



# The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

## ***Our family sponsored our first blood drive in Radnor Township in May 2012. Back then...***

Villanova's men's basketball team hadn't played in an NCAA National Championship game since 1985

Outdoor dining in Wayne was not permitted

Our daughter was in second grade

## ***Now, as we celebrate the 10th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive in Radnor...***

We cheered the Villanova men's basketball team to two NCAA National Championships in three years

Outdoor dining in Wayne became a saving grace for restaurant owners and patrons during a pandemic

Our daughter is looking at colleges!

## ***Much has changed since that first Radnor blood drive. Here's a look back:***

### **The background...**

After becoming dependent on transfusions of blood and platelets while receiving treatment for multiple myeloma, Carol began to experience complications that led to several hospitalizations and numerous additional transfusions during May and June of 2008. She passed away at Lankenau Medical Center on July 1 of that year.

Wanting to show our appreciation to Lankenau and also give back to the blood donor community that had allowed us to have more time with our loved one, our family decided to sponsor a special blood drive in Carol's memory at the hospital. The refreshment table was stocked with hoagies and chocolate-covered pretzels, and every donor received a small gift bag filled with chocolate—just what Carol would have liked! We were honored to meet many individuals who had helped her during her frequent hospital stays, from doctors and nurses to food-service and transport employees.

We were thrilled with the blood drive's outcome: 136 units collected, which meant that as many as 408 patients and their families would be helped in the same way that blood donors had helped our family during Carol's illness. After speaking with the hospital and the American Red Cross, we decided to turn the blood drive into an annual event, held every October at the hospital.

By the end of our fourth drive at Lankenau in 2011, we had collected more than 640 units of blood, with the potential to have saved almost 2,000 lives. That was great motivation for us to think about how we could help even more patients and families!

### **May 2012**

We decided to explore the possibility of holding a spring blood drive in our own town. With the help of officials and community members, we were able to secure space in the Radnor Township Municipal Building, and our first spring blood drive took place just after Mother's Day. The collection total surpassed our goal! We were so pleased when township officials told us that we could also hold the spring drive annually.

### **May 2013**

The support we received from the residents of Radnor Township prompted the start of our Community CHALLENGE program, which allows us to give back directly to the communities where we hold our drives by making donations to local organizations based on the number of units of blood collected at each drive in that location. The beneficiary of our first CHALLENGE was Radnor ABC, which we are proud to be supporting through today's drive as well!

### **May 2014**

We've had the pleasure of meeting many blood drive supporters through township events like summer concerts. Since 2012, we have also sponsored Radnor's annual Daddy Daughter Dance,



providing roses—the symbol of our blood drives—for the fathers to present to their daughters during a special ceremony at the end of the evening.

### May 2015

Over the years, Radnor Township business owners have gone out of their way to help ensure that our blood donors are well fed, both during the blood drives and afterward! We've been honored to receive donations of refreshments or gift certificates from local eateries such as Main Line Pizza, Christopher's, Jules Thin Crust, Margaret Kuo's, Fleming's, Aux Petits Delices, and Spring Mill Bread Company.

### May 2016

We debuted our "I CHange Lives, I Donate Blood" slogan at this drive. This phrase not only pays tribute to Carol, who has been the inspiration for everything we have done at our drives, but also encapsulates the incomparable gift that every blood donor gives to transfusion recipients and their loved ones.

### May 2017

Cabot Creamery's "Gratitude Grille" made a stop at this drive, serving gourmet specialties to blood donors, community members, and Radnor Township employees throughout the day. It was exciting to have been selected as one of the Gratitude Grille's East Coast stops, and to have had the opportunity to thank blood drive supporters in this unique and special way!



### May 2018

This particularly meaningful drive allowed us to pay tribute to Captain Matthew LeTourneau of the Philadelphia Fire Department, who had died in the line of duty earlier in the year. Captain LeTourneau touched countless lives, including ours, as we had had the pleasure of greeting him at several of our blood drives. We were honored to spearhead the #GiveBloodToHonorMatt campaign, which collected more than 400 blood donations through eight memorial drives in the Greater Philadelphia area, and even saw participation from blood donors as far away as California.

### May 2019

Members of the Wayne Business Association and local merchants, including Farnan Jewelers, Cole Wellness Spa, Braxton's Animal Works, the Wayne Bed & Breakfast Inn, and Main Point Books, have sponsored

our blood drives through donations of drawing prizes and gift items for our donors. We remain grateful for the support of these very generous business owners!

### June 2020

Thanks to COVID-19, this blood drive looked different from any we had held before. Unfortunately, we could not offer gift bags, prize drawings, or homemade refreshments. On the positive side, we were able to make sure that everyone who donated received a Hershey bar—so in one small way, at least, it still felt like a "normal" CHA Memorial Blood Drive!

### May 2021

As the 10th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive in Radnor Township begins, we have held 33 blood drives, in multiple locations each year, that have collected a total of 5,073 units of blood. And those 5,073 units of blood have helped as many as 15,219 people!

Whether you have donated blood, facilitated our planning, helped us organize, volunteered your time, donated food or drawing prizes, helped spread the word about the drive, or otherwise ensured that our donors have had a positive experience, we consider you to be part of our extended "blood drive family." We look forward to seeing the donors, volunteers, and Red Cross staff year after year, and we are always excited to meet new people.

It is incredible to think that from a single blood drive in 2008 that collected 136 units of blood and may have helped 408 people, we are now talking about thousands of units collected, and more than 15,000 patients helped. It is truly humbling for us to realize what has been made possible, thanks to the many people who have been so generous with their assistance and support.

You, the members of our blood drive family in Radnor Township, have helped us build an extraordinary legacy for Carol. We can't thank you enough, and we will always be grateful to you.

Sincerely,  
Michelle, Dan, and Emily Scolnick 🌹



*For details about our remaining blood drives in 2021, and to learn about the "10 for 10" Community CHALLENGE issued for this drive, please see the additional information in your gift bag!*