives each year. With so much uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and the availability of our regular venues, our planning for 2021 is temporarily on hold. However, we hope to be able to see you in person at some point next year, and we will work as hard as we can to make that possible!

Please visit our website, www.chablooddrive.org, for the most up-to-date information about the status of our drives.

We also invite you to follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @CHABloodDrive and on Instagram: @cha_blooddrive

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

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; and 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.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE UPDATE

This October, our Community **CHALLENGE** will benefit

Delaware County Interfaith Food Assistance Network (DIFAN)

DIFAN is a network of food pantries throughout Delaware County, coordinated by the Family & Community Service of Delaware County. Each family receives sufficient food for five days, three meals a day for each family member, monthly.

Delaware County Interfaith Food Assistance Network
coordinated by Family & Community Service of Delaware County

600 N. Olive Street ◊ Media, PA 19063

www.fcsdc.org/emergency-food-programs

www.facebook.com/delco.pa.food

To donate food or inquire about volunteering, please call the food pantries directly for hours and drop-off information (your gift bag contains a list of DIFAN's network of food pantries).

Monetary donations may be made at www.fcsdc.org/donate or by check payable to FCSDC (specify that donation is for the Emergency Food Program) and sent to the address above.

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Visit www.chablooddrive.org to learn about all of the organizations that have taken part in our **CHALLENGE**!

Our Mission...

The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive was created as a way of "giving back" to the 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 enable patients and their families to 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.

**I CHANGE LIVES
I DONATE BLOOD**

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