

the Experience

celebrating the beauty of albinism

The premier publication for The Albinism Alliance Group is finally here! Celebrating the beauty of albinism, "the experience" will be number one for the community of persons with albinism demonstrating its ability to effectively and positively promote albinism.

This editorial is the first of its kind and is sure to be a success as we have been seeking a way to signify albinism, the talents and accomplishments of those affected by it. Each issue will feature cover stories of persons with albinism within the community, photography, detailed articles for many interests, and heartfelt letters from our readers to our advice columnist.

The first issue of the magazine will be released March 31, 2009. It will be published twice a year. Patrons may receive a subscription at request for a minor \$25.00 annual donation. The best part is it will be shipped directly to you!



www.albinism-alliance.org



albinism_alliance_group@yahoo.com



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soaring to new heights



Positive Support Network

Social Awareness

Disability Advocacy

Grassroots Organization Support

Youth Special Interest Group

Community Outreach

the Experience Magazine

Public Speaking

Quarterly Meetings

Annual Events

Resource List



info@albinism-alliance.org

What Is Albinism?

“Albinism” refers to a group of inherited conditions which result when “tyrosinase enzyme” does not properly code for the usual amount of pigment called melanin. For most types of albinism, both parents need to carry the recessive gene, which becomes dominant in a pair. Albinism used to be only identified on the basis of appearance on clinical examination, now, DNA testing is available. Physical skin color and complexion, range from very fair to nearly the same as other family and members of an individual’s ethnic background. Albinism also affect persons from mixed ethnic backgrounds.

Having Albinism is understood to mean a person “born” with little to no pigment in the hair, skin, and/or eyes. Hair color can range from white, to various shades of blonde to darker shades of red & brown. Eye color also differs from myriads of grays, blues, greens & browns. Lack of pigment in the eyes contribute to low vision. Disadvantages can be reduced with use of assistive technology and visual aids. Skin care protection from harmful UV rays is VERY important! Sunscreen, shielding clothing, and sunglasses can be a benefit.

What Is TAAG?

The Albinism Alliance Group or TAAG is a social network organized to “Celebrate the Beauty of Albinism!” To accomplish this we serve as an informational resource to the community. We’re creating a series of information pertinent to understanding living with albinism and related characteristics. TAAG envisions a larger multi-cultural resource by joining forces with other special interest grassroots organizations. The Albinism Alliance Group was formed in March of 2003, and created from merging “The Atlanta Area Support Group” and online social network “Blonde Black Cuties”. Since then, membership has grown tremendously and we currently have 111 members around the world. We have furthered endeavors with monthly and quarterly meetings. Additional activities and events have blossomed into meaningful memories by giving people from all walks of life, an opportunity to share experiences of living with albinism. An informal atmosphere and camaraderie has contributed to irreplaceable fellowship. Join us at the next event. See you there!

Updates

For years we have used the internet to stay in touch. Now, TAAG is launching its own website! Visit us online at www.albinism-alliance.org

Another popular source of information about The Albinism Alliance Group lies with the Yahoo Groups environment. We have been using its complimentary features to share photos, chat live, and post questions and answers about albinism for five years. It has been a reliable host and you can view it by going to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/albinism_alliance_group

To date TAAG and all efforts to propel the mission of the organization has been privately funded by the co-founders Lee G. Edwards, Raletha Lowery, and local members. We have utilized personal monies to give this focus, life and share it with people who desire to “Celebrate the Beauty of Albinism!”

As the need for more information grows so does the cost of hosting events, distributing educational information, and updating communication channels. “The Experience” is the future of TAAG and the magazine will become the official publication for consumer outreach! Membership dues and private donations will help us bring this editorial to the public. To become a member of The Albinism Alliance Group download an application online. Donations are excepted through Paypal and US Mail.

Outreach Services

- Nurturing grassroots albinism networks.
- Providing literature focused on albinism.
- Hosting local events and activities.

What Is Our Purpose?

The purpose of TAAG is to build a positive support network of and for persons with albinism. Family and friends make this special. As we grow, the plan is to create special interest connections for youth, careers, family, and public speaking. Current efforts facilitate local meetings and events, but we’d like to host a national conference, some day soon!

We aim to bridge the gap of mis-understanding about albinism and the myths associated with the condition. The Albinism Alliance Group serves as an independent model for under served communities and values the importance of grassroots efforts.

Providing information to bring about understanding of albinism can empower our community when similar organizations work together to meet the needs of our growing diverse population. We must be able to learn from one another to grow. The literature TAAG develops, is created for that purpose.

As a social organization we have been able to thrive and accomplish things in a more relaxed environment. By changing our approach we have gained a supportive audience. The members of TAAG have a common goal and that is to see that the next generation is more prepared than the last.

To ensure viable community support for families of and persons with albinism, contribute to The Albinism Alliance Group by sharing this information with someone. “Celebrate the Beauty of Albinism” with TAAG.

