



October 2017 Newsletter

Dear Friends of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida,

On behalf of the entire EFOF organization, I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe as our communities rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. The devastation left in its wake will continue to impact Floridians – especially our most vulnerable populations – for the foreseeable future. As with any natural disaster, stress is a common associated outcome and EFOF is here and prepared to help decrease the risk of stress-triggered seizures through elevated assistance and special services. If you or someone you know is living with epilepsy and is in need of special assistance during this time, please [contact us](#) so we can help you overcome any additional challenges brought about as a result of the storm.

Although some of our service areas were hit particularly hard by Hurricane Irma, it was inspiring to see our state and EFOF community come together and care for one another. I'm particularly proud of our EFOF case managers who worked diligently to call each of our clients across the state to assess their post-storm situation and determine how our organization can be of assistance. Thank you for your fervent dedication to our mission and for going above and beyond for our clients despite these trying times.

The foundation is also working on a medical relief campaign to assist our friends and neighbors in Puerto Rico who have been affected by Hurricane Maria. As basic needs are limited, essentials like medication are often forgotten until it is too late. We are working with partners in the community to put much needed medication in the hands of individuals living with epilepsy, and have already sent over a shipment of medication directly to those in need. Please consider making a donation to the [Puerto Rico Relief Fund](#) to further assist in this effort!

Looking ahead to National Epilepsy Awareness Month in November, our Miami office will officially kick off this year's celebration with its 'Unmasking Epilepsy' masquerade event on Oct. 19 in Coral Gables, followed by our Cheers for Charity event in Pensacola on Nov. 2, Purple Hat Night Out event in Fort Lauderdale on Nov. 9, All Shades of Purple Gala in Jacksonville on Nov. 9, Snacks & Swizzles event in Daytona on Nov. 14 and our Purple Pint Night in Palm Beach on Nov. 18. We hope you can join us for these unforgettable evenings of raising awareness and funds for individuals affected by epilepsy. To purchase tickets and for more information about these events please see the Let's Talk About It! section below or visit www.efof.org/upcoming-events.

Sincerely,



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

AES & EFA Help EFOF Aid Victims of Hurricane Irma Living with Epilepsy

Thank you to the [American Epilepsy Society](#) (AES) and [Epilepsy Foundation of America](#) (EFA) for coming to the aid of Floridians living with epilepsy who were affected by Hurricane Irma.

Both organizations enabled EFOF case managers to work diligently to call each client across the state to assess their post-storm situation and provide needed assistance.

Due to the generosity of the AES and EFA, EFOF has also been providing food vouchers, clinic services, emergency medication, and more to clients in need.



Let's Talk About It!

NOVEMBER IS EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

Let's Talk About It!

In celebration of Epilepsy Awareness Month, the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida is hosting seven signature *Let's Talk About It!* events. Will you join us?

Unmasking Epilepsy

MASQUERADE COCKTAIL PARTY
THURSDAY | OCTOBER 19
CORAL GABLES MUSEUM | MIAMI

Purple Hat NIGHT OUT

COCKTAIL PARTY
THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 9
THE GRATEFUL PALATE | FT LAUDERDALE

ALL Shades of Purple GALA

GALA
THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 9
WJCT TV STUDIOS | JACKSONVILLE

PURPLE PINT NIGHT

BREWERY EVENT
SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 18
TWISTED TRUNK BREWING | PALM BEACH GARDENS

Snacks & Swizzles

COCKTAIL PARTY
TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 14
BRANNON CIVIC CENTER | DAYTONA

NAPLES EPILEPSY RESOURCE CENTER GRAND OPENING

RIBBON CUTTING COCKTAIL (INVITE ONLY)
WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 15
YMCA | NAPLES

CHEERS FOR CHARITY

PINT NIGHT | THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 2 | WORLD OF BEER | PENSACOLA

GET YOUR TICKETS TO THE EVENT NEAREST YOU!
VISIT WWW.EFOF.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS

In Case You Missed It: Webinar Tour of Medical Cannabis Nursery & Lab



Step inside Knox Medical's nursery and laboratory for an exclusive look at exactly where medical cannabis is grown, cultivated, processed, and created – from plant to product. Part Two of our Medical Cannabis Webinar will give you a look behind secured doors to see just how precise and professional the medical cannabis industry is.

Bruce Knox, founder and chief operating officer of [Knox Medical](#), and Alex Karol, Knox's lead chemical engineer, bring you on a tour through their top-of-the-line facility. They break down each step along the way, and show off some of Knox's high-tech equipment.

Did you miss Part One of the Medical Cannabis: All Access webinar series?

[Check it out here.](#)

Board Member Highlight



Congratulations to EFOF Board Member Daniel Perez who won the Florida House District 116 race!

We have no doubt Representative Perez will be an invaluable asset to our state and individuals living with epilepsy. We look forward to working with him in his new role!

Clayton Feig Legacy Fund - Faces of Epilepsy

By: Regina Bradford

In February of 2002, while traveling on my way home from work, I was at a red light and was struck by a vehicle. Little did I know that accident would change my life forever. Two days after the accident, I returned to work initially feeling normal until I woke up in the ER.

I was confused and in shock, not realizing what had just happened. After numerous tests doctors determined that due to the trauma to my head from the accident, a seizure was a result. While this was only the beginning and onset of my epilepsy, I continued to work from 2002 through 2010 while taking care of dialysis patients. In 2005, I had my first attempt at an unsuccessful brain surgery but that didn't hold me back. My epilepsy continued to progress during this time until I could no longer work.

Having multiple seizures a day, being on several medications, and being in a second accident gave me a different outlook on life itself. I called my neurologist, Dr. Bautista, and told him I wanted to attempt the brain surgery again. It was in November 2014 that I had my second brain surgery that was performed by neurosurgeon Dr. Arce that was a success.

As a result, I was able to finally get my life back on track. I have been seizure-free for almost two years now. I now have a driver's license. I no longer have to depend on anyone to take care of me. I can now enjoy doing all the things I like to do. I wanted to help and give back as a way to say thank you. Dr. Arce and Dr. Bautista directed me to the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida. It has become an amazing part of my life and I enjoy volunteering with the Foundation. Even though I no longer suffer with the symptoms of epilepsy, I am still in this with everyone. This has become my life because it is my life. I'm so excited to be able to bless others that are still suffering from epilepsy.



Regina will be receiving EFOF's Champion of the Heart award at its upcoming 'All Shades of Purple Gala' in Jacksonville for her dedication to the organization and being a supportive volunteer and epilepsy advocate.

Check out more Faces of Epilepsy stories [here!](#)

Upcoming Events



Sisters Walk for Epilepsy
Jacksonville | Nov. 4



4th Annual St. Johns Professional Alliance Chili Cook-Off
St. Johns | Nov. 18

Has Your Family Been Affected by Childhood Epilepsy?



If so, you may be interested in the Daisy Study, which is investigating an 'add-on' therapy for infants who are between 1 month old and less than 4 years old, who have been diagnosed with epilepsy.

If you would like more information about this clinical research study, please contact:

- Denise Hubert, Study Administrator, Pediatric Neurology, PA (7485 Sand Lake Commons Blvd., Orlando, FL 32819) at **(407) 293-1122, ext. 226**
- Mayra Ferreira, Study Administrator, Pediatric Epilepsy & Neurology Associates (508 S Habana Ave., Tampa, FL 33609) at **(813) 873- 7367**

Asking for further information does not obligate you to enroll your child in this study; participation is entirely voluntary. Study-related medication, procedures, and visits will be provided at no charge.

To read the Daisy Study brochure, click [HERE](#).

sponsored

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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