From the President

In 2014, the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan adopted a new brand and logo as part of a nationwide effort with our national organization, the Epilepsy Foundation. The new look symbolizes the bold and aggressive stance the Foundation is taking to make a difference for people living with epilepsy and their families.

Our commitment to a world without epilepsy, lives free from seizures is unwavering. We are dedicated to increasing epilepsy awareness; providing education, social support, and self-management tools; increasing available therapies; and advocating for the rights of people with epilepsy. Since 1948, we have been able to achieve our mission in Michigan because of the generous support shown by you and the community. We could not do it without your time, talents, financial support and loyalty.

I want to take this and every opportunity to thank you for your support. We present this Annual Report as part of our commitment to be transparent and to illustrate the impact you have made on our mission. Thank you for doing what you can to change the lives of those affected by epilepsy.

Our Mission

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure, and overcome challenges created by epilepsy.
Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan strives to improve the lives of people with epilepsy. More than 5,000 people received direct services from the Foundation in 2014. The following examples illustrate the level and impact of these services:

- 100% of participants in our Project UPLIFT depression self-management program had reductions in their depression scores; 64% had clinically significant reductions (defined as 5 points or more on the PHQ-9 depression questionnaire). The mean score on the Perceived Stress Scale was reduced by 25% (a statistically significant reduction).
- Over 22,000 people learned more about epilepsy by visiting one or more of the six educational pages in the About Epilepsy section of our website.
- Over 120 teens and parents attended one of seven all-day Teen Transition Workshops provided in collaboration with University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital.
- 645 callers received an average of 26 minutes per call of individualized education and consultation through our Here for You Helpline.
- 50 contacts were made on behalf of 35 clients to help resolve conflicts related to employment, education, benefits, health care, or legal rights through our Individual Advocacy program.
- 84% of Camp Discovery participants reported that camp made them feel better about their epilepsy, and 93% made new friends. In addition, 82% of parents said that their child’s self-esteem increased as a result of camp.
- 96% of participants in the Studio E Art Therapy program indicated that they enjoyed the program and found it to be a valuable experience. In addition, 96% felt more confident in themselves and more willing to engage in new and challenging activities as a result of participation.
- 110 people attended our second annual Celebrating Abilities event. This event showcased the creative talents of over 30 people with epilepsy. 92% of participants agreed that sharing their creative talents at this event increased their self-confidence, and 95% met at least one new person at the event who shared an interest with them.
- Participants in our Wellness & Epilepsy Conference and our Learn & Share Conference Calls had access to over 20 hours of educational content provided by over 25 expert speakers who volunteered to share their knowledge.
- 1,188 educators and other human service professionals learned potentially life-saving seizure recognition and first aid skills through our Seizure Smart training.

**In Your Words: Impact quotes from 2014**

**Camp Discovery**
“Camp Discovery has the perfect name. My daughter discovered that she can have fun & make friends who deal with some of the same issues she deals with. This is an amazing program. The children who attend Camp Discovery are fortunate to have a life changing experience.”

**Studio E Art Therapy**
“It has helped me reach inside and feel things I’ve never felt. I wish this would never end. This was the best decision I’ve ever made.”

**Celebrating Abilities**
“This was a wonderful opportunity for my young daughter to see that there are many people who live and thrive with epilepsy every day.”
“It was an opportunity for participants to feel competent in their talent, and competence builds self-confidence.”

**Learn & Share Conference Calls**
“While I was on my PC, the list of conference calls arrived. As I looked through the list, I felt like a kid in a candy store.”