



November 2016 Newsletter

Dear Friends of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida,

Happy National Epilepsy Awareness Month!

Looking for a way to commemorate this special month with us? We have several upcoming events being held across the state – from Miami to Pensacola – that we hope you can join us for. These events not only raise critical funds for EFOF, but increase awareness about epilepsy to help support the thousands of Floridians and their families affected by the disorder. We also encourage you to host your own [Do-It-Yourself \(DIY\)](#) event to help educate others by spreading epilepsy awareness in your community.

In tandem with Epilepsy Awareness Month, we're continuing the celebration of our Foundation's 45-year anniversary. Please be sure to check out the video below featuring EFOF clients, staff, community members and founders Mark and Marjorie Buchbinder. We hope their passion for our organization is just as inspirational to you as it is us!

In this issue, we also welcome four members to the EFOF board of directors: Steve Feig, A.G. "Terry" Newmyer III, Guy Blanchette, and Daniel Perez. We're so thrilled to have them join the EFOF family, and look forward to working with them to further advance the mission of our organization.

During Epilepsy Awareness Month – and always – thank you to our incredible volunteers, donors, and staff for continuously giving from your hearts to help bring hope and transformation to the more than 400,000 Floridians living with epilepsy. Your support enables us to lead the fight against epilepsy at the local, county, state and national levels, ensuring hope, connection, and support is available for those who need it.



*Sincerely,
Karen Basha Egozi*

*Chief Executive Officer
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida*

Celebrating 45 Years



WWW.EFOF.ORG

Mark and Marjorie Buchbinder founded EFOF in 1971, which began with just one support group. Check out the above video to hear their story, client stories and to see the impact EFOF has made in the lives of Floridians over the past 45-years.

Purple Hat Fashion Brunch Featured in Sun Sentinel



Check it out! The [Sun Sentinel recently featured EFOF's Purple Hat Fashion Brunch](#), being held this Sunday, November 6th in honor of EFOF's 45-year anniversary, in its Society South Florida section!

Welcome to EFOF's Newest Board Members

We're excited to welcome – and welcome back – four members to EFOF's 2016-2017 Board of Directors! These seasoned leaders bring new perspectives and expertise to our Foundation, and we're very excited to have them on our team.



Steve Feig

Steve Feig is the founder and owner of Foreign Parts Distribution, Inc. located in Hialeah, FL. For 10 years, Mr. Feig served on EFOF's board of directors and became board president during his tenure. The founder of the Clayton Feig Fund, he has continuously held annual fundraisers to help support several EFOF programs for children with epilepsy. The Fund was created in memory of his son, Clayton Feig, who in 1993 at the age of 18-years-old, passed away from complications he suffered due to epilepsy. Each year, EFOF selects one youth in each of its locations across the state to receive the Clayton Feig Youth Award. The award not only commemorates those, like Clayton, who battle with seizures but highlights the important work of those who are dedicated to removing the stigma and misunderstandings that have been associated with epilepsy.



A.G. 'Terry' Newmyer III

A.G. Newmyer III is a "lifer" in the epilepsy community. Known as "Terry," he experienced a couple of idiopathic seizures during his teenage years (the last was 50 years ago) and has spent decades trying to help others with the disorder, particularly kids. Terry has had a diverse business career and is the founder of The Newmyer Organization, based in Palm Beach County, focused on a broad array of investment and consulting activities.

Terry served for almost 20 years on the national board of The Epilepsy Foundation, where he held several officer positions. Terry chaired The Governor's Council in the late 1990's, an organization that recognizes the Foundation's largest donors. After relocating from Washington, DC to Florida in 2004, he joined the EFOF board and was nominated by our organization as an affiliate director of the national organization.



Daniel Perez

Daniel Perez is an attorney at Cole, Scott & Kissane P.A. law firm located in Miami. He received his J.D. from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law where he also served as president of the Student Bar Association. Mr. Perez has served his community for the past four years. In 2012, he became part of the Christopher Columbus High School Alumni Board and served as a lector for St. Theresa, Church of the Little Flower. In addition, he volunteers as an educator for the CCD program at Church of the Little Flower. Since 2014, he has served as vice chair of the Hispanic Affairs Committee of Miami Dade and is a contributor with BLUE Missions Group.



Guy Blanchette

Guy Blanchette has served as CEO of Eglevue Technologies, located in Naples, for the past 13 years. His company advises, designs, and implements cross entity solutions to enhance visibility, increase performance, maintain compliance, and improve productivity for the government, Fortune 100 companies, and the small to medium business circuit. Mr. Blanchette has also been serving the community for the past five years as the chair of the board of directors for the Greater Naples YMCA.

Epilepsy Foundation's 6th Annual Shark Tank Competition



The Epilepsy Therapy Project, an initiative of the Epilepsy Foundation, is inviting entries that represent the most innovative new ideas in epilepsy treatment and care for its 6th Annual Shark Tank Competition. The winner(s) of the 2017 Shark Tank Competition will receive international recognition and compete for **awards totaling \$200,000** to support the development and commercialization of an important new product, technology, or therapeutic concept to help people with epilepsy.

The deadline for submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI) is November 28, 2016. The Shark Tank review committee will select as many as six finalists. All finalists will be invited to present their product concepts or candidates at the [2017 Antiepileptic Drug and Device Trials Conference](#), scheduled for May 17–19, 2017, in Miami.

[Enter today!](#)

2017 Healthcare Open Enrollment



On October 20, President Barak Obama spoke at Miami Dade College about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the progress that has been made in his efforts to ensure Americans have access to quality, affordable health care.

EFOF staff in attendance at this event included: Karen Basha Egozi, CEO; Mary Gomez, VP of Business Development; Judy Clauser, VP of Programs; Monica Gonzalez, Navigator Program Manager; and Giuneur Mosi, Healthcare Navigator.

It's Time to Enroll

Open Enrollment for 2017 runs from Nov. 1, 2016 to Jan. 31, 2017.

Visit <https://nes.efof.org/CalendarEvent> to make an appointment to meet with a healthcare navigator and for more information.

Pensacola Office Welcomes New Staff



It is our pleasure to announce that we have a new team in the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida's Pensacola office.

Michelle Mitchell joined our team on September 2nd. Michelle is the Social Services Case Manager for the Panhandle counties. Michelle came to us with extensive experience in social work and a heart of gold.

Shari Ann Eckley started with us on October 11th as our Community Resource Specialist/ Development Associate. You will see her at local awareness events and she will even come by and educate the community on seizure first aid. She loves to plan events and support the community. Her smile is contagious.

Join us in welcoming Michelle and Shari to the epilepsy family!

Upcoming EFOF & Community DIY Events



**Seizure Smart Talk 5k
Run/Walk**
Jacksonville | November 5



**3rd Annual St. Johns
Professional Alliance Chili
Cook-Off**
St. Johns | November 5



Sister's Walk for Epilepsy
Jacksonville | November 5



**Purple Hat Fashion Sunday
Brunch**
Fort Lauderdale | November 6



**Painting with a Purpose -
Gainesville**
Gainesville | November 10



Tailgators for Epilepsy
Gainesville | November 12



**Painting with a Purpose -
Naples**
Naples | November 13



**Painting with a Purpose -
Wellington**
Naples | November 14



**Dolphins Game to Benefit
EFOF**
Miami | November 27



Newk's Eatery Fundraiser
Pensacola | November 29

December Facebook Live Webinar

Join us for EFOF's upcoming "Epilepsy Exchange" webinar sponsored by Memorial Healthcare Systems and featuring Board Member Dr. Tarek Zakaria!



Join us for EFOF's upcoming "Epilepsy Exchange" webinar on Facebook Live!

The webinar event will feature guest speaker and board member Dr. Tarek Zakaria on *Advances in Epilepsy and Treatment Options*. The webinar will be an open forum discussion for individuals to ask questions, to be answered by our speaker.

This event will be through Facebook Live. No registration is required for this event.

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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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