

# INSPIRATION

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



## Message from our President

There are many changes happening at AAFA-STL in 2018!

Our long-time executive director, Joy Krieger recently left AAFA-STL and has moved to North Carolina. During Joy's tenure, she and the staff have served thousands of St. Louis children that suffer from life threatening asthma and allergies. We owe Joy a debt of gratitude for her leadership, expertise and long-time service.

AAFA-STL is in good hands during our leadership transition as Reagan Nelson will be stepping in as our Interim Executive Director. Reagan has served as the Program Director for AAFA-STL over the last seven years and we are very grateful to Reagan for her assistance in continuing to move us forward.

Thank you again for your continued support of AAFA-STL.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Johnson".

Brett Johnson

## What's Inside?

### 2018 ORCHID AAFAIR GALA & AUCTION

Highlights from our 28th Annual Live & Silent Auction

### LEARN FOOD ALLERGY PRACTICES WITH ALLERTRAIN™

For some, going out to eat can put their life at risk, if food is not handled correctly.

### ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Public venues can now stock epinephrine in case of an anaphylactic emergency



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# Advocacy Efforts in Support of Food Allergies

AAFA-STL has its third legislative win came in 2017 with Senate Bill 139. This bill allows restaurants and food establishments in Missouri to stock an epinephrine auto injector in the event of a food or insect anaphylactic emergency provided they have trained employees. The Good Samaritan law applies here.

The prevalence of anaphylaxis (life-threatening allergic response) is on the rise. This is a huge step in protecting those suffering from food allergies.



Photo of Former State Rep. Sue Allen, Joy Krieger, Emily Vandas, Reagan Nelson

Our 2018 advocacy efforts are in aiding a "Resolution" to support all restaurants and food establishments be certified in food allergy safety training for all of Missouri.



For more information on our continuing advocacy efforts, email Brittany at [bvanalmsick@aafastl.org](mailto:bvanalmsick@aafastl.org)



## The Importance of Food Handling

Every 3 minutes someone goes to the emergency room due to an allergic reaction to food.<sup>1</sup> One of the reasons why food-service professionals need to be trained on proper protocol for preparing food to avoid cross-contamination. This is where AllerTrain™ comes in.

AllerTrain™ by MenuTrinfo is an ANSI accredited food allergy and Celiac Disease training course that teaches about the top foods causing food allergies, protocol for preparing food and how to better serve diners with special dietary needs. Also covered are recommendations for policy implementation and information on current legislation.

All full-time AAFA-STL staff are certified Master Trainers for all the AllerTrain™ courses.



<sup>1</sup>Clark S, Espinola J, Rudders SA, Banerji, A, Camargo CA. Frequency of US emergency department visits for food-related acute allergic reactions. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2011; 127(3):682-683.



# Orchid AAFAir Gala & Auction

Back in March, AAFA-STL hosted our 28th annual Orchid AAFAir Gala and Auction at the Four Seasons St. Louis. The event was co-chaired by Brett Johnson, AAFA-STL Board President & Partner, Deloitte and Kevin V. Roberts, Senior Vice President & CFO, BJC HealthCare.

Dr. H. James Wedner of Washington University and St. Louis Children's Healthy Kids Express program (HKE) were honored with the 2018 Orchid Award for their contributions in the asthma and allergy community.



Photo of Patricia & H. James Wedner, MD

AAFA-STL also honored Rhonda Comrie, PhD, RN of SIUE School of Nursing, with the first ever, Nurse of the Year Award.

Overall, it was a successful event including dinner, live & silent auctions, and after-event entertainment. We raised almost \$195,000 to help us educate and provide resources for those suffering from severe asthma and allergies.



Photo of Joy Krieger, AAFA-STL and Charis Johnson, HKE



## From Our Clients

"I can't tell you how grateful I am for this program! I have two children with asthma and although I'm fortunate enough to have insurance the co pays are more than we can afford. Before I was referred to AAFA, both of my children had serious issues with getting their asthma under control. They missed about a total of 2 weeks of school a year on bad days. Now, we have perfect attendance!

AAFA has helped us so much, I am able to get medicine/equipment in a timely manner for my children. Everyone at the foundation is so helpful and goes out of their way. They also provide asthma education which is so important. Their educator is so personable and truly makes you feel comfortable asking any questions. It was like having a family member over.

I know we are just one of many families they have helped but the difference it has made in our day to day lives is a miracle! "



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The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, St. Louis Chapter (AAFA-STL) serves those affected by ashtma and allergies through education, support and resources.

