



Dear Friends of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida,

Spring has almost arrived and it always serves as a good reminder for me that EFOF's Walk the Talk for Epilepsy events are just around the corner! In fact, our first walk will kick off in Jacksonville on Saturday, March 24 at Metropolitan Park. If you're in the area, we hope to see you there as we walk together in pursuit of a cure! EFOF will also host seven more walks across the state in April and May. To find the walk nearest you and register, please check out the "Ready. Set. Walk the Talk!" section of this newsletter.

Coming off the heels of last month's visit to our state capital, I'd be remiss if I didn't share how proud I am of our organization for its ardent advocacy efforts on behalf of the more than 400,000 Floridians impacted by epilepsy. I was inspired not only by the lawmakers we recognized at our annual Purple = Red + Blue ceremony for their advancement of our mission, but by our clients, board members, and staff who walked the halls of the Capitol to advocate for effective public policies and program funding. This support is critical to EFOF's ability to provide assistance to those who need it most, and for that I thank you.

I hope you have a wonderful month!



*Sincerely,*

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

## Advocacy in Action

Last month, EFOF honored the following five Florida lawmakers with its Champions of the Heart award for their individual efforts to help residents and families impacted by epilepsy. At our annual Purple = Red + Blue reception in Tallahassee, board members Daniel Perez, Michael Bowen, Steve Schale, and AJ Fabrizio presented awards to:

- Representative Jeanette Nuñez (R-Miami)
- Representative Ray Rodrigues (R-Estero)
- Representative Cyndi Stevenson (R-St. Augustine)
- Senator Lauren Book (D-Plantation)
- Representative Bryan Avila (R-Hialeah)



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***“These Champions help to uphold funding so our organization can be a conduit of information for our members, improve the general public’s perception of epilepsy, and pursue options that could result in a cure.” - Karen Basha Egozi, EFOF CEO***

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EFOF board members and staff also descended upon our state’s Capitol to meet with legislators to discuss policy and the importance of statewide epilepsy program funding during the Foundation’s annual Day at the Capitol.



## *Ready. Set. Walk the Talk!*

Registration for our 2018 Walk the Talk for Epilepsy events is well underway! Every day, more and more people are supporting us in the fight against epilepsy by signing up to walk.

### ***Will you join us?***

Your walk registration and funds raised through this event will provide critical medical and case management services for those in need, educate the public about this disorder, and help improve the lives of those who are living with epilepsy.

### ***Register today!***



## *South Florida Girl Scouts Spread Epilepsy Awareness*



A group of South Florida Girl Scouts has gone above and beyond to spread epilepsy awareness by making their own short film about the disorder.

The video was made in support of Girl Scout Nina Wallen, who has epilepsy, by her troop. EFOF provided educational materials, but the girls made the video completely on their own. It was even featured at the Coral Gables Cinema last month before a screening of *Napoleon Dynamite*!

[Watch the video here.](#)

## *Clayton Feig Legacy Fund - Faces of Epilepsy*

*By: Jordyn Salbe*



The sun was a huge blazing balloon in the sky, burning down on the soccer field. I started to feel a dizzy sensation, then I got a feeling that I wasn't conscious. It was a terrible reaction; very scary and embarrassing. My parents weren't aware that I had seizures. It was quite a coincidence, but my pediatrician's daughter was on the opposing team. People were shouting my name, but I just stood there with a blank stare. It was like sleeping with your eyes open and you aren't conscious at all. My life completely changed that day. I

went from being a cheerful child and not needing to worry about anything, to having to worry about pills and to tell my parents that I just had a seizure.

A couple of days later, I went to see a neurologist to see if I was actually epileptic. My heart was racing like a rocket ship going one million miles an hour. When I walked into the doctor's office, I was terrified. ...

[Read the rest of Jordyn's story here.](#)

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

## Upcoming Events



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



**It's A Groove Thing**  
Epilepsy Awareness Night  
Ft. Lauderdale | March 10



**Chili Cook Off for Epilepsy**  
Port St. Lucie | April 7

# SUPPORT YOUR EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA

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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](#)

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