



GRANDPARENTS *For* VACCINES NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Grandparents for Vaccines Announces New Board Members Jeanette Betancourt and Beth Wain Brandon

New members bring expertise in early childhood education, philanthropy, and nonprofit governance as organization continues vital work to protect children

September 30, 2026 — [Grandparents for Vaccines](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children from vaccine-preventable illness, today announced that it has expanded its Board of Directors by adding Jeanette Betancourt, Ed.D., and Beth Wain Brandon.

“We are in the midst of a national measles crisis, and our organization is working hard to remind parents how important it is to protect children through vaccination,” said Arthur Lavin, MD, Founder and President of Grandparents for Vaccines. “Dr. Betancourt and Ms. Brandon have considerable expertise across early childhood education, fundraising, and nonprofit governance, which will be invaluable as we continue and expand our work.”

Grandparents for Vaccines was founded in 2025 to share and amplify real stories from people who lived through the time before childhood vaccination was available. The organization’s goal is to encourage parents to protect their children from infectious diseases.

“I’m impressed that, in just its first year, Grandparents for Vaccines has shared more than 70 powerful stories about life before childhood vaccines were available. By doing so, it is helping today’s young parents understand the critical role vaccines play in protecting children from preventable diseases such as measles,” said Dr. Betancourt.

“I’m looking forward to helping Grandparents for Vaccines continue to grow as it works to change the national conversation around childhood vaccination,” said Ms. Brandon.

About the New Board Members

Jeanette Betancourt, Ed.D. is a bilingual early childhood and social impact leader dedicated to advancing positive outcomes for children and families. As a former executive at Sesame Workshop, she led research-based initiatives that leveraged Sesame Street to support families and the professionals serving young children. These philanthropically supported efforts addressed emotional well-being, public health, trauma-informed practices, neurodiversity, digital well-being, and more. She led fundraising initiatives and cross-sector partnerships with national organizations to expand impact and reach. Most recently, she guided organizational strategy on the opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence and emerging assistive technologies in early childhood. Following more than three decades at Sesame Workshop, she continues to serve on nonprofit boards and advisory groups, providing strategic guidance to mission-driven organizations.

Beth Wain Brandon is a dedicated community volunteer taking on roles in both the Jewish and general community. She is the past Campaign Chair of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and is the past Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. She previously served as Allocations Committee chair, Government Relations Committee chair, and Women IN Philanthropy chair. In addition to her involvement with the Federation, Ms. Brandon serves on the board of the Mount Sinai Health Foundation and is Chair of Bellefaire JCB. She previously served on the boards of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage and Ohio Jewish Communities. In the general community, Ms. Brandon was named a Woman of Achievement by YWCA of Greater Cleveland in 2014. She is also involved with Planned Parenthood and is a past board chair of Recovery Resources.

Dr. Betancourt and Ms. Brandon join Grandparents for Vaccines board members Dr. Lavin; George L. Askew, MD; Sean Clements; Danielle Dunetz, D.O., FAAP; and Allison Girvin.

About Grandparents for Vaccines

Grandparents for Vaccines was founded on Grandparents Day, September 7, 2025, to share the real-life stories of grandparents and others who lived through the time before childhood vaccines were available. Participants

witnessed and experienced significant harm from diseases like measles, mumps, polio, and rubella, and want to remind the public of what's at stake when it comes to vaccine decision-making. The organization has grown rapidly since its founding and has been featured on numerous national and local media outlets throughout the country.

Visit grandparentsforvaccines.org to learn more.

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