

# The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

I want to thank everyone in the Shipley community for coming together in support of the blood drive that my family holds in memory of my grandmother. There have been so many people who have helped us spread the word about the drives since we started holding them at Shipley a few years ago, and this year was no different!

I am grateful to everyone who helped us this year by recruiting donors, volunteering at the lunchroom signup table, providing delicious treats for the donors, and helping out at the drive itself. The support from students in the Upper School has been amazing, but I also want to say a huge thank you to the teachers, students, and parents from the Middle School and Lower School who have made special contributions to the drive.

Thank you so much to everyone at Shipley for being incredibly supportive of our family's event. All of you are making it possible for patients who need blood transfusions to spend more time with the people who love them. Our family looks forward to continuing this partnership in the future!

Sincerely,

Emily Scolnick (Shipley 10th grader) 

## 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 2020:

Summer drives must run between  
June 1 and August 31, 2020

Winter drives must run between  
December 15, 2020 and January 15, 2021

During these periods, students who find locations and 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/LeadersSaveLives](http://www.redcrossblood.org/LeadersSaveLives)

Huge thanks to the talented and creative students who contributed designs for the t-shirts, laptop stickers, gift bags, and welcome banner for this year's blood drive!

T-shirts



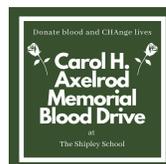
Libby Ronon

Laptop stickers



Jordan Rampulla

Gift bags



Luke Howard

Welcome banner



Maddie Strong & Grace Carvalho

*One of the most enjoyable aspects of holding our blood drives at Shipley is the opportunity to introduce the idea 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!*

## WHY IS DONATING BLOOD SO IMPORTANT?

**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. In fact, people being treated for cancer use nearly one-quarter of the blood supply.

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!**

Only 3 percent of the American public donates blood in a given year, yet **blood products must be on the shelves and ready to use before they are needed** in order to stabilize patients in emergency situations.

Because blood products have a shelf life, it is critical to maintain an adequate supply at all times. **This ensures that any patient who requires a lifesaving blood transfusion, for any reason, can receive one.**

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

*Our family holds four blood drives each year.  
We hope to see you at another drive in 2020!*

## The Carol H. Axelrod Memorial Blood Drive

### Dates and Locations of Upcoming Drives

**May 5, 2020**

Radnor Township Municipal Building - Wayne, PA

**July 15, 2020**

The Reserve at Gwynedd - Lansdale, PA

**October 8, 2020**

*Join us at our 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

## 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.