

June 2017 Newsletter

Dear Friends of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida,

Thanks to your help, our annual Walk the Talk for Epilepsy events were once again an enormous success! Because of you, close to 3,500 participants came together in eight cities across the state to walk in solidarity for our cause, raising much needed epilepsy awareness. Because of you, EFOF raised more than \$400,000 in support of our mission to find a cure. Because of you, our flame of hope burns brighter than ever. Thank you for helping us lead the fight against epilepsy so we can stop seizures, find cures, and save lives.

I'd also like to extend a warm thank you to EFOF Board Member Michael Bowen and his wife, Stephani. Michael and Stephani have been busy advocating for the fair implementation of medical marijuana in Tallahassee. About one-third of people with epilepsy suffer from uncontrolled or intractable seizures, which can cause injury, disability — and even death. For those with drug-resistant epilepsy and uncontrolled seizures, medical marijuana may be an important, viable option. Thank you, Michael and Stephani, for educating our legislators on the importance of patient accessibility.

This spring, the foundation partnered with Coconut Creek Subaru for its annual "Subaru Share the Love" event and \$67,000 was raised to benefit EFOF! We can't thank the Coconut Creek team and the Appleby family enough! You can read more about this great initiative below.

It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of the passing of Jay Hennessy, one of our great epilepsy warriors. He will be truly missed by the entire EFOF family and we hope you take a couple minutes to read below about his courage and advocacy on behalf of those living with epilepsy.

As we head into the summer months, we have some great upcoming events I hope you can join us for. From shopping to crafting to baseball, there's something for everyone to enjoy – all in support of our Foundation! More information on these events can be found in this newsletter.

I hope you have a wonderful month!

Sincerely,



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

We Walked the Talk - For Epilepsy!

Thanks to you, close to 3,500 participants statewide 'walked the talk' and raised more than \$400,000 in support of our mission through this year's Walk the Talk for Epilepsy events.

Didn't get to participate this year? No problem! You can still be a part of the change by [donating now](#) because **WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!**

Check out our Official 2017 Walk the Talk for Epilepsy Promo Video!



Miami Walk - May 6, 2017

High energy was incredible at the Miami walk as more than 1,000 attendees showed their purple pride in support of the foundation!



[Check Cashing USA](#) presented a \$12,000 check to EFOF at the Miami Walk. This was the largest amount raised by a business in support of this fundraising effort.



Steve Feig, board member and father of Clayton Feig, helps cut the ribbon at the start of the Miami Walk. Clayton was a young man who demonstrated courage and strength of character while dealing with epilepsy. Complications from the disease claimed his life in 1993. Clayton was 18 years old.

Broward Walk - May 7, 2017

It was a beautiful morning as more than 800 attendees participated in the Broward Walk along the beach on the Hollywood boardwalk.



Broward Walk ribbon cutting with South Broward Hospital District Commissioner Karen Harrington.



Lauren Pastrana, guest emcee, of Channel 4 News helped to hype up the crowd!



Channel 10 reporter Nicole Perez, served as one of the wonderful guest emcees at the Broward Walk.

Jacksonville Walk - May 20, 2017

The Jacksonville walk was great fun as 350 attendees participated and got to enjoy the Southeast US Boatshow following the event!



Clayton Feig Youth awardee, Joshua Pruitt, and professional golfer and friend of the foundation, Jeff Klauk start off the walk with the ribbon cutting.



Participants enjoying the photo booth at the walk!

Photos by Sara Gomez, Beautiful Pieces Photography



- Check out our [online photo gallery](#) for pictures from all of this year's walks!
- Photo booth pictures can be viewed by visiting the [EFOF Facebook page](#).

Subaru 'Shares the Love' with EFOF



EFOF partnered with the [Coconut Creek Subaru](#) dealership for its annual Subaru Share the Love event and \$67,000 was raised in benefit of the Foundation! This campaign allows for individuals who are purchasing or leasing a car to select a participating charity to receive a percentage of their purchase.

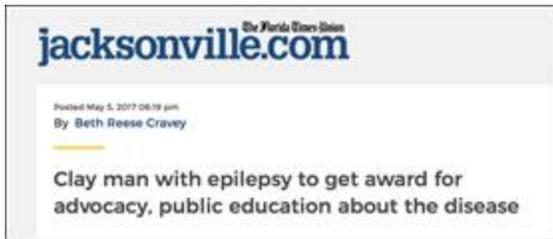
The Foundation is incredibly grateful to the Appleby family and the entire Coconut Creek Subaru team for their hard work and dedication. Thank you for spreading epilepsy awareness and encouraging customers to support EFOF!

Clayton Feig Legacy Fund - Faces of Epilepsy

By: Kerrie Pruitt, on behalf of her son, Joshua Pruitt

At the age of six, Joshua had his first seizure. He had complained of a headache, so I gave him some children's Tylenol and put him down for a nap. I went to wake him and his eyes were rolled to the side. I kept asking him to move, but he wouldn't. I didn't know what was happening. When my husband grabbed him, Joshua went stiff and I called 911.

He was taken to a children's hospital in Ft. Worth, TX, and quarantined overnight trying to figure out why he had a seizure. After finding nothing, they sent us home. A few days later, Joshua had four grand mal seizures back-to-back. We went back to the hospital and he was put on medication for epilepsy. I still had no idea what epilepsy was or how he got it. I just didn't know anything and felt at a loss..... [Read the rest of Joshua's story here.](#)



Joshua Pruitt was the Clayton Feig Awardee for the 2017 Jacksonville Walk the Talk for Epilepsy. His story was featured this past May in [The Florida Times-Union.](#)

In Loving Memory of Jay Hennessy



The EFOF family mourns the loss of Jay Hennessy, a true epilepsy warrior and advocate, who passed away on May 24th from complications related to epilepsy. Jay had been living in South Africa with his family for the past couple of months and it is believed that his passing was related to SUDEP.

Jay was the definition of a true epilepsy warrior and advocated for those living with epilepsy on a local, state and national level. He was involved with the foundation in many capacities and enjoyed attending EFOF events, sharing his story with the media, and even attended EFOF's annual Day at the Capitol where he shared his story with legislators and stood strong for Floridians with epilepsy. Jay was also involved with the National Epilepsy Foundation and more recently assisted the Department of Defense with their Epilepsy Research Program. We were so lucky and proud to have Jay as our dear friend and supporter and he will be truly missed by all. Jay's story, as written by him, is shared on our website – please read more about this amazing individual [here.](#)

EFOF Board Member Spotlight: Michael Bowen



Our board member, Michael Bowen and his wife, Stephani, have been busy in Tallahassee advocating for patient accessibility of medical marijuana. Michael had a grand mal seizure during one of the committee meetings which was unfortunate, but served as a reminder to our legislators the reason they were there. Michael and Stephani have more than 33 quotes and mentions in different media and is growing since an Associated Press story has been published and they've even gone international.

Thank you, Michael and Stephani, for your outstanding advocacy on behalf of those with epilepsy!

A sampling of media coverage on this issue can be found below:

- Palm Beach Post - [Florida medical marijuana compromise likely won't allow smoking](#)
- Florida Politics - [Michael J. Bowen: For epilepsy, Senate medical marijuana bill is 'step in right direction'](#)

Upcoming Events



Vineyard Vines % of Sales Day
Palm Beach Gardens | June 8



Crafty with a Cause
Gainesville | June 10



BJ's % of Sales Day
Pensacola | June 15



Marlins v. Dodgers Game
% of Sales to EFOF!
Miami | July 14

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.

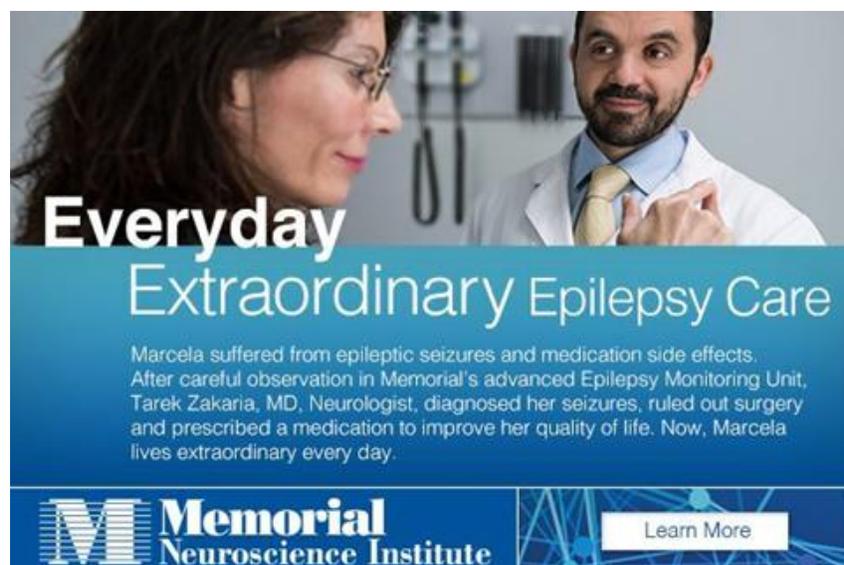
[Make a Donation](#)



Has your young child been affected with epilepsy?
Consider epilepsy clinical trials
Learn about the study

[Learn More](#)

For age group: 1 month - <4 years



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.

Memorial Neuroscience Institute

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