



The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

Carol passed away on July 1, 2008. Over the past 10 years, our family has worked to create a special legacy for her. Her 13-year-old granddaughter, Emily, wanted to write a message to our donors to express our family's appreciation for the support we have received.

I don't really remember when my grandmother died, or when my family started this blood drive. But even if I did remember, I never would have imagined that the blood drive would grow so much and become an event that we now hold four times a year.


It's hard to believe that this is our 25th blood drive, and I'm so proud of my family and everyone else who has helped to make all of these drives possible. We figured out that over 2,000 people have been connected with our drive at some point since it started in 2008, and I can't wait to see how much the drive grows even more in the future!

Since I was only three years old when my grandmother died and the blood drive began, I wasn't really able to help out at first. But when I was in second grade, my mom was a guest at the Health Fair at Wayne Elementary, where I used to go to school. I wrote a description of the blood drive and the process of donating blood for my mom to hand out. That was really the first time I helped promote the drive, and I continued writing flyers and little notes to hand out to my class throughout elementary school.

Then, when I was in seventh grade, we started holding our blood drive at my school and I began giving presentations in assemblies to promote the drive. I have definitely become more and more involved with the drives every year, and I'm really happy that I've been able to play a bigger role in preparing for each drive.

This blood drive has become so important to me over the past ten years, ever since my Grandmom Carol passed away. I vaguely remember going over to her house and snuggling with her cat, Jinxie, who now lives with us and sleeps on my bed almost every night. I never thought that after ten years, we'd still be honoring my grandmother to the extent we are today. It means so much to me that we've been able to keep her memory alive, and help others spend more time with their loved ones with the blood we collect at each event.

Thank you so much for donating today. I hope you'll consider donating again with us, or at some other blood drive, in the future!

Sincerely,
Emily Scolnick 

The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive
10 Years of Saving Lives!

Since 2008:

Number of CHA blood drives held: **25**

Number of CHA blood drive locations in the Greater Philadelphia area: **4**

Number of nonprofit organizations that have participated in our Community CHallenge: **25**

Number of individual donors, volunteers, and Red Cross staff members that we have met through the drive: **More than 2,000**

Number of units collected: **More than 3,640**

Number of patients that have potentially been helped by those blood products:
Nearly 11,000

**THANK YOU for making it possible
for us to create such a wonderful
legacy for Carol over the past 10 years!**

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE UPDATE

This July, our Community CHALLENGE
will benefit

Indian Creek Foundation

and

Inter-Faith Housing Alliance

Indian Creek Foundation

Providing services throughout Montgomery and Bucks
Counties to children and adults with intellectual and
developmental disabilities.

Indian Creek Foundation

420 Cowpath Road ◊ Souderton, PA 18964

www.indcreek.org

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Inter-Faith Housing Alliance

Assisting families in achieving self-sufficiency through
community-based programs that bridge homelessness
and independence.

Inter-Faith Housing Alliance

31 South Spring Garden Street ◊ Ambler, PA 19002

www.i-fha.org

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

Mark your calendar!

1 1th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center



October 15 & 16, 2018

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days

Schedule your appointment at

www.chablooddrive.org

or www.redcrossblood.org

or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

For information about any of our blood drives, please visit
www.chablooddrive.org

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @CHABloodDrive
and on Instagram: @cha_blooddrive

**I CHANGE LIVES
I DONATE BLOOD**

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

The Story Behind Our Family's Blood Drives

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 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 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.

For more information about any of our blood drives, please visit www.chablooddrive.org

Follow us on Twitter, "Like" us on Facebook: @CHABloodDrive
We are also on Instagram! @cha_blooddrive