



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America®
MICHIGAN CHAPTER

AAFA-MI

Annual Report 2008

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We've Moved!

Late in 2008 we moved to a new center called The Corners, which is a campus for nonprofit organizations (TheCorners.org). There are collaborative opportunities as well as a multitude of programming space.

We've moved, but our mission stays the same: to improve the quality of life for those affected by asthma and allergic diseases through education, training and advocacy. We are able to do this because of the tremendous support received from generous individuals and organizations.

Since 1984 AAFA-MI has been fulfilling this mission. In 2008, we touched the lives of thousands in need through our many programs; including: *Asthma Basics & Control*® (for parents & families), *Emerging Science in Asthma & Allergy Management* (our annual medical conference,) and *Asthma Management & Education* (for Allied Health), as well as participating with many community health fairs, schools events and workplace programs across Michigan.

Unfortunately, asthma is still the nation's most common and most costly chronic disease. Allergies & Food allergies affect even more American's. Together, these diseases affect more than 60 million Americans. This is more than diabetes, cancer, heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer's & Parkinson's **combined!**

Michigan has close to a million people with asthma; about 25% of these are just kids! In fact, it's the number one reason children miss school, go to the Emergency Room, or are hospitalized. Total costs for asthma in Michigan exceed \$460,000,000 per year - much of this is associated with out-of-control asthma! Now more than ever, control is needed!

The good news is deaths from asthma are on the decline.

Thanks to our staff, Board Members, faculty, and volunteers we are changing these startling facts for so many in Michigan - through our quality programs, services, and our passion to do what's best for those affected by

Thank you to all those who have contributed time, support and funds – without you – we could not exist!

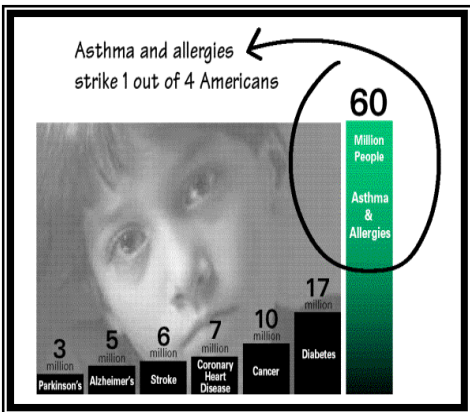
Our biggest supporters include:

AstraZeneca

Capital Area United Way

Combined Federal Campaign - Southeastern Michigan Area

Janz & Knight PLC - Roy Michell Foundation



In Michigan – asthma is still the #1 cause of preventable hospitalizations in children under 15.

The rate of asthma hospitalizations for black persons is at least 4 times the rate of white persons.

1 in 5 Americans suffer from allergies including indoor/outdoor, food & drug, latex, insect, skin and eye allergies.

AAFA-MI is seeking dedicated volunteers. If you're interested, please contact our Executive Director

"You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

Winston Churchill



85¢ of every dollar spent supports Programs & Services

12¢ supports Administrative costs

3¢ goes to Fundraising

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2008 Accomplishments

2008 was a difficult year due to the economic downturn. Our Executive Director transitioned to part-time status to reduce the burden on the budget. But, we did not lose focus! Our outreach efforts continued in communities throughout Michigan. Here is a *sampling* of our efforts:

Public Outreach

- ⊙ About 2,700 individuals were reached through our involvement with community health fairs, school presentations, workplace programs, lectures, and phone & website interactions!
- ⊙ 462 Doctors, Nurses, Respiratory Therapists, and other clinicians educated through our annual scientific conference, allied health programs & outreach efforts

Asthma & Allergy Essentials for Childcare Providers[®]

- ⊙ Over 170 childcare staff across Michigan took part in trainings which target centers in high risk areas with elevated asthma rates.

The Ben Finkelstein "Chef's of the Future" Event

- ⊙ The "Chef's" Scholarship is a competition program for students of culinary arts programs showcasing tasty & nutritious, food allergy friendly creations. We held our first "Chefs" event in October and awarded scholarships to 3 lucky winners.

Camp Michi-Mac

- ⊙ For over 27 years, Camp Michi-Mac has provided a rich & rewarding 24/7 experience for kids who are challenged by their asthma & allergies. We are proud to support their efforts & successes!

Collaborations, Coalitions & Progress

- ⊙ AAFA-MI staff and volunteers are active leaders with several coalitions & groups dedicated to asthma, allergy and food allergy issues (example: Detroit Alliance for Asthma Awareness, Tri-County Asthma Coalition, Michigan Allergy & Asthma Society)
- ⊙ AAFA-MI is an active participant on the Michigan Asthma Advisory Council (MAAC) a panel of asthma experts consulting with the State on policy, management, health disparity issues, and guidelines
- ⊙ Through AAFA National, many exciting programs exist: *Transition Now!* (Information & support for the switch to CFC free inhalers) www.TransitionNow.org; *Asthma & Allergy Friendly[®] Certification Program* (assists consumers with choosing "friendly" products) www.AsthmaandAllergyFriendly.com.

For details on these or any of our programs and services - visit: www.aafamich.org

"...I think you were a god-send today!" Concerned parent