

GRANDPARENTS *for* VACCINES

A Storytelling Movement
to Protect Every Child's Tomorrow

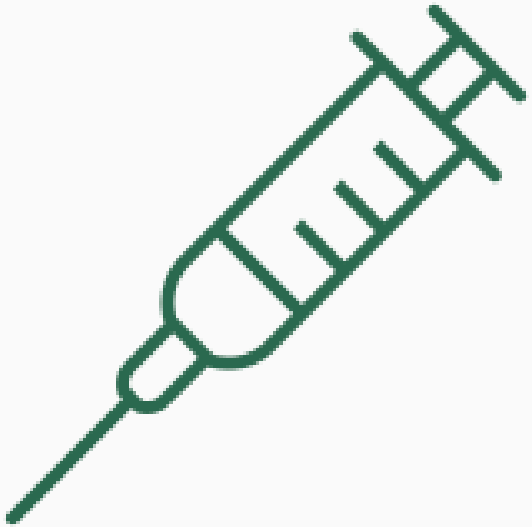
Who Are We?



- ✓ A nonprofit organization
- ✓ Sharing real-life stories of people who lived before childhood vaccination
- ✓ Non-confrontational: We don’t debate; we narrate
- ✓ Founded on Grandparents Day, September 7, 2025
- ✓ Growing fast!

What is a Vaccine?

A vaccine is a harmless, dead, or weakened version of a germ. When it enters the body, it trains the immune system to recognize and fight the illness.

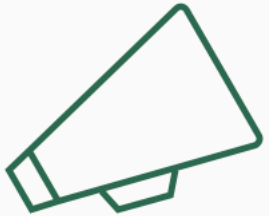


The Stakes are High

Before the advent of vaccination and other public health measures like sanitation, childhood mortality was tragically high.

In the 1800s, 43% of children did not survive past their fifth birthday.*

**Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Greene County Archives, National Council of Biotechnology Information (NCBI), NewspaperARCHIVE.com, PBS.org, World Health Organization (WHO)*



We will not go back.

We combat vaccine hesitancy and misinformation with simple, true stories, to help people understand the stakes.

Why Grandparents?

(It’s about trust and love.)



The Grandparent Role

Historically and culturally, grandparents have been agents of change. They interrupt untrue narratives, protect the young, and anchor families in truth and memory.



- ✓ **Trusted** — A trusted voice in any family system
- ✓ **Rooted** — Carriers of historical memory
- ✓ **Loving** — Speaking from love, not policy or politics
- ✓ **Urgent** — Living witnesses to what we have overcome

People trust grandparents. That's why we feel a responsibility to speak up."



A Grandparent's Voice

My doctor said, "Touch your chin to your chest, please." I couldn't. He turned to my mother and said, "We need to get her into the hospital." The diagnosis was polio.

– Deborah, North Carolina

Our Organization

New and growing fast



By the Numbers

- ✓5,700+ members
- ✓Dozens of stories shared
- ✓83 state leaders
- ✓33 states
- ✓Thousands of followers across numerous social channels



The Media Take Notice …

THE RACHEL MADDOW SHOW

Maria Shriver's
SUNDAY PAPER
Rise Above the Noise. Move Humanity Forward.



npr

THE BULWARK

Forbes

… reaching audiences of 100m+ (but we're just getting started)

In OUR State New York

- ✓ Mary Koslap-Petraco
- ✓ Educating families and church groups
- ✓ https://grandparentsforvaccines.org/
- ✓ petraconp@gmail.com

Our Member Contributions



- ✓ extend reach
- ✓ share, amplify stories
- ✓ build relationships with partners & allies
- ✓ conduct grass-roots work, locally

Vaccine Stories

The importance of storytelling



We Stopped Telling the Stories

RELIEF We were relieved our children would not suffer from polio, measles, or whooping cough.

SILENCE We believed those frightening stories no longer needed to be told. Silence felt like success.

THE GAP Babies were vaccinated before they were old enough to hear the stories or remember them.

CONSEQUENCE When misinformation filled that gap, there was no shared narrative to counter it.

Vaccines not only erased disease — they erased memory.

The Broken Storytelling Chain

Without the stories, we lost sight of what's at stake.

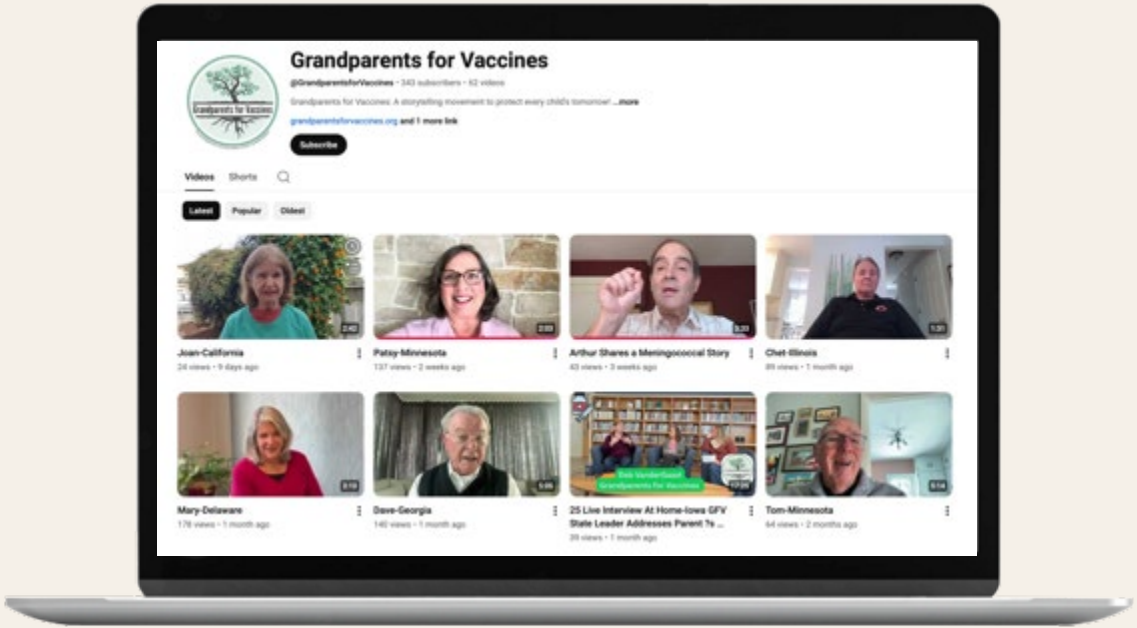
The Eldest Generation	The Middle Generation	Today's Parents	Our Grandchildren
Holds the memory: iron lungs, polio, pertussis, measles, fear	Vaccinated but never told the story	Lost sight of what's at stake when making vaccine decisions	Unprotected by story or history

A Grandparent's Voice

I feel sorry for the kids who will endure what I did (and worse) because their parents are misinformed about vaccine safety.

– Deborah, Maryland

… and many more



A Grandparent's Voice

I had the good luck not to come down with polio that terrible summer of 1954 when so many kids succumbed to the scourge. I had nightmares of paralysis and of ending up in an iron lung.

– Robert, New York

What You Can Do!

Concrete Steps for Every Ally



How to Join the Conversation

Many people and organizations aren't sure how to broach a discussion about vaccination. These prompts can help you find your voice.

> *We all love our kids so much. That's why the confusion about vaccines is so troubling."*

> *I have talked to a grandparent/watched a grandparent video. Here's what I learned from hearing their firsthand accounts ..."*

> *I don't want to sit here worrying about measles/polio/pertussis. I'm taking action to make things better."*

Become Part of a Growing Movement

Join Grandparents for Vaccines

You don't have to be a grandparent to join. All voices and real-life stories are welcome.

Donate

Your support can help us get our vital stories to more people.

Follow & Amplify

Instagram, Facebook, BlueSky, YouTube — your likes and shares extend our reach.

Request a Speaker

We speak at PTA meetings, faith gatherings, and more! We will do its best to accommodate your event.

grandparentsforvaccines.org • Hello@grandparentsforvaccines.com

Grandparents for Vaccines

For grandparents and the allies of their grandchildren

Help keep future generations safe.

Your generous gift helps power our mission to ensure America's grandchildren have their best start in life—without the threat of vaccine-preventable diseases.

DONATE