



Alana's Foundation

TM

Fourth Edition

2018 IN REVIEW

December 2018

Letter from the Executive Director

The 2017-2018 Flu season proved to be very rough at best. With **183 pediatric deaths** (under 18 yrs. of age), it was **the deadliest flu season** on record since CDC started keeping track in 2003-04 flu season. Most concerning, of the 183 deaths, **80% were not vaccinated**. And this year, the **first death** was an **unvaccinated child** from Florida. How many lives may have been saved with a simple flu shot? Sadly, we will never know.

The 2018-19 season shows no signs of letting up. In **August, 130 people attending a conference in Grand Rapids, MI became ill with the flu**. Yes, in August. A staunch reminder that influenza viruses circulate throughout the year.

That's why Alana's Foundation is **extremely grateful to YOU, our loyal donors**. We simply cannot accomplish what we do without your gracious support. Your donations, large and small, allow us to work on your behalf to ensure no one has to endure the lasting pain of losing a child to a vaccine preventable disease.

Before the year concludes, we estimate we will have:

- **Subsidized \$7,000+** in **vaccinations** to uninsured/underinsured individuals at our sponsored clinics

- **Sponsored 18 school/community clinics** administering over 1,000 doses of flu vaccine

- **Awarded 4 grants to colleges/universities** that participated in college/university flu vaccination challenge to purchase flu vaccine for their uninsured/underinsured students

- **Awarded 4 grants to medical clinics** that provide free health care to those without insurance or are homeless.

In addition, Alana's Foundation **outreach** touched those **locally** and **nationally**:

- **Appearing** in a **Ch. 7/WXYZ TV** interview sharing Alana's Story about how serious influenza can be.

- **Participating** in the **worldwide CaringCrowd** matching fund campaign sponsored by **Johnson & Johnson**.

Finally, our **programs** are reaching **beyond** our **state** as:

- **The College/University Flu Vaccination Challenge** grew by 91% with 42 participants from 21 states! The **Alana Yaksich NATIONAL College/University Flu Vaccination challenge** continues to have a meaningful impact.

Because of your continued contributions, together we **ARE making a difference** supporting families in need and keeping our students and communities healthy and flu free on an ever expanding scale.

Lastly, we **welcome Cassius Drake, MD**, as our new board member. He will be a great addition to our team!

With **sincere thanks, gratitude and appreciation**,

Zachary Yaksich
President/Executive Director

In this Issue

Clinics	2
Fundraisers	2
Flu Challenges	3
Grants	3
Outreach	3
By the Numbers	4
Donate	4
Dream Project	4
Power of One	4

Alana's Foundation Note Cards

The design was painted with love by Alana's sister Angelina, & her Dad.
\$10/packet of 4 cards.

Make a great holiday gift.

While supplies last
email: info@alanasfoundation.org



Year End Newsletter



2018

Established in 2009, Alana's Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in memory of Alana Yaksich who died of influenza in February 2003. Recognition includes the 2012 Michigan Honoree for the Center for Disease Control Childhood Immunization Champion Award, the 2012 Alliance for Immunization in Michigan Outstanding Achievement Award, the 2015 National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit - Immunization Excellence Honorable Mention for Influenza Season Campaign and the 2016 AIM Bulls-Eye Award. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by the law. Federal Tax ID #: 26-4353167

Who We Are

Board of Directors

Zachary Yaksich
President/Executive Director

JoAnna Yaksich
Secretary/Board Member

Board Members

Carlo Bautista
Cassius Drake, MD
Rudy Gomez, MD

Honorary Members

Rami Fakhoury
Daena Nicholas

Our Mission

To educate the public about the importance of yearly influenza vaccinations and in doing so, increase the vaccination rates by providing convenient and affordable flu vaccination options as well as provide support for families that have lost a child.

We are 100% volunteer run relying solely on donations from private individuals and businesses to fulfill our mission.

Benefits of Flu Vaccination 2016-17 Flu Season

5.3 Million
illnesses prevented

2.6 Million
medical visits prevented

85k
hospitalization prevented

source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/2016-17.htm>



Stay In Touch

Web:
www.AlanasFoundation.org

Facebook:
[facebook.com/
AlanasFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/AlanasFoundation)

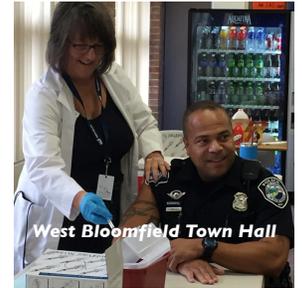
Twitter:
twitter.com/AlanasFound

Email:
info@AlanasFoundation.org

Summer Cruise 2018



Flu Clinics 2018



Clinics

K-12 School Clinics In partnership with our community vaccine administrators, Michigan Community Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), **more than 800+ doses** of flu vaccine were given at schools (Kindergarten - 12 grade) throughout metro Detroit. This year, some **very special things** have been witnessed during the clinics. At one, a **6th grade student** read about Alana's Story after receiving his flu shot. He was so moved, he **donated his allowance**. At another, a **high school student** experienced a serious bout of the flu last year and learned the hard way there is no such thing as "just the flu." He **made sure he was protected** this year because as he stated, "it was horrible". At a community clinic, a **college nursing student** was **inspired to pray** with Alana's dad and aunt. And still at others, many **"first time" adults** elected to get their flu vaccinations this year. Plus several **new schools** were added!

Community Clinics Clinics at Auburn Hills Community Center, West Bloomfield Fire Department, West Bloomfield Township and various church and community locations provided **over 300 administered doses** of flu vaccine with **32% being subsidized** by Alana's Foundation. And, we continued our partnership with Rochester College student nurses who helped vaccinate at one local community clinic.

Fundraisers

Annual Summer Cruise We set sail aboard the Infinity Yacht for our 3rd cruise down the Detroit River. Guests were entertained by Cosmic Groove Trio,

enjoyed a strolling dinner with dessert and an open bar, and had fun at the photo booth! Once again, over **\$19,000** was raised for Alana's Foundation. We sincerely **THANK** our **sponsors** ~ Bautista Family, Strategic Education Services Group, Classic Auto Wash, Michigan Community VNA, and Northwestern Mutual ~ **and attendees** who made it happen. Mark your calendars for **AUGUST 1, 2019** and join us on our next voyage aboard the **Infinity Yacht** when we have some NEW surprises awaiting!

CaringCrowd Alana's Foundation participated in its 3rd CaringCrowd **matching fund campaign** sponsored by **Johnson & Johnson (J & J)**. All projects on CaringCrowd focus specifically on global public health, are valid 501(c)3 non-profits, and have been reviewed by a diverse team of J & J experts. This campaign ran for 6 weeks this summer **raising over \$4,000!**

Third Party Fundraisers **THANK YOU** to the following organizations that chose Alana's Foundation as the beneficiary of their charitable outreach:
Catholic Central Prep Hockey generously donated a portion of their annual comedy night. This is the third time we have been blessed by their kindness.
CoolYo, a local Mi Frozen Yogurt shop, donated their September "Tip Jar".
Jacqueline Drake Gallery A NEW fundraiser at a local Mi art gallery is slated for Spring 2019! It is sure to be a FUN, creative evening to benefit Alana's Foundation.

FLU FACT: Last year, **80,000 people died** from influenza including **181 children**. Making it one of the deadliest flu seasons in decades.



Cass Clinic, an AF grant recipient, administering flu vaccine

2017 Flu Challenge Winners for Michigan & nationally Wayne State University, Detroit Medium School category

2017 Catholic School Flu Challenge winner - U of D High School & Academy

Vaccine Assistance Grants

Seven grants totaling over **\$5,800** were **awarded** to 4 medical clinics in Detroit, and 4 colleges/universities and universities, yet more than **\$6,000 was not gifted** leaving **up to 400 people potentially unvaccinated** as our donations have been down.

The **medical clinics** (Cass Clinic, FernCare, Robert F. Frank Free Clinic, and Street Medicine) serve the uninsured/underinsured and homeless communities and expect to **administer more than to 300 doses**. The **College/University** recipients **anticipate vaccinating over 700** uninsured/underinsured students who would otherwise not be able to get a flu shot due to cost.
kmh

Outreach

Community involvement

Alana's Story remains an important part of the **"I Vaccinate"**, a website dedicated to answering questions about childhood immunizations, including influenza.

In connection with "I Vaccinate", Alana's Foundation Executive Director, Zachary Yaksich, was interviewed by **WXYZ Channel 7 Detroit** - sharing Alana's emotional story and the devastating effects of a vaccine preventable disease. Once again, Zack had the opportunity to share Alana's Story from a dad's perspective and the profound effect it had on his life. All too often, the **grief of a father is overlooked or ignored by society**.

This fall, for the third consecutive year, we were invited to share Alana's story with **Oakland University William Beaumont (OUWB) medical students** during a session about vaccine confidence. We are honored to teach the next generation of doctors that a personal story goes a long way in helping to influence a person's decision to vaccinate.

Other local outreach included presentations to the **Wayne County** and **Jackson County Immunization Provider meetings** reminding health care professionals about the seriousness of influenza and the **need for annual flu vaccinations for everyone** in the community.

Flu Vaccination Challenges

Three challenges are underway and the competition is heating up for the coveted **"Alana Yaksich Memorial Trophy"**, awarded to participating schools with the highest number of survey responses.

Catholic School Challenge Based on the success of the original Michigan College/University Challenge, we first introduced this annual competition fall of 2016. **University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy** was the repeat **winner for 2017**.

The 2018 winner will be announced mid-December.

College/University Challenge It all began in the fall of 2014 for schools in **Michigan** with the purpose of increasing flu immunization rates among college students. Now reaching schools nationally, the **Alana Yaksich NATIONAL College University Flu Challenge** encompasses **42 schools from 21 states**. That's a 35% increase in reach across the US!

Congratulations to the **2017 National winners**:

Small: **University of Rochester, New York**

Medium: **Wayne State University, Detroit**

Large: **University of Wisconsin, Madison**

The Michigan and National champions for 2018 will be announced mid-December.

FLU FACT: Since 2003, more than 1,800 children (≤ 18 yrs. old) have **died** from influenza. **An average of 80% of pediatric flu deaths are children who were previously healthy and not vaccinated.**

Flu Resources

US Center for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov/flu

US Department of Health and Human Services
www.flu.gov

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
www.michigan.gov/flu

Google Flu Trends
www.google.org/flutrends

Vaccine Finder
<http://vaccine.healthmap.org>

I Vaccinate
www.IVaccinate.org

Grief Support

Michigan

Angela Hospice
www.angelahospice.org

Ele's Place
www.elsesplace.org

New Hope
www.newhopecenter.net

National

Centering Corporation
www.centering.org

GriefNet
www.griefnet.org

GriefWatch
www.griefwatch.org

Compassionate Friends
www.compassionatefriends.com

The Dougy Center
www.dougy.org

Flu Myths

"The flu shot can give me the flu."

Flu shots have INACTIVATED viruses, so they cannot cause infection.

"Vaccines are not proven to prevent the flu."

If you get the flu vaccine, you are about 60% less likely to need treatment for the flu.

"I should wait to get vaccinated so I'm covered through the end of the season."

People should get vaccinated as soon as flu shots are available as it takes about 2 weeks to develop antibodies.

"It is better to get the flu than to get a flu vaccine."

A flu shot helps reduce illness and time lost from work.

source: cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/misconceptions.htm

Get involved

Want to help support Alana's Foundation? Need community service hours? Want to join the host or planning committee for our annual fundraiser? Email us your interest today:
info@alanasfoundation.org



ALANA'S FOUNDATION
C/O 5788 BURNHAM RD.
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48302

Support The Cause ~ With a Year-End Donation

Requests for grants and family support have gone up inversely while donations have remained constant. As such, we were **unable to provide the level of support needed to fulfill requests in full**. However, you have a chance to consider making a year-end donation to support the cause so we are able to address the needs of those we service 100%. We understand you have many opportunities competing for your charitable giving. Please consider Alana's Foundation, as one **6th grader from Bloomfield Hills schools**. He was so touched by Alana's story, that after receiving his flu shot, he came back and graciously **donated his allowance to the cause**. Needless to say, we were extremely touched and humbled by this young man's compassion and willingness to give from his heart. Visit www.AlanasFoundation.org or mail enclosed donation envelope. Help us continue to make a difference in the community. **Thank you for your kind consideration and have a blessed New Year!**

Alana's Dream Project



Weeks before Alana died, as part of a lesson on Dr. Martin Luther King, her class was asked to write down their dreams. Alana's dream was that "one day there would be Rainbows all over the world".

When Alana wrote her dream, she did so through the eyes of an innocent child.

We invite you to participate in Alana's "What's Your Dream Project". Send us your picture of a rainbow and/or tell us your dream.

Visit our website and click the link for Alana's Dream Project to **Learn more about this very special endeavor:**
www.alanasfoundation.org

Power of One

We believe the most valuable resource our organization offers is the **personal story** of a local family who actually **lost a child to a vaccine preventable disease**.

We encourage you to **share our story as often as you can** with friends, family and co-workers. **Use our website, brochure, YouTube and Facebook**, as powerful resources to ensure the message is heard.

And please, feel free to call us for **speaking opportunities** in your school or community as testimony to the seriousness of this potentially deadly virus.



"By the Numbers" (since 2009)

Value of Doses Administered
\$326,635

Value of Doses Subsidized
\$52,315

Value of Doses Donated
\$75,000

Value of Doses purchased with AF awarded Grants
\$242,055

Value of Family Assistance Grants
\$10,748

Vaccination Events
115

Outreach Events
33

Speaking Engagements
28

Awards
4