

March 2016 Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM **THE CEO**

Dear Friends of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida,

March 6 kicked off our Walk the Talk for Epilepsy season, with nine cities across the state hosting events through April 17 to bring awareness and funding to Florida's citizens impacted by epilepsy.

Many thanks to our Walk the Talk Statewide Title sponsors: Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Supernus, UCB, Sunovion, Cyberonics, Clayton Feig Fund, Upsher-Smith, and Lundbeck. My thanks also go out to our volunteers and supporters around the state who work tirelessly to ensure each event is a success and to the staff in our Broward, Treasure Coast, Miami, Palm Beach, Daytona, Jacksonville, Pensacola, Gainesville, and

Naples areas for hosting these important events for EFOF and its constituents.

These Walk the Talk events, combined, serve as one of the largest fundraisers of the year for EFOF. We hope you can join us at a walk near you or donate in support of our pursuit of finding a cure!



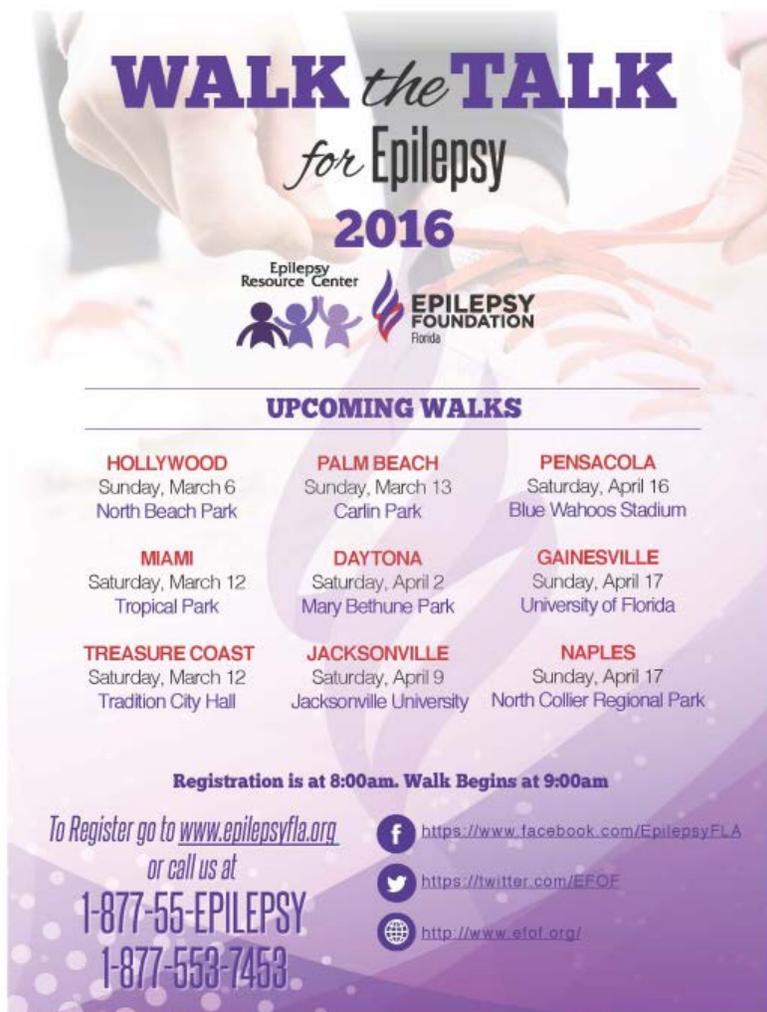
*Sincerely,
Karen Basha Egozi*

*Chief Executive Officer
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida*

Walk the Talk for Epilepsy 2016

Our statewide walks are filling up, so don't miss out on this great opportunity to support the more than 400,000 Floridians living with epilepsy.

[Find the walk nearest you and get registered today!](#)



WALK *the* TALK
for Epilepsy
2016

Epilepsy Resource Center
EPILEPSY FOUNDATION
Florida

UPCOMING WALKS

HOLLYWOOD Sunday, March 6 North Beach Park	PALM BEACH Sunday, March 13 Carlin Park	PENSACOLA Saturday, April 16 Blue Wahoos Stadium
MIAMI Saturday, March 12 Tropical Park	DAYTONA Saturday, April 2 Mary Bethune Park	GAINESVILLE Sunday, April 17 University of Florida
TREASURE COAST Saturday, March 12 Tradition City Hall	JACKSONVILLE Saturday, April 9 Jacksonville University	NAPLES Sunday, April 17 North Collier Regional Park

Registration is at 8:00am. Walk Begins at 9:00am

To Register go to www.epilepsyfla.org
or call us at
1-877-55-EPILEPSY
1-877-553-7453

 <https://www.facebook.com/EpilepsyFLA>
 <https://twitter.com/EFOF>
 <http://www.efof.org/>

[Learn more](#) about Walk the Talk for Epilepsy:



Clayton Feig Legacy Fund - Faces of Epilepsy



By: Joy Mayfield

I have always lived a very typical and normal lifestyle. I come from a strong, supportive family and value my friends and relatives immensely. At age fourteen, my happy-go-lucky lifestyle began to change when I had my first seizure and was diagnosed with epilepsy. I underwent numerous medical treatments and my doctors tried multiple medications and dosages that would eventually control my seizures. It was a sad, tumultuous time in my life and it has shaped the person that I am today.

This experience taught me to be perseverant and never let anything stand in my way. I am able to hold down two jobs while attending school, maintaining nearly straight A's and taking part in numerous extra-curricular activities. Most of all, I am living life to its fullest and have

challenged myself to go for things that I normally might not have attempted.

I currently hold the title of Miss Jacksonville Teen USA. As part of my platform, I am giving back to my community by volunteering at Wolfson Children's Hospital in the epilepsy unit. It makes me happy to put a smile on the faces of children who are silently suffering and who are assigned to the same unit in the same hospital where I was once admitted. I am also an ambassador for the National Epilepsy Foundation and was recently the recipient of its Warrior Award.

Today, I am happier and more active than anyone would ever imagine. In fact, people often tell me that I am true to my name – Joy. My goals are high and I have worked diligently to get accepted into my dream college, Florida State University. I will obtain my degree and continue my education towards becoming a neurologist so that I can continue to administer to patients with epilepsy.

Note: Joy will receive the Clayton Feig Youth Award at the Jacksonville Walk the Talk for Epilepsy event on April 9. The award is named in honor of Clayton Feig who demonstrated courage and strength of character while dealing with epilepsy. Complications from the disease claimed his life in 1993 when Clayton was 18-years-old.

Excerpt from Epilepsy Exchange Blog



Why Classify Epilepsy?

By: Nini Hadwen

The classification of the epilepsies is essential for enabling understanding and communication. It gives a vocabulary, a defined set of words that make possible the communication between scientists and physicians. Seizures are organized into groups based upon similarities in behavior or experience displayed during a seizure. These similarities relate to where in the brain the seizure activity is occurring. There are two main groups of seizures: focal (previously called partial seizures) and generalized. Focal seizures are those that involve part of the brain and are limited to one hemisphere or half of the brain. Generalized seizures involve both hemispheres/halves of the brain.

[Check out our blog to learn more....](#)

SUPPORT YOUR **EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA**

No one can prepare for a seizure as it can happen at the most unexpected time. There are currently more than 400,000 individuals who suffer from epilepsy across Florida with more than 89,000 of those sufferers being children. Prevention and education can better prepare those impacted by the disease. The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida (EFOF) is here to help provide services and resources to those needing it most, and to those seeking more information.

EFOF offers extensive and supportive services and programs to individuals, families, friends and the community at large including:

- Educational presentations
- Current epilepsy resources and information
 - Medical services
 - Support groups
 - Sponsorship & Volunteer Opportunities
 - Summer Camp
 - So much more!

To become a client and for more information about the organization, the individuals it serves and the resources provided to those in need, visit www.efof.org or call 1-877-553-7453.

Make a Donation



If you are taking two or more medications and continue to have seizures, VNS Therapy may be right for you.

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www.LivaNova.com

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www.seizurecontrol.com





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