



**Mark Huckaby, the student narrator for “Invisible Threat,” discusses his personal involvement with the film, his attendance at the national launch, and the impact he believes the film has had.**

When I was first approached with the idea of working on “Invisible Threat,” I understood that documentaries can be serious and educational. The approach of filming and creating a documentary can also include humor and irony; but it is the “actual” and “real” nature that separates documentaries from other types of movie media. For me, this meant that we students, as filmmakers, could not bend the truth about vaccinations in any way. We were committed to exposing the facts.

We were very careful to make sure we presented all sides of our story and we did so by using science, personal stories and testimonies. We knew that our audience would include kids like us, so we worked hard to make sure everyone would understand the science behind how vaccines work. However, I knew that it would be the personal stories that people shared with us that would have the most impact.

Meeting new people with different backgrounds and ideas about vaccinations really opened my eyes on the subject. Looking back on my experience I realize that interviewing Frankie Millie was the most powerful moment of my journey while making this film. I knew Frankie lost her son Ryan to meningitis, so I was nervous to have her talk about him. However, once the interview started, my nervousness literally escaped me as I listened intently to what Frankie had to say. She pleaded with parents to vaccinate their children so they wouldn’t have to go through the pain she experienced. The entire studio was tearing up. She truly shared her pain and gave us a face for the reason to vaccinate. This interview convinced me that, for the sake of our children and our children’s children, we should vaccinate to protect the future.

I learned a lot while working on “Invisible Threat.” I gained experience with shooting video with a DSLR and narrated the film in a professional sound studio. I participated in some of the early research into the subject of vaccinations, the

filming of the movie and attended the film premiere at the Capitol Center in Washington, DC.

While at the premiere I was surprised to see how many people were eager to watch our high school film and it was exciting to hear the different opinions people had. From important Congressmen to actress Amanda Peet, everyone was interested in learning about my experience while making the film. It made me realize how film can touch lives and move people to action, and I continue to be inspired by the passion and activism of those who have attended screening all across the country.

From start to finish this documentary gave us all an inside look into how films are made and the impact they can have. But our film is also very important because it addresses the concern of outbreaks of preventable diseases in our communities and how immunizations can help protect us. I'm proud to have been a part of "Invisible Threat" and I'm excited that the film is now available to anyone who is interested in learning more about the importance of immunizations.

From [Invisible Threat Film Helps Teens Appreciate Science Behind Vaccines, Christine Vara, August 20, 2014](#)