

Alana's Story

As extraordinary as the outcome, Alana's story is relatively unremarkable in detail.

On the afternoon of February 1, 2003, 5 1/2 year-old Alana Yaksich spent the day with her parents and brothers watching movies, eating sundaes and playing. Alana enjoyed the afternoon feeling healthy and surrounded by her friends and family.

Later that evening, Alana developed a 106-degree fever and was rushed to the emergency room. Within hours of her arrival at the local hospital, Alana died of flu-related complications that caused swelling and injury to her brain.

Alana had not been vaccinated against the flu. At the time, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention only recommended children 6 months - 23 months receive a yearly flu vaccination. Since 2010, everyone 6 months and older is recommended to receive an annual flu vaccination.

In 2009, Alana's family established Alana's Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to educating people about the severity of influenza and the importance of vaccinating children against the flu every year so no family has to experience the tragedy of losing someone to a vaccine preventable disease.

Flu Resources

World Health Organization
<https://www.who.int/health-topics/influenza-seasonal>
US Center for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/flu

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

Influenza Key Facts
www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm

Flu Near You
<https://flunearyou.org>

Grief Support Resources

NATIONAL
Centering Corporation
www.centering.org

GriefNet
www.griefnet.org

Grief Watch
www.griefwatch.com

The Compassionate Friends
www.compassionatefriends.com

The Dougy Center
www.dougy.org

MICHIGAN
Angela Hospice
www.angelahospice.org

Dawn Farm
www.dawnfarm.org

Ele's Place
www.elesplace.org

New Hope
www.newhopecenter.net



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Alana's Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit

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[Instagram.com/AlanasFoundation](https://www.instagram.com/AlanasFoundation)



"We never knew the flu could kill until we lost Alana"

— Zachary Yaksich
Alana's dad

Who We Are & What We Do:

Alana's Foundation was started in 2009 by Alana's family in her memory. We provide influenza education and awareness with a focus on offering convenient and affordable flu vaccination options. In addition, we serve as a resource for family support that may include referrals for grief counseling, short term financial support or connecting with other families that have experienced a similar loss.

Alana's Foundation is 100% volunteer run relying solely on donations from private individuals and businesses. Your support enables us to increase public awareness about the dangers of influenza and directly affect the lives of those who may otherwise not be able to afford influenza immunization while being a resource for grieving families.

Our Mission:

To prevent deaths caused by influenza, a vaccine preventable disease and provide support for families whose child has died from any illness.



2012 Michigan Honoree
CDC Childhood Immunization Champion



2012 Outstanding Achievement Award
2016 ~ Bulls-Eye Award



2015 Outstanding Flu Season Activities
Honorable Mention
College Flu Vaccination Challenge



2022 SEEN Magazine
Community Changemaker Award

Resources We Provide

- Flu vaccination opportunities for schools and other community locations
- Community outreach - flu education & awareness through public speaking opportunities
- Vaccine assistance grants for those that serve uninsured/underinsured populations
- Financial support or referrals for:
 - Grief counseling/support groups
 - Individual and family therapy
- Financial support or referrals for:
 - Household maintenance and repair services
 - Car maintenance and repair
 - Grocery delivery and/or food preparation
- Connect with other families who have experienced similar loss

How to Help

- Make a donation
 - Monetary
 - Time and Talent (Professional Services - PR, Marketing, Social Media, etc; Trade Services - roofers, plumbers, electricians, painters, etc.)
- Host a 3rd party fundraising event
- Invite us to speak
- Display our literature
- Schedule a clinic
- Volunteer to assist us with events, fundraisers, clinics

