



# The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

These days, significant natural disasters seem to strike far too often. In just the past few months, we have seen and heard about the destruction caused by Hurricane Florence in the Southeastern U.S., wildfires in California, and a volcano eruption in Hawaii. On the news, we watch footage of mass evacuations and, after the danger has subsided, of residents returning to stricken neighborhoods. It is easy to see when money and supplies are needed, and many of us do what we can to help.

What is not always obvious, however, is the effect that these events have on the nation's blood supply. Any major weather event can have an impact on the ability of blood collection agencies to obtain the blood products required to meet the ongoing needs of hospitals and patients.

The components of blood have a varied shelf life. Platelets, for instance, must be used within 5 days, while red blood cells can be stored for up to 42 days. Whole blood, which many of you are donating today, contains several components that can be separated and then transfused to different patients. But because donors must wait 56 days between blood donations, it is possible that multiple components of a unit of donated whole blood will be used before that donor is eligible to donate again. Blood donors are therefore encouraged to maintain a regular donation schedule, and blood drives are held every day in order to facilitate these donations.

When severe weather or another event forces a blood drive to be canceled, blood donations are lost, and the blood supply chain is interrupted. In our area, we often see this impact in the winter. Snow and ice can make it difficult for donors to keep a scheduled donation appointment; and because many drives are held at schools, a school closure or late opening can force a drive to be canceled, with numerous donations lost.

Blood products must be on the shelves and ready to use *before* they are needed, so your blood donation today will help ensure an uninterrupted supply in the coming days and weeks. And, to help maintain the blood supply throughout the year, please note the dates of our 2019 drives in the box to the right! Thank you for helping us save lives all year long.

Sincerely,  
Michelle, Dan, & Emily Scolnick 

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR! THE CAROL H. AXELROD MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE ~ 2019 DATES ~

**March 1, 2019\*\***

**The Shipley School - Bryn Mawr, PA**

*\*\*Please note that this date is tentative; check [www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org) for date confirmation!*

◆  
**May 7, 2019**

**Radnor Township Municipal Building - Wayne, PA**

◆  
**July 17, 2019**

**The Reserve at Gwynedd - Lansdale, PA**

◆  
**October 2019  
Dates TBD**

*for the*

**12th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial  
Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center -  
Wynnewood, PA**

*Check our website for date confirmation!*

For more information about any of our blood drives, please visit

[www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org)

*Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @CHABloodDrive  
and on Instagram: @cha\_blooddrive*

*Although our family will not hold a CHA Memorial Blood Drive during the holiday season, we hope you will consider giving a most meaningful gift during that special time of year.*

*A regular donor at our drives has a family story similar to ours: his mother, Jacqueline S. Cobb, received hundreds of blood transfusions while fighting a rare blood disease. To honor her memory, he and his family will hold a blood drive in December. If you are donating whole blood today, you will be eligible to donate again by the time of this drive. We encourage you to schedule an appointment!*

December 17, 2018 – Blood drive in memory of Jacqueline S. Cobb  
2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Free Library of Springfield Township (Montgomery County)  
8900 Hawthorne Lane, Glenside, PA 19038

## COMMUNITY CHALLENGE UPDATE

This October, our Community CHALLENGE  
will benefit

**Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund**  
and  
**Narberth Ambulance Company**

### **Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund**

Providing need-based financial assistance to graduates of the Lower Merion School District's public high schools in order to help them pursue higher education.

**Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund**  
P.O. Box 346 ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003  
[www.lmtsf.org](http://www.lmtsf.org)

♦ ♦ ♦

### **Narberth Ambulance Company**

Providing emergency medical services throughout Lower Merion, Narberth, and surrounding communities.

**Narberth Ambulance Company**  
101 Sibley Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003  
[www.narberthambulance.org](http://www.narberthambulance.org)

Visit [www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org) to learn about all of the organizations that have taken part in our CHALLENGE!

## The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive 2008–2018 : 10 Years of Saving Lives!

### Since 2008:

Number of CHA blood drives held: **26**

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

Number of nonprofit organizations that have participated in our Community CHALLENGE: **27**

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 3,750**

Number of patients that have potentially been helped by those blood products: **More than 11,200**

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

### **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 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.