



The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

This is a very bittersweet moment for our family. After 13 years, we are holding what is likely to be our final blood drive in Carol's memory. This is our 35th drive, and the 35th time that we have greeted donors and tried to express how much your participation and support mean—not just to us, but to the family of every person whose lifesaving blood transfusion will be made possible by your donation today.

Making the decision to end our blood drives was a very difficult one for us. As most of you know, family has always been at the heart of the Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive: Our blood drives are held in memory of a cherished loved one; we have a circle of relatives and close friends who have helped the drives grow over the years; and you may have heard us say that we consider everyone who participates in or contributes to the success of our drives—donors, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters—to be part of our extended blood drive family.

During the pandemic, holding large-scale events like our blood drives became much more challenging. We missed being able to see so many of you, whether because of canceled drives, American Red Cross safety protocols that limited our ability to interact with everyone as we normally would at the drives that did take place, or donors' understandable reluctance or inability to donate blood. It became very difficult to find venues that were willing to host drives. And (perhaps worst of all) we had to eliminate the homemade baked goods and chocolate-laden refreshment table that have been hallmarks of our drives since the beginning!

But the pandemic also gave us time to reflect. Within our own small family, the blood drives have been a constant presence, up to four times a year, for the past 13 years. When our first drive took place, our daughter was three years old; now, she is a senior in high school. To some degree, every season for more than a decade has been built around planning for, recruiting for, and preparing for a blood drive. As we have watched our only child start to explore new opportunities and look at the future in an entirely new way, we have realized that it is time for us to make some changes as well.

The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive has always been a celebration of Carol's legacy and of the donors and supporters who have helped us save lives in her memory. We really do view all of you as part of our extended family, and the hardest aspect of our decision was the knowledge that we will not see some of you again. We will keep you updated on our new endeavors, though, and we sincerely hope that you will keep in touch!

When we held our first blood drive in October 2008 at Lankenau Medical Center, three months after Carol passed away, we simply wanted to do something to give back to the blood donor community that had made it possible for us to have more time with her. We had no plans for even a second drive! But the wonderful people who participated in that very first drive inspired us to hold another one—and then things just kept going from there. Incredibly, more than a few of the donors who attended that first drive have been friends of our drives ever since, and some are even scheduled to donate with us again today. They, like all of you, have continued to provide us with motivation and inspiration over the past 13 years.

We hope you already know that your support of the Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive has given hospital patients and their families the gifts of time and hope. But we want to tell you that your support has also given our family the gifts of wonderful relationships and very special friendships. We recognize that as another part of Carol's legacy, and it is one for which we will forever be profoundly grateful.

Sincerely,
Michelle, Dan, and Emily Scolnick 

The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

By the Numbers!

Since 2008:

Number of CHA Memorial Blood Drives held (including today's): **35**

Number of different venues where drives have taken place: **6**

Number of nonprofit organizations that have been part of our Community CHALLENGE: **39**

Number of individual donors, volunteers, and Red Cross staff members that we have met through the drives (as of September 2021): **Approximately 3,000**

Number of units collected (as of September 2021): **More than 5,240**

Number of patients potentially helped by those blood products: **More than 15,700**

THANK YOU for helping us create such a wonderful legacy for Carol over the past 13 years!

Blood Donation Runs in the Family

Thank You
for your donation

... Fold this card
and keep it in your wallet
as a record of your
Red Cross Blood Donations

BLOOD DONATIONS	
DATE	PLACE
3-8-72	Mobile
1-22-79	"
7-23-79	St. Matthew's

BLOOD GROUP: B Pos

ANTIBODIES: _____

Received _____ gallon pin _____
(NO.) (DATE)

We knew that Carol had been a blood donor herself—Michelle remembers seeing her come home from work wearing a sticker saying “Be nice to me, I donated blood”—but it was interesting to come across Carol’s own donor cards. The style of the cards changed over the years; this was the earliest one we found.

MICHELLE SCOLNICK
DONATIONS:

61 UNITS 7 GALLONS

BLOOD TYPE: B+ DONOR ID: [redacted]

The “cards” and notifications may look different today, but the family commitment to donating blood still runs strong—and, of course, is much more personal now.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
23RD AND CHESTNUT STREETS
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19103

March 16, 1976

Mrs. Frances E. Hauser
7800 B Stenton Ave.,
Phila., Pa. 19118

Dear Mrs. Hauser,

On behalf of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, American Red Cross, it gives me great pleasure to commend you on the many donations of blood you have made. Your contributions entitle you to enrollment in the Red Cross Gallon Club, whose membership is made up of those donors who have given one or more gallons of blood to the community through the Red Cross.

Your membership in the Gallon Club is symbolized by the wearing of the special "Gallon Club" pin, indicating the number of gallons of blood you have donated. Your pin is enclosed. In wearing it, you should feel proud that you have performed such a vital service for this community.

I hope you will continue to donate blood through the Red Cross, and that you will encourage others to follow your example.

Sincerely,
Sydney J. Marking
Chairman, Blood Program

One _____ Gallon Club Pin
Phila. School Dist.

We recently learned of this letter, which was sent to Carol’s mother, Frances Hauser, in 1976. Her membership in the Gallon Club was also recognized in the daily “Morning News” of Central High School, where she was working at the time. Frances, who is now 102 years old, donated blood at our family’s drives until 2013.

Thank you for joining us at the Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive!

If you made a **whole blood donation** today, you will be eligible to donate again on
December 2, 2021.

Power red donors will become eligible to make another donation on **January 27, 2022.**

*Because every unit of donated blood can be separated into as many as three different components, the blood donation you made today may help **three** patients who need transfusions of blood products.*



*You can donate blood every **56** days—up to six times each year!*



For more information about blood donation, or to schedule your next donation appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org.



In recognition of all those who are working tirelessly to fight the disease that has affected so many families like ours, for every unit of blood collected at this drive donations will be made to the following institutions that are pursuing research, treatments, and innovations in patient care:

Cancer Center Program at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

P.O. Box 781352
Philadelphia, PA 19178-1352
www.chop.edu/centers-programs/cancer-center

and

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

P.O. Box 849168
Boston, MA 02284-9168
www.dana-farber.org



Many, many thanks to everyone in Radnor Township who made it possible for this blood drive to take place!

Marie Carbonara ❖ Tammy Cohen ❖ Bill White ❖ Molly Gallagher
Radnor Township Police Department ❖ Radnor Township School District
and

Peg DeGrassa ❖ Karen Ebbert ❖ Allison Gangl ❖ Michael Petitti ❖
Abbey Krain ❖ Rep. Jennifer O'Mara ❖ Bill Dolan ❖ Domenic D'Amico ❖
Christina Thompson ❖ Janine Hanosek ❖ Felicia Laskey

Special thanks to the following outlets for their support:

Delaware County Daily Times
<https://www.delcotimes.com>

MainLineNeighbors.com
<http://mainlineneighbors.com>

Lower Merion Community Network
<https://lowermerioncommunitynetwork.com>

Patch.com
<https://patch.com/pennsylvania>

Wayne Business Association
www.waynebusiness.com

Phillyfunguide
<https://phillyfunguide.com>



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 held, we hoped to be able to help even more people who needed transfusions. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood; 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 would always be available for those who needed them. Thanks to donors who are willing to take a little time out of their day to give blood, whether at our blood drives or elsewhere, these patients are able to continue to fight their illnesses—and spend more time with their loved ones.