

INSPIRATION

a publication of the
Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America,
St. Louis Chapter



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, St. Louis Chapter • Fall/Winter 2014



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America®
ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

Upcoming Fundraisers:

Saturday, November 15

"All About Nothing" - AAFA's 10th
Annual Trivia Night (see back)

Tuesday, December 2

Talbots Holiday Shopping Fundraiser
@ Plaza Frontenac, 5pm-8pm

Sat. & Sun., December 20 & 21

Holiday Gift Wrap @ the Galleria Mall

Saturday, March 28, 2015

25th Annual Orchid AAFAir
@ Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel

Sat. & Sun., April 11 & 12, 2015

Go! St. Louis Marathon Weekend

Upcoming AAFA/Community Events:

Monday, October 13

AAFA Program Committee Meeting @
AAFA Office, 6pm

Friday, October 17

Metro East Air & Health Forum @
Caseyville Community Center (IL),
8:30am-3pm (www.meairproject.org)

Saturday, October 18

Sathya Sai Health Fair @ Holy Trinity
Church (St. Ann, MO), 9am-2pm

For more information on any of
these events, please contact us at
314-645-2422 or aafa@aafastl.org.

A Message from Our Executive Director

Back to school means seeing our friends again! It may also mean sharing germs. Missouri, Illinois and several other states have been hit hard with an outbreak of the Enterovirus (EV-D68) respiratory illness this past month. It starts out like the common cold, but has proven particularly challenging for children with asthma. Many kids with asthma have ended up hospitalized or in the emergency room because of EV-D68, and there is no vaccine or cure.

AAFA has certainly felt the impact of the virus, with a recent spike in prescription assistance clients. In fact, last month we saw new clients increase tenfold! Area physicians and hospitals have also seen a considerable increase in admitted patients with the virus.

Our efforts to broaden asthma education to families would certainly be helpful moving forward so families would be better prepared to handle a virus coming their way. In fact, we have been working tirelessly to advocate for the implementation of a budget item here in Missouri that would fund asthma care management changes (which includes asthma education and healthy home assessments for many diagnosed children with asthma). Without proper asthma education, it is natural to turn to the emergency rooms, which is costly to the State and is not good for the child's quality of life.

AAFA continues to fight for improving the quality of life for those living with asthma and allergies! Find us on Facebook or Twitter and we will keep you updated on these and many more things.

Enjoy fall in St. Louis! Let's hope Old Man Winter will be kind to us.

Joy B. Krieger, MA, RN
Executive Director

The United Way of Greater St. Louis helps 1 in 3
local people, and AAFA is proud to be one of over
170 local member agencies. Support their 2014
campaign--www.stl.unitedway.org.

Proud member of



United Way
of Greater St. Louis

When shopping and paying for groceries at your local Schnucks, make sure to have your registered Schnucks eScrip Community or Customer Card scanned as you check out! You can earn up to 3% for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation, St. Louis Chapter every time you shop. It's such a simple way to give back! Pick up your card at the AAFA office or your local Schnucks and register online at escrip.com/schnucks.

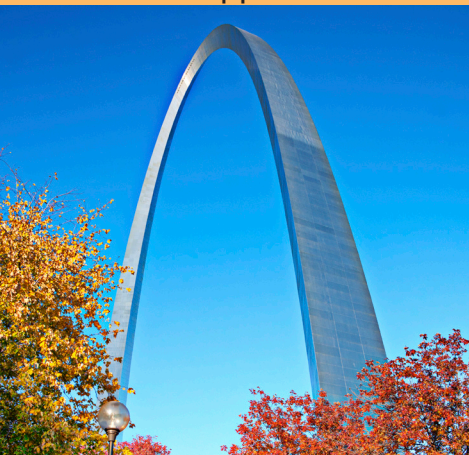


Just a friendly reminder--A custom version of AllergyEats.com appears on AAFA's website, allowing individuals to locate and rate eateries based on their allergy-friendliness, both locally in the St. Louis region and nationwide. It's a wonderful resource! allergeats.com/aafastl.



Patrick Albert's 100+ Project is comprised of various outdoor journeys and challenges, all in the name of raising funds and awareness for our mission and programs! We applaud Patrick for his dedication and adventurous spirit! 100plusproject.com.

Leave your mark! Host your own fundraiser to benefit AAFA or find out more about our Planned Giving program! Contact Amy Trapp (atrapp@aafastl.org) to discuss these opportunities!



News and Notes

Call for Action - Support Asthma Care in Missouri

With your help and support this year, AAFA was able to achieve critical funding for asthma education and healthy home assessments for high-risk children diagnosed with asthma in the State of Missouri. However, due to budget concerns, Governor Nixon has withheld this important funding. Please take a few minutes of your time to contact the Governor's office, urging him to release the asthma funding included in HB 2011 (line item 5.28). For more details and talking points, please visit bit.ly/1CHJx5X or contact the AAFA office.

Governor's office: 573-751-3222

John Watson, Chief of Staff or Jeff Harris, Director of Public Policy:
573-751-3222

More About Enterovirus EV-D68

From the Centers for Disease Control (CDC): The United States is currently experiencing a nationwide outbreak of Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) associated with severe respiratory illness. Tens of thousands of people are hospitalized each year for illnesses caused by Enteroviruses. Almost all the confirmed cases this year of the EV-D68 infection have been among children, and many of the children have asthma or a history of wheezing. Most people who are infected with non-polio Enteroviruses do not get sick, or they only have mild illness. Symptoms of mild illness may include: fever, runny nose, sneezing, coughing, skin rash, mouth blisters, body and muscle aches. You can get exposed to the virus by: having close contact, such as touching or shaking hands with an infected person, touching objects or surfaces that have the virus on them, changing diapers of an infected person, or drinking water that has the virus in it. You can help protect yourself and others from non-polio Enterovirus infections by: washing your hands often with soap and water (especially after using the toilet and changing diapers), avoiding close contact, such as touching and shaking hands with people who are sick, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/ev-d68.html>.

AAFA Welcomes New Asthma Coach On Board!

We are happy to announce a new member of the AAFA team, Wendy Chromoga. Wendy is serving as our part-time Asthma Coach, and is tasked with welcoming and providing asthma education to new and current clients, coordinating healthy homes visits, and providing assistance to the Program Department. She is a Respiratory Therapist.

A generous grant from an AAFA supporter has allowed us to expand our services to incorporate the asthma education and in-home environmental assessment components.



How AAFA is Helping--A Client Note

"I want to thank you so much for all of your support in making sure my son gets his proper medication during the hardship and rough times that my family is experiencing. Thank you so much!!!!"

We are thrilled to once again be an official charity beneficiary of the GO! St. Louis Marathon Weekend! Mark your calendars for April 11 & 12, 2015.

How can you get involved?

Register and fundraise for the 5K, Half Marathon, Relay Marathon or Full Marathon!

Become a "virtual runner" and raise funds for Team Asthma and Allergy Foundation through the Crowdrise platform!

Volunteer as a course monitor or cheer on our team members from the course!

For more info, please visit aafastl.org/go.

Representatives from Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc. recently presented a \$2,500 check to support AAFA's direct services to families suffering from asthma and allergies! Thermo Fisher and AAFA staff pictured below (L to R): Jason Reyes-Clinical Sales Consultant, St. Louis North, Jeff Boykin-District Sales Manager, Heartland District, Joy Krieger-AAFA Executive Director, Amy Trapp-AAFA Development Director and Darryl S. Herndon-Clinical Sales Consultant, St. Louis South.



What a wonderful lunch AAFA staff had with our co-founder, Dr. Raymond Slavin earlier in the summer! Pictured above (back row, L to R): Andrea Lebb, Alyssa Smith, Wendy Chromoga, Amy Trapp, Jessica Dunsmore. Front row: Joy Krieger, Dr. Ray Slavin, Reagan Nelson.

We LOVE our volunteers! To get involved or for more information, please contact Andrea Lebb (alebb@aafastl.org) or call 314-645-2422.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

*Office/administrative support (ongoing)

*Holiday Gift Wrap - December 20 & 21

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Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America®

ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

1500 S. Big Bend Blvd.

Suite 1 South

St. Louis, MO 63117

aafa@aafastl.org

www.aafastl.org

314.645.2422 (p)

314.645.2022 (f)



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ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

All About Nothing!

AAFA's 10th Annual Trivia Night!

**Saturday,
November 15, 2014**

**Jewish Community
Center (Marilyn Fox
Building, Chesterfield)**

**7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
(Doors open @ 6 p.m.)**

Pop in to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation, St. Louis Chapter's 10th Annual Trivia Night! Inspired by Seinfeld's mantra "All About Nothing," our 2014 trivia night will feature a variety of questions, categories and themes (with one round of Seinfeld questions!) Proceeds benefit the life-saving programs that the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, St. Louis Chapter provides to the St. Louis community and beyond.