



Cofounders' Legacy Statement

In honor of Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and
Former First Lady of Arkansas Betty Bumpers

In 1991, Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and Former First Lady of Arkansas Betty Bumpers cofounded Every Child By Two (ECBT). Their mission was clear: that no child should suffer from a vaccine-preventable disease. The initiative began by prioritizing child health. Over 35 years, it evolved into a national movement. The organization has fundamentally transformed American standards for preventive care across the lifespan.

Prevention is not a medical nicety. It is a moral imperative and a civic responsibility.

Our cofounders led without elected office or institutional authority. They relied on persistence and policy expertise. They treated compassion and data-driven advocacy as complementary forces. Their work shifted national priorities and strengthened public health systems. They saw the importance of building trust between public health institutions and families through consistent community engagement. In the first ten years, growing coalitions and partnerships became a priority for sustaining change.

A Name Evolves while the Mission Endures

The transition from Every Child By Two (ECBT) to Vaccinate Your Family (VYF) extends our cofounders' vision. ECBT focused on childhood immunization. VYF applies that protection across a lifetime. The new name reflects a core principle: disease prevention is an ongoing commitment, not a single event. This evolution reflects 35 years of experience. The families we serve have shown us that protection cannot end at age two, at twelve, or in adulthood. It applies to everyone.

The Enduring Impact of the Founders' Work

Betty Bumpers and Rosalynn Carter left an indelible mark on American public health. Their work made prevention a practical responsibility and a core part of protecting vulnerable populations. They framed preventive care, including vaccination, as a shared civic responsibility. They showed that sustained advocacy could influence national priorities and drive policy change.

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The Values That Ground Us

Three values anchor everything Vaccinate Your Family does.

- Equity: Every person deserves access to the protection that vaccines provide, regardless of background, geography, or circumstance.
- Prevention: Stopping disease before it starts is the wisest and most humane investment a society can make.
- Trust: Lasting public health progress is not just a mandate. It takes lasting relationships.

These values did not come from a strategic plan. Betty and Rosalynn practiced these values in their work with communities, policymakers, and parents. They recognized that coalitions of like-minded groups and partnerships were needed, as individuals and communities were key to sustained change. We carry these values forward as operating principles that guide how we serve families and communities.

A Dedication to Continuity

This Cofounders' Legacy Statement opens our 35th anniversary year. It reflects a renewed commitment to our mission. As Vaccinate Your Family enters its next decade, we carry on our cofounders' legacy as an active responsibility.

The work that Betty Bumpers and Rosalynn Carter began in 1991 continues. There are still families looking for answers. Trust must still be earned in many communities, and future generations depend on sustained commitment. The work of prevention in America is ongoing.

We honor the past by protecting the future.

In their spirit, and with gratitude for everything they gave this organization and this country, Vaccinate Your Family is still guided by their vision, grounded in their values, and inspired by the lives their work has saved.

Vaccinate Your Family has spent 35 years ensuring millions of children and adults have access to lifesaving vaccines.

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