All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression. - Thomas Jefferson.

The informed consent and precautionary principles together serve as an ethical foundation for protecting consumer rights and ensuring product safety. Since our founding in 1982, the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) has worked to improve the safety of vaccines and vaccine policies, as well as to protect informed consent rights in U.S. vaccine laws.

While the precautionary principle - “first, do no harm” - is central to prevention of vaccine injuries and deaths, the informed consent principle is central to the ethical practice of medicine. The individual’s right to exercise informed consent to medical risk-taking can be defined as a human right because, without it, the will of the majority can be used to oppress a vulnerable minority.

The National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) defends without compromise the legal right for individuals to have access to full and accurate information about the risks and complications of infectious diseases and the risks and complications of vaccines and be allowed to make voluntary vaccination decisions for themselves and their children.
“In the 21st century, everybody knows somebody, who was healthy and got vaccinated and was never healthy again. With 1 child in 6 in America learning disabled; 1 in 9 asthmatic; 1 in 88 developing autism and 1 in 450 becoming diabetic, the public health crisis is upon us. We cannot wait any longer to find out whether one-size-fits-all mass vaccination policies are making too many children chronically ill and disabled.”

Barbara Loe Fisher, Co-founder & President

**Message from Barbara Loe Fisher, Co-founder & President**

In 2012, the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) is marking our 30th Anniversary. This small, non-profit charity has come a long way since 1982, when Kathi Williams, Jeff Schwartz and I joined with a handful of parents of DPT vaccine injured children and launched the grassroots vaccine safety and informed consent movement in America. Initiating an historic challenge to the status quo, parent consumer advocates called for more and better quality vaccine safety science to inform vaccine regulation and policy making and called for the institution of informed consent protections in U.S. public health laws.

Although NVIC was founded by parents of children, for whom the risks of vaccination had been 100%, during the past three decades we have seen a significant broadening of public support for our mission to prevent vaccine injuries and deaths through public education and defend the legal right to exercise informed consent to vaccination. Today, NVIC counts as our friends and supporters many families with healthy children, as well as enlightened health care professionals, who are concerned about the role that expanding vaccine schedules and mandates are playing in the chronic disease and disability epidemic sweeping our nation.

The grassroots vaccine safety and informed consent movement has come of age and NVIC will continue to lead the way as the oldest, largest and most effective vaccine safety and choice advocacy organization in America.

**Fulfilling Our Education & Advocacy Mission**

**Message from Theresa Wrangham, Executive Director**

NVIC is operated by a small staff of dedicated employees and volunteers. Not a day goes by that we don’t hear from someone reporting a vaccine reaction or asking for our help because the right to make a voluntary vaccine choice has been denied. After 30 years, the public conversation about the need to improve vaccine safety and protect informed consent rights continues with a renewed focus and sense of urgency.

To remain an independent and trusted consumer source of information for making informed vaccination decisions, our small charitable organization depends upon donations from individuals and philanthropic foundations. NVIC does not accept funding from government agencies, vaccine manufacturers or foundations that are associated with drug companies marketing vaccines. Instead, we depend upon the steadfast support from caring people taking action to help others and we are deeply grateful for the many families and health care professionals who help us help others every day.

With our experienced staff and the growing ranks of dedicated volunteers across the country, NVIC is positioned to meet increased public demand for accurate, referenced information about vaccination, infectious diseases and options for making informed, independent health care choices. In 2012, we look forward to meeting new challenges and opportunities to prevent vaccine injuries and deaths through public education and help families exercise informed consent to vaccination.

“In FY2011, NVIC reached millions of people with life-saving information about vaccination and we worked with families and health care workers to defend informed consent protections in public health laws. Our commitment in FY2012 is to do even more to expand and enhance the information tools we provide to the public to protect children and adults from becoming vaccine injury statistics.”

Theresa Wrangham, Executive Director
During 2011 (Sept. 1, 2010 – Aug. 31, 2011), the Five-Year Plan, which was developed and initiated in 2007 to foster the organization’s growth and financial stability, continued to be effectively implemented. Despite continued economic instability in the U.S. economy, which negatively impacted the level of charitable giving nationwide, the National Vaccine Information Center realized its most financially successful year. (See Financial Report).

NVIC Programs and Services FY2011 Highlights:

- **Volunteer Recruitment Program.** New counselors were trained to respond to the several thousand vaccine reaction reports and information inquiries made to NVIC every year.

- **NVIC.org and Social Media Enhancement.** Millions of people were provided with referenced print and video information on NVIC’s website, You Tube and through Facebook and Twitter online communication programs.

- **National Public Information and Media Campaigns.** Emerging vaccine safety and informed consent issues were addressed in national press releases. NVIC and Mercola.com jointly sponsored the first online “Vaccine Awareness Week” and also co-sponsored a digital vaccine education message on a Jumbotron in New York City’s Times Square. NVIC’s history and perspective on vaccine science, policy and law was featured in an award winning documentary, *The Greater Good*, which premiered in the U.S. in April 2011.

- **NVIC Advocacy Portal Optimization.** Utilizing the new, online, interactive Advocacy Portal, a national grassroots education and advocacy effort was launched in the states to help citizens protect and expand vaccine exemptions in state public health laws.

- **Vaccine Safety Conference and Health Outcomes Research.** Leading a call for methodologically sound research to close large gaps in vaccine safety science, NVIC co-sponsored an “Evaluating the Science” conference and also funded research evaluating the health outcomes of vaccinated and unvaccinated children.

- **Consumer Representation on Government Vaccine Committees.** Building on a quarter century of serving as America’s vaccine safety watchdog, NVIC represented and articulated an educated consumer perspective during CDC and FDA vaccine committee meetings, as well as in federal public engagement initiatives evaluating vaccine science, regulation and policymaking.

- **Funding Sources Diversified.** NVIC’s individual donor supporter funding base was augmented by generous gifts from individual benefactors and philanthropic foundations, including Danny and Stephanie Christner; the Dwoskin Family Foundation; Focus Autism and the Natural Health Research Foundation. NVIC joined with four other non-profit organization partners in the Health Liberty coalition created by Mercola.com.

By the end of FY 2011, NVIC was poised to enter its 30th year of operation with a strengthened infrastructure, diversified funding base, expanded programs and services, and a vision for achieving attainable goals and objectives to successfully fulfill the organization’s long standing mission.
As the rising tide of highly vaccinated, sick and disabled children suffering with brain and immune dysfunction continues to flood into school classrooms throughout the U.S., NVIC continued to serve as the nation’s leading vaccine safety watchdog organization.

During the past year, initiatives were undertaken in public education, advocacy and empowerment and community support to prevent vaccine injuries and deaths and promote NVIC’s pro-education, pro-informed consent position on vaccination.

Programs included online vaccine information and national media campaigns; state based vaccine choice advocacy initiatives; expansion of NVIC’s vaccine reaction counseling service; co-sponsorship of a vaccine safety science conference and growth of NVIC’s Facebook and social media Fan base.

NVIC continued to produce and disseminate in-depth original research and analysis about vaccine science, regulation, policy, law and ethics issues that impact human health and affect informed consent rights in public health policies and laws.

Serving as a reliable vaccine information resource for mainstream media and online vaccine information searches, NVIC produced referenced written and video blog commentaries providing analysis and perspective on a wide range of vaccine topics.

“Education is the most powerful tool which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela
The World Premiere of a new documentary on vaccination, The Greater Good, was held at the Dallas Film Festival on April 2-3, 2011. The 80 minute movie features stories of families, whose lives have been forever changed by vaccine injury and death, as well as interviews with vaccine researchers, clinicians and vaccine safety advocates.

NVIC’s three-decade public record of vaccine safety and informed consent advocacy was highlighted in the film, which was produced by award winning film directors, editors, animators and photographers.

During 2011, the documentary was screened at many film festivals and won several awards before being released publicly for purchase and viewing online, as well as at special event screenings in community theaters.

In a joint effort to raise public awareness about vaccination and health, NVIC joined with Dr. Joseph Mercola and Mercola.com to co-sponsor the ‘First Annual Vaccine Awareness Week’.

Reaching an audience of more than two million people, original articles on vaccine topics were published in the Mercola.com newsletter.

A highlight of the week was a national announcement that an online, interactive NVIC Advocacy Portal had been created to help citizens in every state protect and expand vaccine exemptions in state public health laws.

In 2011, NVIC joined with the non-profit Consumers for Dental Choice, Organic Consumers Association, Fluoride Action Network and Institute for Responsible Technology in the Health Liberty coalition created and supported by Mercola.com. The Health Liberty coalition is dedicated to supporting the consumer’s right to make informed, voluntary health choices.

NVIC co-sponsored an international conference in January 2011 that brought together invited research scientists, physicians, medical journal editors, experts in vaccine regulation, social science and health policy, consumer child health advocates, legal experts and members of the media to discuss the need to improve vaccine safety science.

Vaccine Safety Conference delegates issued a public statement expressing concern about increases in the numbers of children and adults affected by immune and brain dysfunction and called for gaps in vaccine safety science to be closed.

Referenced written and video presentations were posted online for public access. Conference expenses were underwritten by donations from the Dwoskin Family Foundation and NVIC staff provided informational and administrative support.
NVIC and Mercola.com co-sponsored a 15-second public service message on the CBS Jumbotron in Times Square in New York City. The 15-second spot began with a photo of a Mom with her baby and the message "Vaccines: Know the Risks" and ended with the message "Vaccination: Your Health. Your Family. Your Choice" with the statue of liberty in the background.

NVIC’s vaccine education message was shown every hour for 18 hours a day from March 23 through April 29, 2011. Major newspapers and online media outlets and bloggers reported that NVIC was messaging on Times Square.

The 20 X 26 foot digital color screen is located on 42nd Street between 7th and 8th Avenues, near Broadway and the New York Port Authority and directly beneath where the crystal ball drops at midnight on New Year’s Eve. More than 1.5 million people and 60,000 cars pass through Times Square each day.

During FY2011, NVIC created a new “If You Vaccinate, Ask Eight Questions” brochure highlighting the signs and symptoms of a vaccine reaction and potential high risk factors for adverse responses to vaccination. Print publications and educational DVD’s were distributed, including the 1985 classic A Shot in the Dark by Coultier & Fisher; a quality MP recording of the Proceedings of the 2009 Fourth International Public Conference on Vaccination; a DVD of the Canadian documentary Shots in the Dark, the 2008 medical literature review Vaccines; Autism & Chronic Inflammation: The New Epidemic by Barbara Loe Fisher and free brochures, posters and vaccine information cards.

NVIC’s Vaccine E-News and online video blogging services were expanded to include production of 24 e-newsletters and 12 referenced written and video blog commentaries featuring original research and analysis, which attracted more than 277,000 unique views.

“We are accustomed to look for the gross and immediate effect and to ignore all else. Unless this appears promptly, we deny the existence of hazard. Even research men suffer from the handicap of inadequate research methods of detecting the beginnings of injury. The lack of sufficiently delicate methods to detect injury before symptoms appear is one of the great unsolved problems in medicine.” - Rachel Carson

www.NVIC.org
NVIC’s “calling card” on the World Wide Web is our website at www.NVIC.org, the oldest and largest consumer operated website providing the public with information about vaccines and diseases. Visitors are kept informed about breaking news related to vaccine science, development, regulation, policymaking, ethics and law. NVIC’s Vaccine E-News, which is posted on the website, is also emailed separately to 30,000 subscribers.

350,000 unique visitors accessed information on NVIC.org during FY2011. The website’s homepage was re-designed and navigation was improved. New information was researched and added to the large library of referenced articles about vaccines and diseases, which is used by NVIC staff and the public to research and develop information about vaccination and health.

The Vaccine Ingredient Calculator (VIC) alone attracted more than 46,000 visits from users in 133 nations. New information and interactive features were added to the MedAlerts database, which allows NVIC.org visitors to search the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) database for vaccine reactions reported to the federal government.

NVIC’s online Vaccine Freedom Wall saw an increase in reports of harassment by parents and health care professionals. They describe how difficult it is becoming to make informed, voluntary vaccination choices for themselves and their children in America.

NVIC’s Facebook and social media outreach experienced sustained growth in FY2011. Nearly 3,000 articles and news alerts were posted on NVIC’s Facebook page, which generated 37 million unique views and added 20,000 new fans.
U.S. Supreme Court Shields Vaccine Manufacturers from Liability

In February 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that vaccines are “unavoidably unsafe.” With Justices Ginsberg and Sotomayor dissenting, the Court majority voted to give pharmaceutical companies marketing vaccines in the U.S. a total liability shield from civil lawsuits for vaccine injuries and deaths – even if a company could have made a vaccine safer.

NVIC was the lead amicus curiae in a brief filed in the U.S. Supreme Court in the DPT vaccine injury case, Bruesewitz v. Wyeth. Evidence was presented that Wyeth-Lederle Laboratories could have reduced the toxicity of the DPT vaccine that brain injured infant Hannah Bruesewitz in 1995.

NVIC’s co-founders worked with Congress to secure vaccine informing, recording and reporting provisions in the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986. In a press release picked up by national and international media, NVIC criticized the Supreme Court’s decision to ignore congressional intent and the law’s legislative history to protect the company from liability. NVIC co-founder and president Barbara Loe Fisher, said:

“Parents of vaccine injured children, who worked in good faith with Congress in the early 1980’s on the 1986 law, have been betrayed by six American judges, who ignored congressional intent. They threw victims of vaccine injury under the bus in order to give complete liability protection to a wealthy industry with a long history of hiding their products’ risks. They have removed the safety net parents were promised. If we had known this day would come, we would have vigorously opposed any federal legislation that limited civil liability for drug corporations now making substantial profits from vaccines mandated by government.”

American Academy of Pediatrics Censors Vaccine Information

Responding to public efforts by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in March 2011 to pressure CBS Network to remove NVIC’s spring vaccine education message on the CBS Jumbotron in Times Square, NVIC issued a press release charging the AAP with destroying public trust that was carried by national and international media outlets.

NVIC called out the AAP leadership for orchestrating an online disinformation and censorship campaign to block vaccine information from the public. Asking the AAP to “stop bullying parents and do more to urge pediatricians to become compassionate partners with parents in preventing vaccine reactions, injuries and deaths,” NVIC’s press release noted:

“it is inappropriate for a wealthy trade organization representing pediatricians, that gets a lot of money from vaccine manufacturers, to be attacking a small charity representing families with vaccine injured children.”

In the 1980’s, the AAP lobbied Congress to give pediatricians a liability shield from civil court lawsuits for vaccine injuries and deaths, which was incorporated into the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 along with a partial liability shield for vaccine manufacturers. During FY2011, more pediatrician members of the AAP refused to allow children into pediatric practices if parents asked for fewer vaccines to be given on the same day or declined one or more AAP recommended vaccines for their children.

The AAP failed in its attempt to block NVIC’s vaccine education message on Times Square. The 15-second public service advertisement remained on the CBS Jumbotron through April.
An historic report, Vaccine Adverse Effects: Evidence and Causality, was published in August 2011 by the Institute of Medicine Committee to Review Adverse Effects of Vaccines. NVIC issued a public statement and responded to media inquiries, which led to NVIC’s position quoted in national news outlets including the Washington Post, Health Day and Los Angeles Times:

“For the majority of potential vaccine adverse effects reported to be associated with vaccines, this IOM Committee, like those before, came to the conclusion that the biological mechanism and epidemiological evidence published in the medical literature is simply inadequate to accept or reject a causation finding. Insufficient scientific evidence to make a call about whether certain vaccines do or do not cause a wide range of serious health conditions is problematical when these vaccines are mandated by law to be used by every child and recommended for many adults. The Committee’s clear acknowledgement that there is a lack of adequate scientific understanding about the way that vaccines act in the human body, including how, when, why and for whom they are harmful, is confirmation that more and higher quality vaccine safety science is urgently needed.”

Since 1982, NVIC has advocated that independent, well-designed, long term scientific studies be conducted to identify biological high risk factors for suffering adverse responses to vaccination and evaluate health outcomes for individuals, who use many vaccines and those, who do not, to determine if there are long term differences in brain and immune function.

Increased individual susceptibility was acknowledged by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in the 2011 report on Adverse Effects of Vaccines: Evidence and Causality. The IOM found that, for the 158 serious brain and immune system disorders reportedly associated with eight different commonly used vaccines they were charged to review, there was either an absence of studies or too few methodologically sound studies to make a determination about causation for 135 (85%) of them. This lack of quality scientific evidence underscores the urgent need for identified vaccine safety knowledge gaps to be addressed with high quality, independent research.

* Image and quote taken from the Institute of Medicine’s Report “Adverse Effects of Vaccines: Evidence and Causality” pub 2011
The online NVIC Advocacy Portal created by Dawn Richardson, NVIC's Director of Advocacy, was launched in November 2010 as a free public service to help citizens protect their parental and informed consent rights in state public health laws. With the touch of a smart phone screen or click of the mouse on a computer, Portal users are put in touch with their elected representatives.

In FY2011, NVIC helped citizens in six states to file or support bills to include conscientious or philosophical belief exemption in state vaccine laws, which currently require children to receive dozens of vaccinations for school attendance.

Portal users were offered online tutorials on effective communication and kept up-to-date about actions they could take to defend parental informed consent rights and protect vaccine exemptions from being weakened or removed from state public health laws.

More than 70 announcements and Action Alerts were issued through the Advocacy Portal on vaccine legislation pending in 18 states. Volunteer NVIC state advocacy directors were trained in 17 states and five-dozen bills were tracked in 25 states.

By the end of FYE 2011, there were 16,000 Portal users spanning all 50 states.

Since working with Congress to institute vaccine safety provisions in the National Childhood Injury Act of 1986, NVIC has served as the nation's leading vaccine safety watchdog. During the past three decades, NVIC's co-founder and president and volunteer staff directors have served as consumer members of the:

- National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC)
- Institute of Medicine Vaccine Safety Forum
- FDA Vaccines & Related Biological Products Advisory Committee
- Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines
- CDC's Vaccine Policy Analysis Collaborative
- CDC Blue Ribbon Panel on Vaccine Safety
- NVAC Vaccine Safety Working Group
- NVAC Vaccine Safety Writing Group
- H1N1 Vaccine Safety Risk Assessment Working Group
- CDC Board of Scientific Counselors

During 2011, NVIC continued to monitor the vaccine research, development, regulation, policy making and promotion activities of federal and state public health agencies.

Staff provided public comments at meetings of the FDA and other federal vaccine advisory committees and attended CDC sponsored public engagement initiatives in Washington, D.C., Denver and Atlanta on proposed federal meningococcal vaccine use recommendations. During FY2011, staff also provided public comment at a federal meeting to evaluate proposed anthrax vaccine experiments on children.

In June 2011, NVIC's president participated in a stakeholder meeting and provided public comment to the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) on options and recommendations for improving vaccine safety mechanisms. At both the stakeholder meeting and in written comments submitted to the Committee, NVIC strongly endorsed the creation of an independent vaccine safety oversight agency.

NVIC continues its three-decade call for checks and balances to be instituted in the U.S. vaccination system to increase transparency, accountability and scientific integrity in federal vaccine regulation, policy making and promotion.
Community Support & Health Research Programs

NVIC’s Counseling Service

Since 1982, NVIC has operated a Vaccine Reaction Registry and counseling service for families reporting vaccine reactions, injuries and deaths. NVIC counselors follow up on vaccine reaction reports and also provide informational and networking support for parents with vaccine injured children, as well as for adults, who have suffered disabling vaccine reactions. In FY2011, two new counselors were trained to help NVIC respond to public inquiries and vaccine reaction reports.

During the past year, NVIC responded to more than 1,600 phone, email and letter inquiries from the public, including vaccine reaction reports.

Assistance and referrals were given to those seeking information about how to identify a vaccine reaction; how to report a vaccine reaction to the federal government; how to file for federal vaccine injury compensation; how to find information about state vaccine laws and what questions to ask doctors when making a vaccine decision.

The Memorial for Vaccine Victims, maintained at www.NVIC.org, is a publicly searchable, online, vaccine reaction reporting mechanism. This unique memorial provides families with a place to post descriptions and photos of loved ones who have experienced serious vaccine reactions.

NVIC’s “Vaccine Freedom Wall” offers an online forum for citizens to post descriptions of personal harassment for making independent vaccine choices for themselves or their children.

Vaccination & Health Research Program

Since its founding in 1982, NVIC has advocated for scientific research, both bench science and clinical studies, to identify the biological mechanisms and biological high risk factors for vaccine reactions leading to chronic brain and immune dysfunction or death.

NVIC continues to publicly call for methodologically sound studies conducted by researchers without financial ties to industry or government to evaluate long term health outcomes of vaccinated and unvaccinated children. Studies are urgently needed to determine if there are differences in brain and immune function between the highly vaccinated and unvaccinated to identify genetic, biological and environmental co-factors that may influence any health outcome differences.

NVIC’s Vaccination and Health Research Program was launched at the 2009 Fourth International Public Conference on Vaccination, where over $100,000 in donations was raised for the purpose of investigating health outcomes of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. In January 2011, a research proposal investigating health outcomes of vaccinated and unvaccinated children was reviewed by NVIC’s Research Review Committee and approved for funding.
“As NVIC enters our 30th year, we remain a small, non-profit charity with a loyal donor supporter base of families and health care professionals. In 2011, we were blessed with generous donations and grants from individual benefactors and private foundations. Our long held mission to prevent vaccine injuries and deaths and defend vaccine choices has been greatly strengthened this year by those, who believe in our work and have financially supported our public education and advocacy programs.”

Kathi Williams
Co-Founder, Vice President & CFO

NVIC is independently audited annually by Kendall, Prebola and Jones, Certified Public Accountants and is a member of the United Way of the National Capitol Area. NVIC’s FYE 2011 federal tax return and audited financial statement are posted online on www.guidestar.com.

Individual small donations remain an important foundation in funding NVIC’s programs. NVIC closed FYE 2011 realizing record individual donor support totaling $274,355.

Our individual donor-funding base was augmented by generous gifts from individual benefactors, philanthropic foundations and various small grants. These benefactors include the Christner Family, the Dwoskin Family Foundation; Focus Autism, the Natural Health Research Foundation and United Way for contributions totaling $411,898 in this reporting period.

NVIC also benefited greatly from in-kind services donated for web hosting, investigative research, graphic design, software and bookkeeping services, which have been valued at $197,363.

Placing a priority on consumer education, protection of informed consent rights, prevention of vaccine injuries and deaths and advocating for more vaccine safety science and safer vaccine policies, NVIC’s primary expense during FYE 2011 was $508,127 for educational programming, with an additional $68,709 spent in direct support and response to public inquiries and vaccine reaction reports.

NVIC’s research fund released $58,530 to fund approved research proposals received during this fiscal period. Research funds remaining in the research account totaled $86,811 at the close of this fiscal period.

Monies spent defending informed consent provisions in state public health laws through direct advocacy and lobbying totaled $57,940 and $9,125, respectively.

NVIC is committed to maintaining low administrative overhead costs, which are well below generally accepted benchmarks for charitable non-profits. During FYE 2011, $74,142 was spent on administrative overhead1, which represents only 7.6 percent of audited income2.

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1 Combines figures from fundraising and general and administrative overhead costs from audited expense summary pie chart - pg 23;
2 Administrative overhead expense taken as a percentage of audited income summary pie chart – page 24;