

DYSTINGUISHED
AWARDS
2019

*Honoring inspirational individuals
with familial dysautonomia
for their accomplishments*

DYSTINGUISHED AWARDS 2019

Each year, we select people with FD to honor as Distinguished individuals. This award recognizes the obstacles that the persons with FD may overcome along his or her own path to success. Our Distinguished Awardees are chosen for their attitudes, accomplishments, and approach to life. All three of them have shown the strength to persevere through the difficult days, and to not let anything stand in the way of their goals. Their fearless smiles, determination, and courage are what makes them Distinguished awardees.

Past Distinguished Adult Awardees:

Jaimi Abrahms	Alice Altshuler	Laura Bale
Michael Baranoff	Debra Begin	Rachel Berger
Ittai Bergman	Gilli Bergman-Agaso	Leigh Berkowitz
Michael Brenner	Jerilyn Burkow	Devora Butler-Kamiel
Dede Coplin-Lipsitz	Alexia de Gunzburg	Keren Dror
Rachael Eisenson	Herve Fajenbaum	Dena Farkas
Scott Fass	Jill Feinman	Judy Fettman
Joshua Field	Lori Fishel	Sam Frears
Cissie Freilich	Jackie Gage	Felicia Gold
Elliot Goldberg	Perry Goldberger	Jamie Goldblat
David Greenman	Jason Gross	Lisa Gross
Kevin Gross	Kathy Irlen	Martin Jabenis
Gabrielle Jassie	Lori Kaplan	Anat Katz
Jaimi Kay	Joshua Kietz	Steven Klein
Sheli Kol Hadany-Dror	Elad Korenouser	Jacob Krieger
Michael Kronick	Alan Kudler	Samantha Langer McBride
Rebekah Lieberman	Yair Leibowitz	Burt Levy
Elaine Lipson	Ravid Mendelevitch	Maggie Miller
David Miller	Samantha Myers	Robert Newman
Nurit Peleg	Chana Perelstein	Tamara Plucer
Judy Rainer	Gilad Reich	Lainie Roebuck
Stephanie Rosen-Sinins	Lindsay Ross	Justin Sachs
Debbie Schoenholz	Steven Schwartzberg	Kim Segal
Veronica Segal	Nate Sharir	Andrew Sigman
Jessica Shore	Brian Solomons	Scott Soll
Peter Sonenshein	Roxanne Stein	Sharon Tal
Keshi Taryan-Kigel	Galia Tirosh	Amy Trinkler
Naomi Walker	Michael Weiss	Steven Wexler
Simon Woolfson	Michael Zauder	Bret Zinman
Tully Zygier		

Past Distinguished Teen and Kid Awardees:

Sophie Blumberg	Jackie Goldberg	Jack Posnack
Samuel Sernovitz		



CHANIE PROFESORSKE
27 years old
Brooklyn, NY

Chanie is a remarkable young woman who meets the challenges of FD in her own unique way.

She attends a day-hab program and goes to Brooklyn School of Music every week where she plays the drums and the flute. She also volunteers with Amit, a non-profit organization in New York City.



“Enjoy the days that you feel good. Hang out with people that you love and that make you smile.” - Sharon (27)

Chanie is a joy to be around and source of inspiration to everyone she meets. Her smile is contagious and her spirit encourages the people in her life every day.

For these reasons and more, Chanie is one of our 2019 Distinguished Honorees.



KYRA SLIVE
18 years old
Chappaqua, NY

Kyra is a young woman set to take the world by storm. She has a heart of gold with a smile to match. She will be graduating from high school this year where she was an active participant in theater productions.

This summer she will be working as camp counselor at a musical theater day camp where she will be able to share her onstage and backstage experience with others.



“FD does not define you.”

-Kyra Slive (18)

Kyra was recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society as a Student of Distinction. After graduation, she plans to work full-time at her community’s town hall to organize special projects.

Kyra is a joy to be around. She enjoys helping others and working as a part of a team. Kyra is our 2019 Distinguished Teen Honoree.



Alanna Wener
26 years old
Toronto, Canada

Alanna is currently a student taking online marketing courses. She is interested in using social media platforms such as Instagram for marketing.

Alanna curates unique and original content on her Instagram fan page which has over 2,000 followers. She would like to eventually work in the social media marketing field.



“Take it day by day and stay in the present. Be thankful for the people in your life. Look at an FD crisis as a wake-up call to maintain a healthy lifestyle.” - Alanna Wener (26)

Alanna is determined to succeed. Her persistence and courage are admirable, and she strives to face the challenges in life with a positive attitude. She is kind, always pleasant, and has a warm and welcoming spirit. One of Alanna’s proudest moments was volunteering at the Canadian Screen Awards where she worked back stage with the talent. She had the opportunity to meet famous actors.

Congratulations to the
DYStinguished Honorees of 2019

Those chosen let nothing stand in the way of achieving
their dreams

Our honorees are examples of courage, kindness, and
commitment to helping others