



The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

My grandmother, Carol Axelrod, was dependent on blood transfusions for the last year of her life. Although she passed away when I was three years old, the availability of blood products allowed our family to make lots of special memories with her during that year.

When we started holding blood drives in her memory, I was a little too young to be able to help out. But when I was in second grade, my mom was a guest at the health fair at the elementary school I attended before I came to Shipley. I wrote a description of the blood drive and the process of donating blood for my mom to hand out. That was really the first time I worked on a drive, but throughout elementary school, I continued writing flyers and little notes to give to my class when a drive was coming up.

I was in seventh grade when we started holding our blood drives at Shipley, and I began giving presentations in assemblies to promote them. Now that I am in the Upper School, I've been able to be more involved than ever. I'm really happy that I had the opportunity to play a bigger role in preparing for this year's drive here.

The blood drives in my Grandmom Carol's memory have become very important to me. It means so much to me to be able to help keep her memory alive, and to help others spend more time with their loved ones with the blood we collect at each event.

My family is grateful to the Shipley community for supporting us throughout this process. To everyone who donated today, thank you so much! We hope you'll consider donating again with us, or at another blood drive, in the future!

Sincerely,

Emily Scolnick (Shipley 9th grader)

WHY IS DONATING BLOOD SO IMPORTANT?

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!**

Because processing and testing 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.

Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Blood transfusions can be needed as the result of injury, surgery, childbirth, or treatment for cancer or other illnesses.

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.**

Source: www.redcrossblood.org

DID YOU KNOW...

The American Red Cross has a program called **Leaders Save Lives** that is open to high school and college students. By hosting a blood drive during summer or winter periods when school is out of session, students have the opportunity to earn gift cards, or even win a scholarship!

Program dates in 2019:

Summer drives must run between June 1 and August 31, 2019

Winter drives must run between December 15, 2019 and January 15, 2020

During these periods, students who host blood drives that collect at least 25 pints can earn a \$50 gift card (or even greater rewards based on the number of pints collected) AND be entered to win scholarships that start at \$1,000!

For more information about this exciting opportunity, visit

www.redcrossblood.org/leaderssaveives.



LEADERS SAVE LIVES

One of the most enjoyable aspects of holding our blood drives at Shipley is the opportunity to introduce the concept of blood donation to the next generation of donors. Many thanks to the Upper School students who donated, as well as to the Lower School and Middle School students who recruited an adult to donate! And we greatly appreciate the support we received from Margie Winters, Tim Lightman, Stu Malcolm, and Shipley's teachers and staff. Thank you all!



Special thanks to Shipley 11th grader Gianna McDougall for providing the inspiration for this year's t-shirt design!

*Our family holds four blood drives each year.
We hope to see you at another drive in 2019!*

**The Carol H. Axelrod
Memorial Blood Drive**
Dates and Locations of Upcoming Drives

May 7, 2019

Radnor Township Municipal Building - Wayne, PA



July 17, 2019

The Reserve at Gwynedd - Lansdale, PA



October 2019 (dates TBD)

**12th 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



Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @CHABloodDrive
and on Instagram: @cha_blooddrive

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.