



Dear Friends of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida,

Walk the Talk for Epilepsy events continue to take place throughout Florida, with our most recent events held in Pensacola and West Palm Beach. Our pursuit of spreading epilepsy awareness will continue this weekend as we lace up our sneakers for events in Miami this Saturday and Broward this Sunday, and our final walk of the season will take place in Jacksonville on Saturday, May 20. These Walk the Talk events serve as one of the largest fundraising efforts of the year for EFOF, so your support – whether as a participant, donor, through sponsorship, or promotion – is critical in helping us continue the fight against epilepsy and its challenges.

Congratulations are in order for Staff Psychologist, Dr. Judith Siskind who is being recognized as our first "Caught in the Act of Excellence" employee! We thank Dr. Siskind for being such an instrumental part of the EFOF family for the past 32 years. Her dedication to our organization is truly admirable, and provides such a wonderful example for the rest of the EFOF team as we work daily toward our mission.

As you know, the symbol of EFOF is a flame, which signifies the light of understanding for a more accepting society and the light of learning that will lead us to better treatments and a cure. This month, we highlight two stellar organizations that are helping to keep our flame of hope burning: **Check Cashing USA** and **CareerSource**. Please take a moment to learn more about how they're bringing hope and transformation to those in our state living with epilepsy.

Best wishes for an excellent month ahead!



*Sincerely,*

*Karen Basha Egozi  
Chief Executive Officer  
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida*

## *Caught in the Act of Excellence*

EFOF recently launched a new employee recognition program called "Caught in the Act of Excellence." Employees are encouraged to make nominations of their fellow co-worker's who are "caught" going above and beyond the norm of their daily work-related responsibilities. An award is then presented to the deserving individual on a quarterly basis.

Our very first employee caught in the act of excellence is Dr. Judith Siskind, staff psychologist, from our Miami office!

Dr. Siskind received her master's degree in counseling from Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park. She worked in university mental health centers with children before moving to Miami in 1983 with her husband Ken Muller, who joined the faculty at the University of Miami as a neurobiologist. Dr. Siskind's very first job in Miami was with EFOF and she has remained a dedicated, passionate, and inspirational part of the EFOF family for the past 32 years. Ten years into her tenure, her daughter, Rebecca, developed epilepsy – this put Dr. Siskind in a unique position as both a parent and employee. In addition to Rebecca, Dr. Siskind has a son, Alex. She enjoys spending time with her family, travelling to interesting and exotic places



around the world, and, most importantly, serving as an advocate for individuals living with epilepsy.

Dr. Judith Siskind, Staff Psychologist

The entire EFOF family congratulates Dr. Siskind on this honor, and thanks her for her many years of service and dedication!

*More than \$10,000 Raised by Check Cashing USA*



EFOF has partnered with Check Cashing USA, a local company that offers short-term cashing solutions, to raise funds and epilepsy awareness. With 39 stores in South Florida participating in the campaign, there's likely a Check Cashing USA store and a team of helpful staff members in your neighborhood, ready to help...with cash in hand!

"For 30 years, Check Cashing USA has benefitted from our community's loyalty so we feel a responsibility to give back. And supporting the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida is the perfect way to show our thanks," said Jay Taub, Chief Technology Officer/Owner Operator of Check Cashing USA.

The company, known for its philanthropic partnerships with local nonprofits, committed to raising more than \$10,000 for EFOF's Walk the Talk fundraiser in Miami – and has already exceeded its goal! Customers are asked if they would like to make a donation to EFOF when they check out, and the company has encouraged employees to have fun with the campaign by creating thoughtful and artistic designs throughout its stores with donation slips.



EFOF's mission!

"We're so proud of our team members and our loyal customers who have contributed to the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida. You've demonstrated that Check Cashing USA knows how to walk the walk and walk the talk," stated Brian Socolow, Chief Operating Officer/Owner Operator of Check Cashing USA.

Dan Osman, Chief Financial Officer of Check Cashing USA, commented that, "Epilepsy affects people from all walks of life. As an enterprise, Check Cashing USA serves people from all walks of life so the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida feels like the perfect match for our philanthropy."

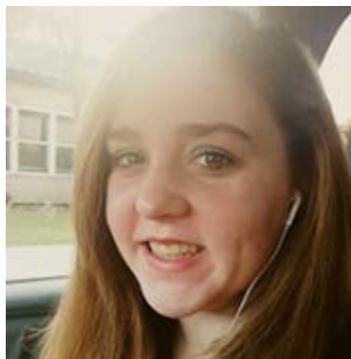
Check Cashing USA is continuing to push its campaign forward with hopes to raise even more funds in support of

## *Clayton Feig Youth Awardees*

Each year, EFOF selects one youth in each of its regions to receive the Clayton Feig Youth Award at its annual Walk the Talk events. This award commemorates Florida youth who battle with seizures and highlights their efforts to remove the stigma and misunderstandings associated with epilepsy.

The Clayton Feig Legacy 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 disease claimed Clayton's life in 1993 when he was just 18-years-old.

*2017 Clayton Feig Youth Awardees*



**Brooklynn Williams**  
Gainesville



**Lauren Kaminski**  
Daytona



**Antonio Garcia**  
Naples



**Patrick Rosser**  
Pensacola



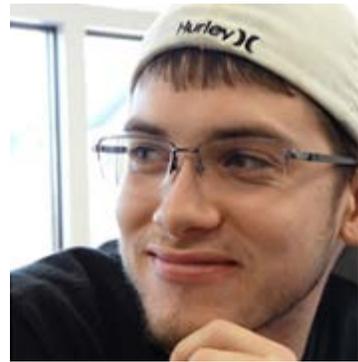
**Meredith Pence**  
West Palm Beach



**Bruno Delgadillo**  
Miami



**Ada Rubio**  
Broward



**Joshua Pruitt**  
Jacksonville

## *Walk the Talk for Epilepsy!*

Many thanks to the countless participants and sponsors who helped make our 2017 Walk the Talk for Epilepsy events in Pensacola and West Palm Beach a huge success!

### ***Pensacola Walk***

More than 170 attendees came out to support the foundation and spread epilepsy awareness at the Pensacola Walk on April 8th inside the Blue Wahoos stadium!



### **West Palm Beach Walk**

*The energy was vibrant and contagious at the West Palm Beach Walk where more than 500 individuals came out to help spread epilepsy awareness, support friends and loved ones and have a great time!*



**Coming up are walks in Miami (May 6), Broward (May 7), and Jacksonville (May 20)!**

### ***Miami Walk – Children's Corner***

We are excited to announce a new and welcome addition of a Children's Corner sponsored by the Children's Trust at this weekend's Miami walk! It will have helmet distributions, face painting, a dunk tank, rock climbing wall, stilt walkers, kids fitness fun sponsored by My Gym, activities organized by FoundArt, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, Miami-Dade County Library and much more!





WWW.EFOF.ORG/WALKTHETALK

# WALK *the* TALK for Epilepsy 2017

## MIAMI WALK

SATURDAY, MAY 6

TROPICAL PARK | 7900 BIRD RD. | MIAMI, FL 33155

REGISTRATION @ 8AM | WALK BEGINS @ 9AM

FEATURING THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

# CHILDREN'S CORNER

- + HELMET DISTRIBUTIONS
- + FACE PAINTING
- + DUNK TANK
- + ROCK CLIMBING WALL
- + STILT WALKERS
- + MUSIC
- + ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY FOUNDART
- + SNOW CONES, POPCORN & COTTON CANDY
- + BUNGEE CORD JUMPING
- + COLOR ME MINE
- + ACT4ME
- + MASCOTS & CHARACTERS
- + COMMON THREADS
- + MIAMI DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY
- + FIREFIGHTERS
- + COLGATE BUS ON PREMISES PROVIDING CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER A CHANCE TO GET THEIR TEETH CHECKED AND GOODIE BAGS

SPONSORED BY:



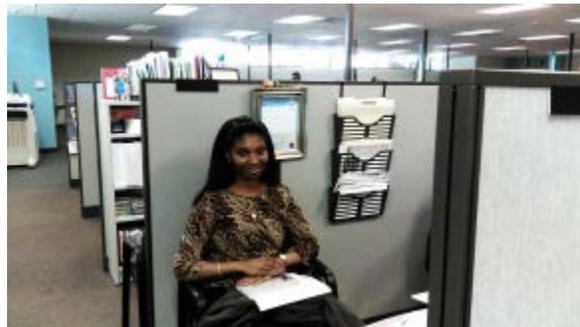
The Children's Trust

Don't miss this exciting and fun opportunity for the whole family!

## *CareerSource + EFOF: A Partnership for Opportunity*



On March 14, EFOF entered into a new partnership with CareerSource Palm Beach to assist clients who are unemployed find gainful employment and become more financially independent. This partnership was spearheaded by Lauren Torres, Social Services Case Manager, and Sheen Mayberry, CRS/Development Associate, both of EFOF's West Palm Beach office.





### *Partnership in Action*

EFOF staff accompanied clients to a CareerSource career center where they were given assistance with resume creation and development, interview skills, and provided guidance on navigating employment search websites. For those with no work experience, internships and volunteer positions were also explored. To date, half of our clients have obtained or

are in the process of obtaining employment. EFOF has high hopes that all will ultimately find gainful employment as a result of their involvement in this program. Torres stated, "My hope is that by the end of this year, we will have many of our clients back to work or into the work force for the first time. This will help ease the depression and anxiety that many have due to financial difficulties and it will help them with their social skills since they will be out of their homes and around other people."

## *Focused on a Cure*

The national Epilepsy Foundation is accelerating the development of therapies for people living with epilepsy through its contribution to research. In fact, since 2007, the Epilepsy Foundation has invested \$269,000 research dollars right here in the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida region.

State universities that have received Epilepsy Foundation dollars include:

- Florida State University
- University of Florida
- Miller School of Medicine of the University of Miami

These research dollars have supported the workforce through research training fellowships for graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and early career investigators, as well as for investments in new therapies through the Epilepsy Therapy Project (ETP), and into infrastructure awards.

[Learn more about the Epilepsy Foundation's research and impact.](#)

**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](http://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.

**M** Memorial  
Neuroscience Institute

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Hospital  
MIAMI CHILDREN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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