



NEWSLETTER

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Partner Highlight:

Stengthening Communities Through Trusted Voices

Recently featured in Tallapoosa County Magazine's *Leaders Shaping What's Next: Visionaries* series, George Miranda, Director of the UAB Medicine-Russell Medical Cancer Center and local champion set down with *The Front Porch* host, Kenny Dean and spoke on the growing grassroots effort across Alabama. Miranda shared his vision for expanding community advocacy and education efforts. He highlighted OPERATION WIPE Out's initiative, emphasizing its three key pillars as a framework for engaging and educating communities.

Miranda stressed that in many rural communities, trust in the healthcare system can be limited, but people place their trust in trusted, influential members of the community. By equipping these respected individuals to lead conversations about cancer prevention and early detection, OPERATION WIPE OUT is helping bridge that gap, encouraging greater awareness and action that have the potential to save lives. Through continued outreach and trusted local voices, these important conversations can make a lasting impact across Alabama.

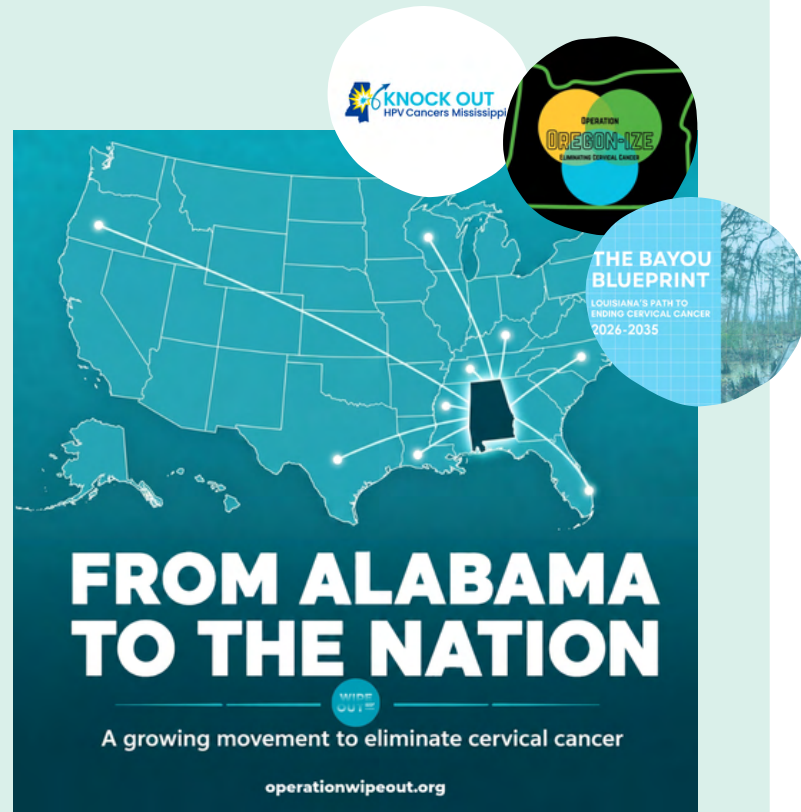


George Miranda on "The Front Porch" with host Kenny Dean



From Alabama to the Nation

What began as a statewide initiative in Alabama has grown into a national effort to eliminate cervical cancer. Through OPERATION WIPE OUT, we have helped equip and connect more than 40 organizations to advance HPV vaccination, cervical cancer screening, and timely follow-up care using a coordinated, evidence-based, community-driven approach. As momentum continues to build, OPERATION WIPE OUT is extending its reach beyond Alabama by sharing lessons learned, providing technical assistance, and supporting other states as they develop initiatives tailored to their own communities. Efforts such as Operation Oregon-ize Eliminating Cervical Cancer, Knock Out HPV Cancers Mississippi, and The Bayou Blueprint: Louisiana's Path to Ending Cervical Cancer reflect this growing movement and demonstrate how states are adapting proven strategies to accelerate cervical cancer elimination nationwide.



Shoals Community Clinic Launches Spring Women's Health Fair

Spring Women's Health Fair

Well Woman PROJECT

Let's Wipe Out Cervical Cancer!

SHOALS COMMUNITY CLINIC

April 20th & April 24th
FREE & Confidential | Women Over 40

- Pap Smear
- Breast Exam

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT:
Shoals Community Clinic
256-760-4713
309-B WC Handy Place
Florence, AL 35630
ShoalsCommunityClinic.org

Proudly partnering with...

Florence Pathology Service
Tri-State Center for Breast Health
Lauderdale County Radiology

WIDE OUT

Breast & Cervical Cancer
Alabama Department of Public Health

ANDERSON
College of Nursing
University of NORTH ALABAMA

The Shoals Community Clinic celebrated the success of its inaugural Spring Women's Health Fair, bringing together community partners to promote women's health and increase access to lifesaving preventive care. In partnership with the University of North Alabama Anderson College of Nursing and health Professions, Florence Pathology Services, Sri-State Center for Breast Health, Lauderdale County Radiology, and OPERATION WIPE OUT, the event provided free breast and cervical cancer screenings through the Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (ABCCDEP).

The health fair connected women with vital screening services, health education, and local resources, reinforcing the importance of early detection in the fight against cancer. Building on the events success, Executive Director Bonita McCay announced plans to host additional women's health fairs and clinics throughout the year to expand awareness of OPERATION WIPE Out and ensure more women have access to preventive care.



Lafayette High Students Celebrate Vaccination Milestone

In April, LaFayette High School students celebrated a remarkable achievement by reaching their vaccination goal of 81%, further amplifying the importance of their work in the community. Under the guidance of Jennifer Williams and the Chambers County School District Health Science Career Technical Education Program, students led a successful campaign to educate their peers and parents about the importance of vaccinations and encourage greater participation in HPV vaccination.

The celebration was made even more special by the return of Tim Vines, President and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, who proudly visited his alma mater to recognize the students' accomplishments. He shared his inspiring journey from the halls of Lafayette High School to leading one of Alabama's largest healthcare organizations, encouraging students to dream big and pursue their goals.



Students also had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Kati Turner, a gynecologic oncology fellow at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, who spoke about cervical cancer prevention and the lifesaving benefits of the HPV vaccine. Her powerful message reinforced the importance of the students' efforts and inspired them to continue serving as health ambassadors.

Members of the Rotary Club of LaFayette and the Alabama Department of Public Health were also in attendance for the milestone event. The celebration recognized their achievement while highlighting the students' continued impact on their community.



OPERATION WIPE OUT at UAB Earns New Student Organization of the Year

The OPERATION WIPE OUT at UAB Student Organization was recognized at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Student Excellence Awards as the New Student Organization of the Year, and honor that celebrates outstanding leadership and service to the campus community. In just its first year, the student organization made an immediate impact by raising awareness about HPV prevention and cancer education through creative, student-led initiatives. Throughout the year members hosted an interactive HPV Mini Roulette event that engaged students in conversations about HPV and cancer prevention, partnered with Girls Inc. to provide educational programming for youth, and organized an HPV Vaccine Drive with Student Health, among other events. We look forward to seeing how its student leaders continue to expand their impact.



SistersCANCervive Inspires at Regional Wellness Day



SistersCANCervive.org proudly empowered women at the 3rd Annual Regional Wellness Day, held at the Birmingham CrossPlex. Hosted by UAB O'Neal Cancer Center in partnership with the City of Birmingham, the event connected community members with valuable health screenings, wellness resources, and educational opportunities.

Representing SisterCANCervive.org, Ambassador Sophia Jackson inspired attendees with a message of hope, resilience, and the importance of taking an active role in cancer prevention and early detection. Through her advocacy, she encouraged women to prioritize their health and join the fight against cancer, reinforcing SistersCANCervive's mission to educate, empower, and support communities across Alabama.

Welcome New Partners

University of West Alabama Student Rural Health Association

If you would like to share your story on the OPERATION WIPE OUT newsletter please contact Norma Longinos, ndeaguinagarcia@uabmc.edu.

