



AAFP
FOUNDATION

Highlight
on VACCINATIONS 4 TEENS

From Heartbreak to Hero



My daughter Becky was a vivacious, beautiful, fun-loving 20-year old who had a full life in front of her. She was an everyday kid, and I was an everyday dad. She played volleyball, drove her Honda Civic, hung out with friends, “borrowed” money from mom and dad, brought home boyfriends, and absolutely loved her dog, Rocky. We were close, she and I. Not a day goes by where I don’t think about our Becky.

It’s been 14 years since we lost Becky to a vaccine-preventable disease called meningococcal disease, otherwise known as bacterial meningitis. One day Becky was vibrant, coming home from visiting her friends at school, and the next day she was deathly ill. Becky died in less than 36 hours after showing symptoms of the flu. Our loss might have been prevented had we known about a vaccine that helps protect teens against meningitis.

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After Becky’s death, my wife Dee Dee and I have made it our mission, in honor of our daughter, to educate other parents, teens, physicians, nurses, teachers and policymakers about the importance of vaccination. This has been my mission and my cause for over ten years, all because it’s what Becky would have wanted.

Becky is the hero in this story.

If we can save just one life, then we’ve made a difference.

For more information about Becky’s story,
visit [StampOutMeningitis.com](https://www.stampoutmeningitis.com).

For more information about the CDC-recommended adolescent vaccination schedule,
visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens>.