



# The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

Thank you so much for attending the 9th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive in Radnor Township on June 16! 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 were 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.

This is, to put it mildly, an unusual time. For our family, it is also bittersweet, as we have never before held a blood drive where we did not greet our donors personally. This was our ninth annual drive in Radnor Township, but our 32nd drive overall in Carol's memory. Since our very first drive in 2008, our family has viewed every blood drive we hold 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 special things like gift bags, prize drawings, and homemade refreshments. We wish that we could have continued those traditions at this drive, but of course there was never any question that we would follow the regulations and protocols set forth by the Red Cross and Radnor Township in order to ensure the safety of all donors and staff at the blood drive.

However, we couldn't let a CHA Memorial Blood Drive go by without acknowledging your generosity with a small token that, we hope, will come in handy for you as our local business community starts to open up again. We are so grateful to all of you for donating blood, and we also owe a debt of gratitude to the people of Radnor Township, who have been incredibly supportive of our blood drives for the past nine years. We are happy to have found a way to thank you for your blood donation while, at the same time, providing a boost to our local merchants, many of whom have also supported our efforts in the past. *(We understand that the American Red Cross will also be sending June blood donors an Amazon gift card via email, so be on the lookout for that as well!)*

We are very grateful to you for taking the time out of your day to donate blood. Our family knows from first-hand experience that blood donors have the ability to give hospital patients and their families a truly incomparable gift. Thank you for helping other families, particularly at this difficult time. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the rest of our blood drives this year will take place under somewhat more relaxed circumstances, and we sincerely hope that we will have the opportunity to greet you at one of them!

Sincerely,  
Michelle, Dan, and Emily Scolnick 

*Our family holds four blood drives each year. As of now, we are planning to hold our summer and fall drives on the dates listed below. We hope to be able to greet you in person, with gift bags and homemade refreshments, at one of these drives!*

## **The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive**

*Please visit [www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org) for the most up-to-date information about our plans.*

**August 12, 2020**

*Blue Bell/Lansdale area; drive location is being finalized*

**October 8, 2020**

*Our fall blood drive will be held at a new location!*

**Haverford Township Community Recreation & Environmental Center (CREC) - Haverford, PA**

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

Thank you to the local merchants who graciously accommodated our requests to process so many gift cards for our donor gifts and drawing prizes!

Spring Mill Bread Co.      Main Line Pizza  
Main Point Books      Christopher's  
Margaret Kuo's      Cole Wellness Spa  
Farnan Jewelers      Clay's Bakery

Braxton's Animal Works

### **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.

## ***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.