



# The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

We are so honored to have been given the opportunity to partner with The Shipley School on a blood drive this winter! It has truly been a privilege for us to work with the students, faculty, and staff to raise awareness of the importance of donating blood.

Today's students are the next generation of blood donors. When a hospital patient needs a transfusion, the only thing that can make that transfusion possible is the generous donor who provided the necessary blood products. There is no pharmaceutical company manufacturing the red blood cells, platelets, or plasma; blood cannot be produced in a lab, and there is no synthetic substitute for it.

Education is a key component of any effort to recruit blood donors. Many people have no reason to know very much about the processes involved in blood donation, or about why every single donation is critically important in saving lives. We didn't know a lot about it ourselves—and then a loved one was in need, and our learning curve was very quick and very steep.

The Shipley School's motto is "Courage for the Deed, Grace for the Doing." We recognize that there is an element of courage involved in donating blood, and there is grace in helping others. We also know from personal experience that anyone who needs a blood transfusion is facing a situation that requires extraordinary courage and grace. It is our privilege to be able to help them, and we hope that you feel the same way.

All of the blood donated today at Shipley by students, faculty, staff members, administrators, parents, and members of the greater community will be used to help save and prolong lives. You will never know who receives your blood donation, but you can rest assured that you have given as many as three people—and their families—the gift of time.

Thank you so much for your support of this blood drive and for your commitment to saving lives!

Sincerely,  
Michelle, Dan, and Emily Scolnick 

**I CHANGE LIVES  
I DONATE BLOOD**

**The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive  
[www.chablooddrive.org](http://www.chablooddrive.org)**

## DID YOU KNOW...

If you are looking for a quick and easy way to schedule your next donation appointment, you can download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App. This free app makes it extremely easy to determine when you are eligible to donate, find blood drives in your area, and schedule your next appointment. You can claim rewards, learn how many lives you have touched through your generosity, and even follow your blood donation's journey through processing and testing and, ultimately, to its delivery to a hospital to help a patient in need!

## WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO DONATE BLOOD?

Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Because the processing and testing of blood donations takes time, blood products must be on the shelves and ready to use before they are needed. This ensures that enough blood will be available to stabilize patients in emergency situations.

Whole blood can be separated into different components, including red blood cells, platelets, and plasma. Each component can be given to a different recipient, meaning that one blood donor can help save three lives.

Blood products have a shelf life. Red blood cells must be used within 42 days; platelets must be used within 5 days. This is why it is critical to maintain an adequate supply of blood products at all times.

In general, healthy blood donors may donate whole blood every 56 days. Power red donors, who donate two units of red blood cells (with most of their platelets and plasma being returned to them through the use of a special machine), must wait 112 days between donations.

Although the American Red Cross has some fixed sites for blood collection, approximately 80% of their blood donations are collected at mobile blood drives such as the one being held at Shipley today. THANK YOU for helping to save lives!

Source: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)



Special thanks to Shipley 12th grader Elvis Zhang for the wonderful design he created for the t-shirts for this blood drive!

Everyone who played a role in today's blood drive is a hero to hospital patients and their families!



*Thank you for joining us at the blood drive today.  
We hope to see you at another drive in 2017!*

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

### **Dates and Locations of Upcoming Drives**

**May 9, 2017**

Radnor Township Municipal Building - Wayne, PA



**July 12, 2017**

The Reserve at Gwynedd - Lansdale, PA



**October 9 & 10, 2017**

*Celebrating a very special milestone!*

**10th Annual Carol H. Axelrod Memorial  
Blood Drive at Lankenau Medical Center  
Wynnewood, 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

### ***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.