

Jeanna Ann Giese-Frassetto

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Jeanna Giese-Frassetto is the first person in the world to survive the rabies virus infection without prophylactic vaccination. In 2004 she was bitten by a rabid bat at her church. Weeks later-- and even though the bite wound had long since healed-- Jeanna became mysteriously ill. Within hours of her progressing sickness reaching a concerning level, a desperate race was on at Milwaukee Children's Hospital to discover the cause of her mystery illness. Then it became clear that Jeanna had in fact contracted rabies, an infection no one had ever before survived once symptoms began. Her doctor refused to give up and invented a treatment that saved her life. Survival from rabies was just the start of Jeanna's amazing journey. Months of recovery involved relearning to walk, speak and eat, yet Jeanna persevered and graduated with her high school class on schedule. Jeanna earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Lakeland College, Sheboygan, in 2011. She has tirelessly shared her dramatic personal story with people of all ages and walks of life; her account is rich with inspiring messages which can be tailored to the needs of the particular group. Jeanna is a passionate bat conservationist and a rabies prevention advocate. She also is a dog sledding enthusiast, able to further enliven her moving presentations with a canine assistant.

PRESENTATION TOPICS

Jeanna offers a number of presentation topics to fit multiple ages, group sizes, and desired message:

- Personal story of survival & recovery
- Rabies education (what is rabies and why is it deadly? protecting pets and people against rabies)
- Bat education and conservation
- Dog education (species information, keeping dogs healthy, behavior signs and signals to watch for)
- Dog sledding: a sport for anyone
- How my faith grew during and after my battle with rabies

PREVIOUS PRESENTATION VENUE SAMPLING

Elementary, Middle, High School and College Classrooms

- Faith Lutheran Elementary School
- Sabish Middle School
- Chilton High School
- Marquette University
- UW Madison Veterinary School

Nature Centers and Zoos

- Ledgeview Nature Center
- Milwaukee County Zoo

Medical Conferences

- Centers for Disease Control
- James Steele Medical Conference
- Kedrion Biopharma

Bat Festivals

- Great Lakes Bat Festival
- Wisconsin Bat Festival

Rabies Conferences

- Merial World Rabies Day
- Novartis V&D
- GARC International Rabies Meeting

Fundraisers

- Zach Jones Memorial Fund

Catholic Retreats

- National Day of Prayer
- Confirmation Retreat

Miscellaneous Organizations and Events

- Knights of Columbus
- Progressive Agricultural Safety Day
- Phantoms of Fond du Lac
- Goodwill of Northcentral Wisconsin Team Leader Seminar
- Fond du Lac Public Library

MEDIA APPEARANCES SAMPLING

- *Dr. Oz* - 2016
- *Outdoor Wisconsin* – 2014
- Weatherchannel.com – 2013
- “*I'm Alive*” on Animal Planet – March 2011
- *The Doctors*
- Documentary featured on the Discovery Channel
- *Inside Edition*
- *Good Morning America* – New York – February 2005
- Local news Stations including: WFRV, CBS 5, WLUK, FOX 11, WBAY, NBC 26
- International and local radio stations including: KFIZ, K107.1, RadioLab, BBC Outlook
- Newspapers including: *Fond du Lac Reporter*, *Journal Sentinel*, *Green Bay Press Gazette*