



Imagine being at work and experiencing a seizure...

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA

Recognized by the National Epilepsy Foundation as the principal statewide agency for epilepsy resources and support, the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida provides leadership by ensuring the consistent delivery of programs and services for all Floridians.

In addition to providing clinical services, individualized case management, support groups, educational presentations, summer camp for kids, and a wide range of current epilepsy information and resources, the Foundation serves as the lead advocate for the rights and needs of people with epilepsy and seizure diseases and disorders at the local, county and state level. Our mission is to help society better understand the disease and foster a change in people's attitudes based on real facts, not fiction. For this reason, we focus on reaching employers, prominent business leaders, civil servants, educators and celebrities who, among others, have little understanding about the disease.



Sponsored by the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida and the Florida Department of Health

MISSION

The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida (EFOF) leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome the challenges created by epilepsy.

EPILEPSY FOOTPRINT



1 in 26 people in the United States will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime and 1 in 10 will have a seizure.



Epilepsy is the third most common serious neurological disease after stroke and Dementia.



Epilepsy affects more people than Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Autism and Cerebral Palsy combined.



Approximately 400,000 individuals suffer from epilepsy across the state with 89,600 of those sufferers being children.

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA



Today, 12 percent of Americans with epilepsy live in Florida, and EFOF is leading the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and defeat challenges created by the disease.



When faced with a diagnosis as life-altering as epilepsy, early intervention is vital to overcoming the many obstacles of the disease.



In these moments of crisis, the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida is the leading source of information for sufferers and their families looking for answers and advice to best treat epilepsy.



EFOF has offices in eight cities across Florida, with an extended reach into 35 counties.

FLORIDA'S HIDDEN HEALTHCARE

CRISIS

While epilepsy knows no borders (whether city, state or national) few states are more vulnerable to an explosion of epilepsy cases than Florida. Statistically, epilepsy is most likely to affect children and seniors, both of which constitute unusually large percentages of our state's population. The year-around nature of Florida's active, outdoor and athletic lifestyle further increases the risk of the disease, as the onset of epilepsy frequently occurs as a result of head injuries. Finally, our state is home to 11 military bases, whose soldiers are exposed to the constant risk of head trauma in the battlefield. Perhaps more than any other factors, however, the stigma and misunderstandings about epilepsy continue to hinder our community's efforts to recognize and come to grips with this devastating disease.

FIGHTING IGNORANCE

WITH FDUCATION

EPILEPSY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE

» Seizures can be caused by brain injury, poisoning, head trauma, normal aging process or stroke factors that are not restricted to any group, sex or race.

IMAGINE IF:

- » Your daughter falls while riding her bicycle on a Saturday afternoon, sustaining a head injury that scars the brain tissue.
- » Your friend comes back from the battlefield having survived an explosion and experiences a generalized seizure.
- » Your aging mother's stroke leads to periodic partial seizures.
- » Any of these scenarios could bring epilepsy into your life in a very direct way. If this happened, where would you and your family go for information? For services? For support?

FIGHTING IGNORANCE WITH EDUCATION

As humans we tend to fear what we do not understand. Add the fact that epilepsy can be scary both for those suffering from its effects and for those who witness them. However, by understanding epilepsy's causes and implications, we can begin to alleviate the impact on its victims and our society.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE KNOW:

- » Epilepsy is not contagious— you can't get the disease by talking to, kissing, or touching somebody with Epilepsy.
- » Epilepsy is caused by an occasional abnormal electrical discharge from a group of brain cells.

EPILEPSY WARRIOR

STORY

There's no way to adequately describe how terrifying and disturbing it is to witness your child having a seizure. How helpless you feel. How desperately you want answers. How much you worry about when the next one will come, agonize because you can't keep it from happening.

I had never witnessed a seizure in person when my daughter experienced her first at age three. In the months that followed, learning as much as I could about epilepsy and finding support was critical. It was especially helpful to find the right resources and to build a strong support system of people who understand. That is how you find strength and hope and persevere.

Today, my daughter is a happy, active Kindergartener and has been seizure free with medication for over a year. For which I am immeasurably grateful.

- Elizabeth R.



PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida (EFOF) provides many valuable services to individuals and their families, regardless of their financial situation, including:

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION



EFOF provides comprehensive prevention and education services in English, Spanish and Creole. We also make regular presentations to schools (both to personnel and students); physicians, attorneys, and other community professionals; police, emergency medical services personnel, healthcare professionals, health and social service agencies and other community based organizations; and child care providers.

EPILEPSY RESOURCE CENTER



Each of our offices houses a fully-staffed resource center offering a wide range of informational brochures on epilepsy/seizure diseases and disorders in both English and Spanish. Informational videos on epilepsy are also in English, Spanish and Creole. Periodicals and books, specific to epilepsy, are available for reference.

INFORMATION, REFERRAL AND SUPPORT



Through this program, we disseminate information about the support services available in the community to individuals with epilepsy and their families; provide support groups for those individuals, families and friends, and provide referrals to other social services and health agencies.

ADVOCACY



EFOF leads advocacy efforts for epilepsy sufferers in the state, and is focused on improving the health and well-being of individuals now and in the future. Advocating for effective public policies and community support is critical to EFOF's ability to provide educational assistance to those who need it most.

HEALTHCARE NAVIGATION



A federally certified healthcare enrollment program providing in-person education, counseling and enrollment assistance to Floridians wanting to shop and enroll for health coverage, or have questions concerning their health insurance.

CASE MANAGEMENT



Working both within the Foundation and with community resources, we provide individuals with seizure diseases and disorders and their families with an Individualized Plan of Care (IPOC) tailored for the specific needs of the patients and families.

MEDICAL SERVICES



Our comprehensive Epilepsy Clinics and network of independent neurologists across the state provide a consistent program of medical management for children and adults, including initial neurological evaluations, follow-up examinations, medical treatment, blood tests, electroencephalograms and other tests as required.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

These services include individual and family counseling, as well as psychological evaluations of cognitive problems related to epilepsy.



CAMP BOGGY CREEK

One-week summer camp where young epilepsy sufferers – who often feel isolated and different from their peers- can make new friends and help each other cope by sharing their life stories and challenges.

GET INVOLVED



BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes and we will work with your availability, interests, and preferences to find the best fit within our organization.

HOST A "LET'S TALK ABOUT IT" EVENT

Awareness event and fundraising campaign designed to remove the stigma associated with epilepsy.

MAKE A DONATION

» Cash Gifts

Contribute with cash, check or money order, or online using your credit card.

» Stock Gifts

If you own stock or securities that have increased in value, you may be able to enjoy additional tax savings. Often, a gift of stock can be completed with little more than a phone call to your stockbroker. Please consult with your tax advisor.

» Matching Gifts

Double or even triple your support by asking your corporation to match your gift. Check with your employer for gift matching program details.

» Honorary/ Memorial Gifts

Honor someone special or recognize an important event such as a birthday, wedding, or graduation with a memorial or commemorative gift.

CLAYTON FEIG LEGACY FUND

The fund supports several EFOF programs for children with epilepsy and was established in memory of Clayton Feig, a young man who demonstrated courage and strength of character while dealing with epilepsy. Complications from the disorder claimed his life in 1993. Clayton was 18 years old.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida will select one youth in each of its geographical regions to not only commemorate those like Clayton who battle with seizures, but to highlight the important work of those who are dedicated to removing the stigma and misunderstandings associated with epilepsy, and to working to improve the quality of life for those with seizure diseases and disorders.

