



Dear Friends of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida,

We've been hard at work here at the Foundation in pursuit of our mission to stop seizures, find cures and save lives.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida (EFOF) hosted the Florida Pediatric Neuroscience Network Conference for a second-year last month where we were joined by almost 100 of Florida's leading neurologists and epileptologists to help children with epilepsy across the state. Next week, we look forward to visiting Tallahassee for our annual Day at the Capitol to meet with legislators to discuss policy and the importance of statewide epilepsy program funding, as well as honor legislative members who have dedicated themselves to elevating and advancing our organization's advocacy efforts. We also partnered, this past month with our national organization to provide epilepsy training for Florida law enforcement personnel.

Looking forward, we have several upcoming events being held in benefit of our Foundation. Please find a listing in the below Upcoming Events section. We're also gearing up for our Walk the Talk events which will take place across the state beginning in March. For a full schedule of the walks and to register, please see the Walk the Talk section below. We hope to see you at one of these events!

Best wishes for a great month!



Sincerely,

Karen Basha Egozi
Chief Executive Officer
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida

Neurologists, Epileptologists Convene for Florida Pediatric Neuroscience Network Conference



Last month, nearly 100 of Florida's leading neurologists and epileptologists gathered for the Florida Pediatric Neuroscience Network Conference to exchange research, approaches, treatment options, and case studies. Speakers at the event, which included some of the country's top neurologists, shared their learnings and experiences to help move attendees one step closer towards being able to effectively help children with epilepsy across the state of Florida. The focus of this year's event was Tuberous Sclerosis Complex.

Building Partnerships for Epilepsy Education and Awareness for Law Enforcement Personnel



As first responders, law enforcement must assess a situation in a matter of seconds to determine if a person is in danger, breaking the law, under the influence of substances, or needing medical attention. This includes successfully identifying when someone is having a seizure and understanding how to best help them.

In December 2017, EFOF, in partnership with the Epilepsy Foundation of America, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) International, and Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Inc., trained law enforcement officers to provide them with a better understanding of epilepsy and seizures in an effort to help them promote and ensure the safety of an individual in crisis

Find out more about our first responders training efforts [here](#).

Are You Ready to Walk? Register Today!

WALK *the* **TALK** *for* Epilepsy **2018**

JACKSONVILLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 24
METROPOLITAN PARK

DAYTONA

SATURDAY, APRIL 14
*MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE
BEACH PARK*

NAPLES

SATURDAY, APRIL 14
*NORTH COLLIER
REGIONAL PARK*

GAINESVILLE

SATURDAY, APRIL 28
*VETERANS MEMORIAL
PARK*

WEST PALM BEACH

SUNDAY, APRIL 29
*JOHN PRINCE
MEMORIAL PARK*

MIAMI

SATURDAY, MAY 5
TROPICAL PARK

BROWARD

SUNDAY, MAY 6
NORTH BEACH PARK

PENSACOLA

SATURDAY, MAY 19
*COMMUNITY MARITIME
PARK*

Clayton Feig Legacy Fund - Faces of Epilepsy

By: Mailyn Villar



It was a typical pregnancy, every doctor appointment normal and great. My daughter, Annabelle, was born totally healthy; absolutely no issues at all. She met her milestones on time. She was a typical, beautiful little girl that enjoyed playing with her brother, playing with toys, and loved the playground.

Then, a little after she turned a year old, we noticed she would walk and then fall at times, some times more often than others. She began doing a slight shudder that would last 2-3 seconds and would often cause her to fall down/back. We tried to brush

it off, but as time went on, we knew there was something wrong. Then came the doctors: an ENT to rule out an inner ear imbalance; an orthopedic to confirm she was walking okay; and finally, a neurologist. And Annabelle underwent her first EEG. Little did we know at the time this would be the first of many. It is heartbreaking to see your beautiful, vibrant, baby girl connected to so many little transmitters. And then there is the waiting for results. The uncertainty is unnerving. A few days after the first EEG, I got the call from Annabelle's pediatrician that changed our life; confirming she has Idiopathic Childhood Epilepsy. If you've ever been on the receiving end of the line hearing terrible news, you probably understand the flood of emotions that surge in a matter of seconds. Denial, fear, anger... In the hospital, there were talks of more EEG's needed, prescriptions handed out, and doctors bombarding us with instructions. Everything was moving so fast. So many emotions that run through you, like guilt (what did I do wrong while being pregnant?), worry (now what for her future and will she live a normal life?), confusion (what does this mean for her?), but most of all, fear of the unknown. It's so overwhelming.

Read [the rest of Annabelle's story here](#) to see how Mailyn found the support she needed to keep fighting.

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

Upcoming Events



PBSC Gallery Opening
Lake Worth | Feb. 8 - March 30



WPB Quarter Auction
West Palm Beach | Feb. 13



**The Honda Classic
Birdies for Children**
Feb. 19



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.

**M Memorial
Neuroscience Institute**

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7300 N. Kendall Drive, Suite 760, Miami, FL 33156