



Dear Friends of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida,

It's time to celebrate our 45-year anniversary! Throughout this month and into Epilepsy Awareness Month in November, we look forward to commemorating this special milestone with you.

Since 1971, EFOF has been leading the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. In this newsletter, I hope you'll take a walk with me down memory lane and view our 45-year timeline which details some of our organization's key moments from then to now. It makes me incredibly proud to see our growth over the years and to know that we've gone from just one support group in a Miami living room in 1971 to providing services in 35 of Florida's 67 counties today.

Despite the progress we've made through the years, there's still much work to be done. Every day, people are affected by epilepsy in our local communities. In fact, there are an estimated 400,000 Floridians affected by this disorder annually. In honor of our 45-year anniversary, I ask that you please join us in using this opportunity as a chance to educate

the public about epilepsy while raising much needed funds in support of those we serve. By joining us at one of our upcoming events across the state, making a donation, or helping to share your personal story and how EFOF has made a difference in your life, your support is significant as we look to the future and continue our legacy of leading the fight against epilepsy in the state of Florida.



*Sincerely,
Karen Basha Egozi*

*Chief Executive Officer
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida*

A Look Back at the Past 45-Years

Did you know EFOF was founded in a Miami living room? Journey through time with us by viewing our full 45-year timeline by clicking below and visiting our [website](#) for more information on how you can get involved with our 45-year celebrations!



**CLICK HERE TO
VIEW THE TIMELINE**

<p>Epilepsy Foundation of Eastern Florida and growing client base by 50%.</p> <p>2000</p>	<p>Merged with the Sunstate Comprehensive Epilepsy Program in Gainesville.</p> <p>2007</p>	<p>2010 - 2014</p> <p>Expanded reach to the Florida panhandle as well as merged with the Epilepsy</p>
<p>1998</p> <p>Foundation expanded services by merging with Epilepsy Services</p>	<p>2006</p> <p>Merged with the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern Florida in</p>	<p>PRESENT DAY</p>

EFOF in Action

First-Ever Florida Pediatric Epilepsy Network Conference Hosted by EFOF

EFOF hosted the 1st Annual Florida Pediatric Epilepsy Network Conference from September 9-11 in Orlando, marking the first time a conference was held exclusively for pediatric epilepsy neurologists in the state of Florida. The conference, sponsored by [Supernus Pharmaceuticals](#), [Eisai](#), [LivaNova](#), [Modern Health Concepts](#), Knox, [Lundbeck](#), and [Aprecia](#), was attended by one hundred and twenty-seven neurologists from across the state.

As a result of the Conference, the attending neurologists requested a sustainable forum be implemented to stay in touch and discuss the latest medications, advancements, and treatments in the field. EFOF created a wonderful platform on its [website](#) for this purpose, which will include a password-protected forum page for the neurologists' discussion. Please contact Mary Gomez at mgomez@efof.org for more information.



Florida Pediatric Epilepsy Network Conference program committee, pictured from left to right: Karen Basha Egozi, EFOF CEO; Patricia Dean, ARNP, MSN, clinical coordinator of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program at Nicklaus Children's Hospital; Laufey Y. Sigurdardottir, M.D., Pediatric Neurologist at Nemours Children's Health System; Ann Hyslop Segeren, M.D., Epileptologist at Nicklaus Children's Brain Institute; Sara Winchester, M.D., Pediatric Neurologist at Child Neurology Center of Northwest Florida; and Mary Gomez, EFOF Vice President of Business Development.

EFOF Shared Navigator Experience at 20th Annual United States Conference on AIDS



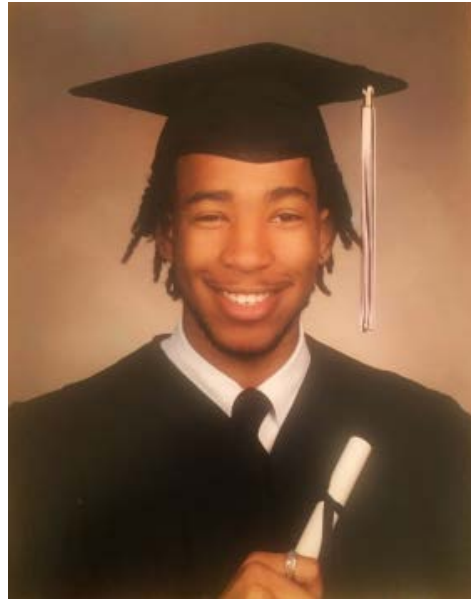
(Left) Monica Gonzalez and Ines Mosi, from EFOF, and Natalie Keen, from The AIDS Institute, spoke at the ACA Implementation Seminar at the 20th Annual USCA.

On September 16, EFOF healthcare navigators shared their experience navigating individuals and families seeking to purchase health insurance in the marketplace created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). EFOF is one of the leading agencies in the state of Florida that has been navigating since 2014 and has helped 10,000 people gain and maintain access to care. The presentation was part of a conference focused on implementation of the ACA.

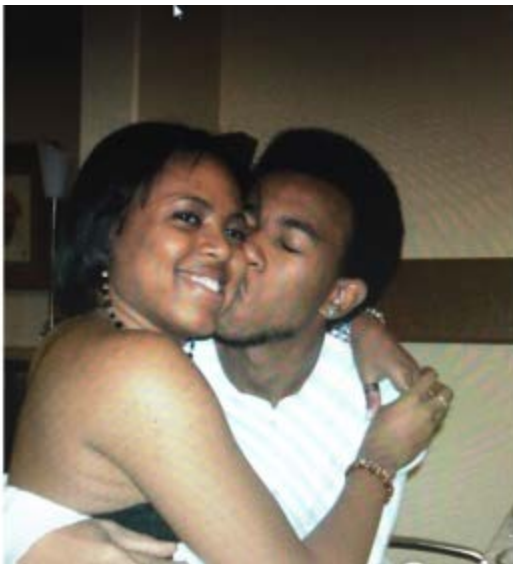
Faces of Epilepsy

By: *Katia Philippeaux*

Robert was only 18-years-old when he passed away from epilepsy. I will never forget that early Thursday morning when I was awoken to the loud thumps of my brother hitting his wooden head board as he seized. I instantly rushed into his room only to find him unresponsive and gasping for air. He had several seizures as we waited for the paramedics to arrive. Since he continued to be unresponsive, the doctors had to sedate him and induce him into a coma in order to transfer him for a CT scan. I recall waiting with my parents in the ER room when a code blue was called from the same room that the test was taking place. I remember looking around in confusion as I thought it was impossible that they would be making such a call on my brother. I thought to myself not Robert. Reality struck as I witnessed the physician pumping his heart as they wheeled him out of the room and back into the ER. My greatest fear was happening. My brother was dying in front of our eyes. We were witnessing his death.



Robert's death introduced my family and I to the importance of living life to the fullest and cherishing loved ones every day. Our mother was battling cancer when my brother passed away. Never did she imagine that she would be the one to bury her child, her baby.



With the eagerness to help families just like ours, my cousins and I discovered the existence of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida in Broward when we decided to donate toys to the children in their program that Christmas in Robert's memory. Since December 2009, my family and I have been working with the organization throughout different initiatives, especially its annual Walk the Talk Fundraiser, where we have a team in his memory: Team R-Thrilla. We believe that if we can help children just like Robert, then we may help save the family from experiencing what we went through. We may not have known the organization when Robert was alive, but we hope to celebrate his life by helping others.

Paint Your Pumpkin Purple for Epilepsy Awareness



This Halloween, join us in painting your pumpkin purple to raise awareness and funds in support of the Epilepsy Foundation's mission to serve people living with seizures!

Get involved by hosting a fundraising party to paint pumpkins purple with your friends and family. [Register your celebration](#) and receive a personal webpage to tell your story, raise funds, and spread awareness. While registering, be sure to list the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida as your local affiliate.

What is the Purple Pumpkin Project?

When people see a purple pumpkin, they often ask, "Why is your pumpkin purple?" This creates an opportunity to start a conversation about epilepsy and help reduce the misunderstanding surrounding it. [Learn more about the history of the Purple Pumpkin Project.](#)

Upcoming EFOF Events



45-Years Strong
Gainesville | October 19



Unmasking Epilepsy Cocktail Party
Miami | October 13



Purple Hat Fashion Sunday Brunch
Fort Lauderdale | November 6



Painting with a Purpose
Naples | November 13

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
- Patient Navigation
- 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.epilepsyfla.org or call 1-877-553-7453.

[Make a Donation](#)




Everyday Extraordinary Epilepsy Care

Marcela suffered from epileptic seizures and medication side effects. After careful observation in Memorial's advanced Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, Tarek Zakaria, MD, Neurologist, diagnosed her seizures, ruled out surgery and prescribed a medication to improve her quality of life. Now, Marcela lives extraordinary every day.


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