



Alana's Foundation

TM

Fifth Edition

2019 IN REVIEW

December 2019

Letter from the Executive Director

The 2018-19 Flu season proved to be "typical" - **136 pediatric deaths** (under 18 yrs. of age). However, that still ranks the 6th worst flu season on record since 2004. As "usual", the majority of the 136 deaths, **were not vaccinated**. Lives may have been saved with a simple flu shot.

The 2019-20 season shows no sign of letting up. The **first death** was a child from California in mid-September which is quite early. This is a staunch reminder that influenza viruses circulate throughout the year and annual flu shots should be a priority as soon as vaccine is available.

As the year began, we were blessed to learn that **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan** would be **partnering with Alana's Foundation** to further raise awareness of influenza and offer free flu vaccinations at various community events across the state reaching 9 counties!

Alana's Foundation (AF) 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 \$12,000+** in **vaccinations** to uninsured/

underinsured individuals at our sponsored clinics

- **Sponsored 37 school/ community clinics** administering over 2,000 doses of flu vaccine

- **Awarded 3 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, nationally and internationally**:

- **Appearing** in a January, 2019 **Detroit News OpEd** sharing Alana's Story about how serious influenza can be.

- The **Alana Yaksich NATIONAL College/University Flu Vaccination challenge** continued to have a meaningful impact with 32 schools from 15 states taking part.

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

- Having our story shared overseas at the **King Fahad Medical City** in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** and with the **Guardian, London, England**

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.

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

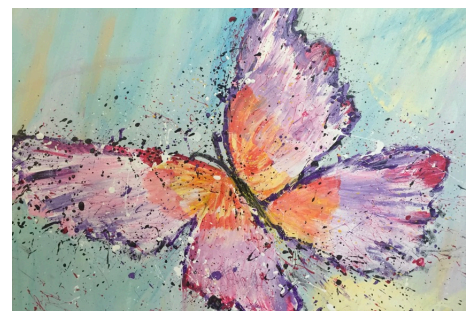
The design was painted with love by Alana's sister Angelina, & her Dad.

\$10/packet of 4 cards.

Make a great holiday gift.

While supplies last

email: info@alanasfoundation.org



Year End Newsletter



2019

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

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 2017-18 Flu Season

7 Million
illnesses prevented

8 Thousand
deaths prevented

109 Thousand
hospitalization prevented

source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines-work/burden-averted.htm>



Stay In Touch

Web:
www.AlanasFoundation.org

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

Twitter:
twitter.com/AlanasFound

Email:
info@AlanasFoundation.org

Summer Cruise 2019



Flu Clinics 2019



Clinics

2019 was a banner year! Our new partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan increased our reach from 18 clinics to 37, serving residents from 10 counties across our state. From Wayne county in southeast Michigan to Otsego in the north, by the end of the season, we estimate more than 2,000 doses will be administered.

K-12 School Clinics In partnership with our community vaccine administrators, Michigan Community Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), **more than 1,000 doses** of flu vaccine were given at schools (Kindergarten - 12 grade) throughout metro Detroit. We continue to hear that many people count on getting their annual flu shot at one of our clinics. For those that didn't, it was because they already received their shot at their doctor or pharmacy, which means the message is "sticking". And still there were others who were **"first timers"** electing to get their flu vaccinations this year because they realize how important it is.

Community Clinics There were **16 NEW** Community events this year due in part to our BCBSM partnership. The **MSU College of Human Medicine Teddy Bear Picnic** and the **Detroit Zoo "Zoo Boo" weekends** provided an opportunity to reach thousands of people with our mission. From Detroit to Gaylord, **over 1,000 doses** of flu vaccine were administered at these community outreach events. Approximately **30% of all doses were subsidized** by Alana's Foundation.

Fundraisers

Summer Cruise With a few surprises added this year - a strolling magician and raffle draw, guests enjoyed the sounds of Acoustic Groove, strolling dinner, desserts open bar, and a beautiful summer night. Over **\$20,000** was raised for Alana's Foundation. We sincerely **THANK** our **sponsors** ~ Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Strategic Education Services Group, Student Success Partnership, Classic Auto Wash, Bautista Family, Cranbrook Financial, The Jacqueline Drake Gallery and Michigan Community VNA ~ **and attendees** who made it happen. Mark your calendars for **AUGUST 6, 2020** and join us aboard the **Infinity Yacht!**

CaringCrowd Alana's Foundation participated in two CaringCrowd **matching fund campaigns 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. These campaigns ran at various times and **raised over \$4,250!**

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 4th time we have been blessed by their kindness. **Jacqueline Drake Gallery** hosted a fundraiser to increase awareness of the foundation. One lucky attendee was the winner of a Jacqueline Drake original painting!

FLU FACT: 2018-2019 was the **longest flu season** in the last decade with **61,200 deaths** including **142 children** (≤18 yr).



Street Medicine, an AF grant recipient, administering flu vaccine

2018 Flu Challenge Winners for Michigan - Southwestern Michigan College - Small School category

2018 Catholic School Flu Challenge winner - 3x Champ University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy

Vaccine Assistance Grants

Seven grants totaling over **\$6,000** were **awarded** to 4 medical clinics in Detroit, and 3 colleges/universities and universities.

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 300 doses**.

The **College/University** recipients **anticipate vaccinating over 500** uninsured/underinsured students who would otherwise not be able to get a flu shot due to cost.

Family Assistance Grants

Four families applied for assistance in 2019. Over **\$3,000** was **awarded** to aid in funding monthly expenses such as utilities, car insurance, etc. All four families were very grateful for the support as they navigate their way through grief and adversity.

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, penned and OpEd that ran in the **Detroit News** last January. Once again, Zack had the opportunity to share Alana's Story and the **importance of annual flu vaccinations**, especially at a time when other vaccine preventable diseases are making a comeback.

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 Immunization Provider meeting** and the **Mid-America College Health Association Conference** 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 College/University Challenge, we first introduced this annual competition fall of 2016. **University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy** was the three-repeat **winner for 2018**.

The 2019 winner will be announced mid-December.

College/University Challenge It all began in the fall of 2014 with the purpose of increasing flu immunization rates among college students. This year, the **Alana Yaksich NATIONAL College University Flu Challenge** has **32 schools from 15 states** are working hard to make sure their students and surrounding community are healthy and flu free.

Congratulations to the **2018 National winners**:

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

Medium: **University of North Carolina**, Chapel Hill

Large: **University of Wisconsin**, Madison

The Michigan and National champions for 2019 will be announced mid-December.

FLU FACT: Since 2003, more than 1,950 children (≤ 18 yrs. old) have **died** from influenza. An average of **80% of pediatric flu deaths** 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/flu

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

I Vaccinate
www.IVaccinate.org

Grief Support Michigan

Angela Hospice
www.angelahospice.org

Ele's Place
www.elesplace.org

New Hope
www.newhopecenter.net

Jacqueline Drake Gallery
www.jacquelinedrakegallery.com

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, family supports and vaccine subsidies continue to increase each year. Donations, however, remain somewhat constant. With influenza immunizations, it can be difficult for many to really understand the critical importance of the need for continued awareness. As 2019 draws to a close, we ask you to consider making a year-end donation so we are able to address the needs of those we service. We understand you have many opportunities competing for your charitable giving. Please consider Alana's Foundation. Last year we mentioned the generosity of a **local middle school student** after learning about Alana's story. Unable to attend the clinic this year at his school, he went out of his way to **once again** graciously **donate his allowance to the cause**. This young man's compassion and willingness to give from his heart for a 2nd consecutive year is truly amazing. 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 have said in the past our most valuable resource is our **personal story** of a local family who actually **lost a child to a vaccine preventable disease**. Imagine how surprised we were to receive a **request from the King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to use Alana's story!** They will be creating posters for patient families about the importance of annual flu vaccinations for parents and children alike. And still another request from the **Guardian, London, England** to help address vaccine hesitancy.

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

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
\$399,367

Value of Doses Subsidized
\$77,263

Value of Doses Donated
\$75,000

Value of Doses purchased with AF awarded Grants
\$256,865

Value of Family Assistance Grants
\$14,564

Vaccination Events
152

Outreach Events
37

Speaking Engagements
30

Awards
4

*As of this printing