Advocacy Starts with a Story

Turning Loss into Action.
Turning Voices into Change.
These families transformed personal tragedy into powerful advocacy.

When families are given the space to share their stories, something powerful happens.

Grief becomes purpose.

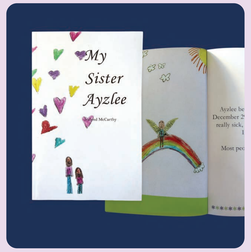
Voices become action.

Stories become change.

These examples are just three of many from across the United States. By supporting and amplifying these voices, we don't just remember—we prevent, educate, and advocate for a healthier future.

For more information or to read more of our family stories, please visit:
www.familiesfightingflu.org

FAMILIES FIGHTING FLU™

THEIR STORIES	THEIR VOICE	THEIR ADVOCACY
The Stevenson Family, MICHIGAN		
Kaden was an otherwise healthy, active 7-year-old who ended up losing both of his legs due to complications from flu.	The Stevensons share their story through the Kaden Blaze comic book, an engaging, powerful story to help children and families learn about flu in a way that sticks.	Kaden and his family advocate at the national level, including speaking at the Black Legislative Caucus to raise awareness and push for change.
The McCarthy Family, IOWA		
What seemed like a little "bug" quickly became life-threatening. Three-year-old Ayzlee struggled to breathe and ultimately lost her life to the flu.	 By writing *My Sister Ayzlee* and sharing their journey, Ayzlee's family connects with young audiences and families in a deeply personal, relatable way.	The McCarthys host vaccine clinics, and Ayzlee's sister, Irelynd, gives lectures at universities and public health meetings—continuing to educate and empower communities.
The Wehrkamp Family, SOUTH DAKOTA		
Gianna was a happy, active child with a larger-than-life personality. In less than two days, the flu took her life at just two-years-old.	Through running events held in Gianna's honor, her mom, Angie, brings people together—turning movement into meaning and awareness.	The Wehrkamps share their story at the state level, advocating for stronger awareness and prevention efforts.