126 Arizonans honored for raising immunization rates, saving lives

Despite Covid, Arizona’s immunization advocacy group recognizes highest number of honorees

PHOENIX, AZ – Celebrating 30 years of advocating for the health of all Arizonans, The Arizona Partnership for Immunization (TAPI) honored 126 individuals, organizations, and initiatives during the 2022 Arizona Big Shots awards. Over 400 people attended the outdoor event at the Phoenix Country Club.

Presenting the award prizes were Jason Vargas, MD, pediatrician at Cactus Children’s Clinic & president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Arizona Chapter); Machrina Leach, RN, nurse manager at the Maricopa County Department of Public Health; Jennifer Tinney, program director at TAPI; and Jim McPherson, a board member of TAPI since the organization’s inception in 1992.

Stated Dr. Bob England, interim executive director of TAPI, “Through dealing with the worst pandemic of our lives (so far), this year’s award recipients displayed incredible positivity, creativity, and fortitude in getting vaccines to the people who needed them. The stories behind tonight’s awards are incredible. Everyone has displayed true heroism under the worst of circumstances and I, for one, am inspired by every one of them to not give up.”

**Recipients of 2022 Arizona Big Shots Awards (by category)**

**Up Shot Award.** Up Shot recognizes innovative programs to the immunization effort that has demonstrated commitment to improving the health of Arizonans:

- Lt. Abigail Petrulis, Pima Indian Hospital
- Call’s Community Pharmacy
- Sateesh Ananthu, Bethany Home Discount Pharmacy
- Stand Together & Recover (STAR) Centers
- Valleywise Community Health Center (South Central)

**Buck Shot Award.** Buck Shot recognizes exceptional events that have helped educate, promote, and provide immunizations to Arizonans:

- Joe Leyba & Ashlie Temple, Albertsons
- Arizona Complete Health
- Banner Health
- Laurie Dalton, Gila Health Resources
- Miriam Galindo, Yuma County Public Health
• San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation
• Community Education Initiative Volunteers (Laura Strickland & Nicholine Gilliland, FrameShift Group)
• Tracy Montgomery, City of Surprise
• Wendy Orm, MD, Centurion

**Hot Shot Award.** Hot Shot recognizes a person or organization that has gone “above and beyond” the call of duty to give tremendous amounts of time and effort to increase immunization coverage levels.

• Adelante Healthcare (Surprise)
• CARES Team and Jhoana Molina, Maricopa County Department of Public Health
• Crystal Rambaud, Pima County Health Department
• Melissa Sanchez, Adelante Healthcare
• Mohave County
• Pleasant Pediatrics
• Regional Center for Border Health
• Sun Life Center for Children Medical Assistants
• Sun Life Health
• The CORE Institute
• Vijette Saari, First Things First

**Hot Shot Andie Denious Award.** This award recognizes Arizonans who truly go above and beyond in immunizations - like Andie did. Andie left big shoes to fill, but we’re confident Rebecca & Dr. Pereira would make Andie proud.

• Rebecca Nevedale, FrameShift Group
• Eladio Pereira, MD, Mariposa Community Health Center

**Hot Shot Innovation Award.** These awards honor Carole Joyce, a nurse from Mountain Park Health Center. Carole understood the benefits of the registry and data to keep kids on track and described herself as, “a nurse with a syringe in one hand and a mouse in the other.”

• Coconino County Health & Human Services
• Jocelyn Guillen, Cholla Medical Group
• Sage Memorial Hospital, Navajo Health Foundation
• Quality Management Department, Valleywise Health

**Long Shots Award.** Long Shot Public Policy recognizes someone responsible for legislation, regulations, or public policy initiatives that have helped to reduce barriers to immunization.

• Debbie McCune Davis

**Spot Shot Award.** Spot Shot recognizes media stories that helped educate and/or reduce barriers to immunizations.

• American Academy of Pediatrics (Arizona Chapter) & Sean Elliott, MD
• Edmond Baker, MD, Equality Care Center
• Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona
• Partners for Healthy Students (Dignity Health & Yavapai Regional Medical Center)
• Valleywise Community Health Center (West Maryvale)

**Top Shot Award.** Top Shot recognizes employers who have created work environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles including full coverage for life saving vaccines.

• Palo Verde Generating Station, Arizona Public Service

**Daniel T. Cloud Outstanding Practice Award (by category)**

Receiving the Daniel T. Cloud Outstanding Practice Award were healthcare providers that achieved a minimum 90% coverage level of their two-year-old patients (4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep B, and 1 Varicella) and teen patients (1 Tdap and 1 MCV4). A pediatric surgeon by profession, Dr. Cloud served as Chief of Surgery at Arizona Crippled Children's Hospital and Chief of Staff at Good Samaritan Hospital. In 1981, he was elected to a one-year term as president of the American Medical Association. He served as TAPI's board chair since its inception in 1993 until his death in 2010.

**Toddler (First Time)**
• Adelante Healthcare (Goodyear)
• Canton Pediatrics, PC
• Children's Clinic
• Mountain Park (Atkinson, Christown)
• MVP Kids Care (Laveen)
• Primary Care & Pediatrics

**Toddler (Sustaining)**
• Adelante Healthcare (Buckeye, Central Phoenix, Mesa, Surprise, West Phoenix, Wickenburg)
• AZKidsDoc Pediatrics
• Banner (Children’s Health Clinic, Children’s Multi-Specialty Center, Cholla Pediatrics, North Hills Pediatrics)
• Cigna (Chandler, C.J. Harris, South Mountain, Stapley, Westridge)
• LeChee Health Facility
• Mesquite Pediatrics
• Mountain Park (Baseline, Gateway, Goodyear, Maryvale, Tempe)
• MVP Kids Care (Avondale, Phoenix)
• Paloma Pediatrics
• Pediatric MultiCare West
• Pinal County Public Health (San Tan Valley)
• Southeast El Rio
• Southwest Pediatrics
• Sunset Community Health Center (North Yuma, San Luis, Somerton)
• Tuscany Children Clinic (Yuma)
• Valleywise Community Health Center (Avondale, West Maryvale)

**Toddler (Catch-Up)**
• Hopi Health Care Center
Toddler (Honorable Mention)
- Cigna (Paradise Valley)
- North Country HealthCare (Winslow)
- Sunset Health Clinic (Wellton)

Teenager (First Time)
- Canton Pediatrics, PC
- Primary Care & Pediatrics
- Sage Memorial Hospital

Teenager (Sustaining)
- Adelante Healthcare (Buckeye, Central Phoenix, Gila Bend, Mesa, West Phoenix, Wickenburg)
- Banner Children’s Multi-Specialty Center
- Cigna (Chandler, C.J. Harris, Paradise Valley, South Mountain, Stapley, Westridge)
- Desert Shores Pediatrics (Chandler, Gilbert)
- La Paz County Health Department
- North Country HealthCare (Winslow)
- Paloma Pediatrics
- Sun Life Center for Children
- Sun Life Community Health Center (North Yuma, San Luis, Somerton)
- Tuscany Children’s Clinic (Yuma)
- Valleywise Community Health Center (Avondale, South Central, West Maryvale)

Teenager (Catch-Up)
- Adelante Healthcare (Goodyear)
- Banner (North Hills Pediatrics)
- Hopi Health Care Center
- Mesquite Pediatrics
- Southeast El Rio
- Southwest Pediatrics
- Valleywise Community Health Center (Chandler)

About TAPI

The Arizona Partnership for Immunization (TAPI) is a non-profit statewide coalition of over 400 members. TAPI was formed in response to the alarming fact that in 1993, only 43% of Arizona’s two-year-olds were fully immunized against preventable childhood diseases like measles, mumps, polio, and whooping cough. Through the efforts of TAPI’s partners in the public and private sectors, immunization coverage rates in Arizona have improved dramatically. Unfortunately, the problem never ends. Each year in Arizona over 80,000 babies are born, and none arrive immunized. For more information, visit www.whyimmunize.org