



Eighth Edition

2022 IN REVIEW

December 2022

### Letter from the Executive Director

After an almost non-existent flu season in 2020, the 2021-2022 Flu season was closer to what we experienced in 2011. Even though COVID19 was circulating, the dreaded “twindemic” did not materialize. However, **40 pediatric flu deaths** (under 18 yrs. of age) did occur last flu season even as some schools were still virtual, masks were ubiquitous and social distancing was practiced which may have helped to mitigate the prevalence of influenza. According to the CDC, flu vaccine coverage last season for children 6 months - 17 years old was .8% lower than 2020 and 5.6% lower compared to “pre-pandemic” 2019-2020 season. For adults (18+), there were 3.3 million fewer vaccinated for influenza compared to the same time last year.

Although no one knows what the current 2022-2023 season will bring, at the time of this writing, the CDC warns this could be a rough flu season. While we may still be experiencing “vaccine fatigue” due to parallel messages for Covid boosters and annual flu shots, it remains important to prioritize getting an annual flu vaccination.

We are so blessed to have wonderful partnerships with **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, MSU College of Human Medicine, Michigan Community VNA, and National Kidney Foundation of Michigan**, all working together to provide convenient, affordable flu vaccinations to further expand our outreach.

Alana’s Foundation continues to be gracious for your support amid difficult financial times. We are **extremely grateful to YOU, our loyal donors**. Your contributions, no matter the size, allow us to ensure no one has to experience the lasting pain of losing a loved one to a vaccine-preventable disease.

Before the year concludes, we estimate we will have:

- **Subsidized \$20,000+** in **vaccinations** to uninsured/underinsured individuals at our sponsored clinics
- **Sponsored over 44 school/community clinics** administering over 2,100 doses of flu vaccine.
- **Awarded over \$31,000 in grant money to colleges and universities** that participated in college/university flu vaccination challenge to purchase flu vaccine for their uninsured/underinsured students, and **medical clinics** that provide free health care to those without insurance or who are homeless.

In addition, we were blessed to be selected as one of eight **SEEN Magazines Community Changemaker honorees**.

Finally, the **Alana Yaksich NATIONAL College/University Flu Vaccination challenge** continued to have a meaningful impact with 24 schools from 13 states taking part.

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.

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

**Zachary Yaksich**  
**President/Executive Director**

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Year End Newsletter



2022

*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, and the 2022 SEEN Magazine Community Changemaker 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  
Daena Nicholas

### Our Mission

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

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

### Benefits of Flu Vaccination 2019-20 Flu Season\*

**7.5 Million  
illnesses prevented**

**3.7 Million  
medical visits prevented**

**6.3 Thousand  
deaths prevented**

**105 Thousand  
hospitalization prevented**

source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines-work/past-burden-averted-est.html>  
\* data for 2020-2021 not available due to the unusually low incidence of influenza throughout last flu season.



## Stay In Touch

Web:  
[AlanasFoundation.org](http://AlanasFoundation.org)

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

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

Youtube:  
[youtube.com/@alanasfoundation](https://youtube.com/@alanasfoundation)

Email:  
[info@AlanasFoundation.org](mailto:info@AlanasFoundation.org)

## Clinics

This year, we held over 44 clinics including a return to the Detroit Zoo Boo weekends. All the clinic host sites were enthusiastic about offering flu vaccinations with some exceeding expectations and some having fewer than expected participants. At Ann Arbor Public Schools, a new location, we administered over 300 doses in 2.5 hours! So grateful to our vaccine administration partners, Michigan Community VNA, who managed to smile through varying situations all to help ensure more people are protected from influenza. Everyone who received a flu vaccination at one of our clinics was very grateful for the convenient, affordable opportunity to get their annual flu shot.



As of this writing, we estimate we'll have administered over 2,100 doses this season. Even though some clinics had lower numbers, the total represents a 16.1% increase of total doses administered last year. All-in-all, a reasonably good turnout given the evolving sentiments on vaccines.

**K-12 School Clinics** In partnership with Michigan Community VNA, **1,252 doses** of flu vaccine were given to Kindergarten - 12 grade students throughout metro Detroit. We continue to hear that many people count on getting their annual flu shot at one of our clinics. Amazingly, we did not have many **"first timers"** this year. We can only assume that's because the importance of annual flu vaccinations is more apparent after the pandemic.



**Community Clinics** For the 3rd consecutive year, we were blessed to partner with the **Michigan State University College of Human Medicine - Grand Rapids**. They held the inaugural Flint Teddy Bear Picnic in September which offered the opportunity to reach a new population. MSU medical students were on hand to administer the flu shots to eager recipients. We loved having "Dr. Doggie Howler" visit to ease any fear or anxiety about getting immunized. This was a great new event, reaching a new population creating new awareness of the need for annual flu shots. From Detroit to Mid-Michigan, an estimated **600 doses** of flu vaccine were administered at these community outreach events representing approximately **28% of all doses subsidized** by Alana's Foundation.



## Fundraisers

**Cocktails for a Cause** After a 2-year hiatus, our 2022 event was a welcome outing. We celebrated at Valentine Distilling Co., generating over \$18,000. At a time when many of us are still experiencing financial challenges, we feel very blessed. We sincerely **THANK** our **sponsors** who made it all possible: **GOLD** Yaksich Family, Premier Auto Wash, **SILVER** Classic Auto Wash, Bouchar Family, **BRONZE** Cranbrook Partners & Co., Cranbrook Pavement, Giftos Family, Michigan Community VNA, Steven Drakos, Varsity Lincoln, **PATRON** Christopher Thomas Construction, Fakhoury Global Immigration, Moshoula Yaksich, MSU College of Human Medicine, Wagner & Hough, Join us **AUGUST 10, 2023**, when we meet again.



**FLU FACT: With 199 deaths, the 2019-2020 season recorded the highest number pediatric flu deaths** during a regular flu season, since the CDC began tracking in 2003.

## Vaccine Assistance Grants

**Ten grants** totaling over **\$31,000** were **awarded** to 3 medical clinics (*Cass Clinic, Fern Care Free Clinic, and C-Assist*), and 7 colleges and universities (*Austin Peay State University, Dominican University, Eastern Michigan University, Lamar University, Oakland University, Saint Xavier University, and Western Michigan University*) all helping to fund flu vaccinations for those uninsured/underinsured.

## Outreach

**Community involvement** Alana's Story remained an important part of our outreach efforts at each clinic and/or event we were involved in.

In September, Zack, Alana's Dad and foundation Founder/President, was selected as one of 8 **SEEN Community Changemaker Award** honorees for 2022! The award highlights the incredible work of local non-profits that make metro Detroit and the world around us a better place. In addition, Zack was also contacted by **Voices for Vaccine**, a national resource that provides credible vaccine information for families, from families. Zack was asked to write how Alana's death affected himself, his family and his community which will be posted on their website.



Rochester University



MSU College of Human Medicine



Madonna University

Once again this fall, **students** from **MSU College of Human Medicine, Madonna University, Rochester University, and Wayne State University** helped administer flu vaccinations at several of our clinics. We are honored to provide the next generation of medical professionals valuable outreach opportunities inspired by a personal story to help influence a person's decision to vaccinate.

## Flu Vaccination Challenges

The "**Alana Yaksich Memorial Trophy**", is awarded to the schools with the highest number of flu doses administered between September and December, 10, 2022. The **2021-2022** winners were:

### Catholic School Challenge Divine Child High School

**College/University Challenge** This competition continues to be an effective tool to help increase flu immunization rates on campuses. This year, the **Alana Yaksich NATIONAL College University Flu Challenge** has **25 schools from 13 states** working extra hard to make sure their students and surrounding community are healthy and flu free.

Congratulations to the **2021 winners**:

#### NATIONAL

Small: *Valparaiso University, Indiana*

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

Large: *University of Wisconsin - Madison, WI*

#### MICHIGAN

Small: *Kalamazoo College*

Medium: *Wayne State University*

Large: *Grand Valley State University*

2022 Michigan and National champions will be announced mid-December.

**FLU FACT:** *Since 2003, more than 2,190 children (≤18 yrs. old) have died from influenza. An average of 80% of pediatric flu deaths were previously healthy and not vaccinated.*



Divine Child High School



Valparaiso University

Wayne State University



Kalamazoo College

## Flu Resources

US Center for Disease Control  
[www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

US Department of Health and Human Services  
[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
[www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

Google Flu Trends  
[www.google.org/flutrends](http://www.google.org/flutrends)

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

I Vaccinate  
[www.Ivaccinate.org](http://www.Ivaccinate.org)

## Grief Support

### Michigan

Angela Hospice  
[www.angelahospice.org](http://www.angelahospice.org)

Ele's Place  
[www.elsesplace.org](http://www.elsesplace.org)

New Hope  
[www.newhopecenter.net](http://www.newhopecenter.net)

### National

Centering Corporation  
[www.centering.org](http://www.centering.org)

GriefNet  
[www.griefnet.org](http://www.griefnet.org)

GriefWatch  
[www.griefwatch.org](http://www.griefwatch.org)

Compassionate Friends  
[www.compassionatefriends.com](http://www.compassionatefriends.com)

The Dougy Center  
[www.dougy.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@alanasfoundation.org)



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

## Giving back

Alana's dad was selected as one of 8 individuals for the 2022 SEEN Magazine Community Changemaker Award, which honors unsung non-profit heroes and the incredible work they do to make metro Detroit and the world a better place. The November issue highlights each honoree for their dedication to their specific cause. <https://bit.ly/2022SEEN>

In that same vein, we cannot accomplish our mission without YOUR support. Requests for grants from colleges and universities have increased due to the rising cost of flu vaccines and supplies. While



2022 SEEN Changemakers

Americans continue to face financial pressure, we humbly 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. Visit [www.AlanasFoundation.org](http://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](http://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 HEALTHY child to a vaccine preventable disease**. The same remains true. It never fails, at each one of our clinics, at least 1 person is moved enough to get a flu vaccination, often for the first time ever.

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**  
\$679,552

**Value of Doses Subsidized**  
\$110,758

**Value of Doses Donated**  
\$75,000

**Value of Doses purchased with AF awarded Grants**  
\$376,880

**Value of Family Assistance Grants**  
\$18,064

**# Vaccination Events**  
297

**# Outreach Events**  
45

**# Speaking Engagements**  
37

**# Awards**  
5

\*Through October, 2022