"Seize your Freedom."

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER RESTORED

Older Americans are once again able to contribute directly to public charities from their individual retirement accounts, thanks to a provision in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R.1424), signed into law on October 3, 2008. The IRA Charitable Rollover tax incentive, which is available through 2009, allows individuals aged 70½ and older to donate up to $100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs to public charities without having to count the distributions as taxable income.
From The President

One of our first-time campers at our Camp Discovery program this year was an 8-year-old named Sara. Sara was a quiet little girl who had been homesick at the start of the week. As part of our camp program, Sara attended an “Ask The Doctor” session, which gave campers the opportunity to talk directly to a physician about their epilepsy in the company of other kids. She was with many other campers and did not seem to be paying attention. She then leaned over and quietly said to one of her counselors, “Even princesses have epilepsy.”

There’s no arguing with that.

We meet princesses (and princes, too) every day who struggle with epilepsy. Those that attend Camp Discovery for the first time meet other kids with epilepsy, and for many it’s also the first time they see someone having a seizure. But Camp Discovery is but one of our many programs and services that offer life-changing experiences for people with epilepsy and their families from around the state. These offerings provide opportunities to meet new friends, share stories and ensure that people with seizures are able to participate in all life experiences.

It’s because of all the princesses and princes who have epilepsy that we continue working to empower their independence. But we don’t do it alone. The programs and services we offer are the result of people like you, who care enough to support the work we do on behalf of those with epilepsy. Your gift is vital to our pursuit of eliminating the stigma associated with epilepsy.

Sure, princesses have epilepsy too, but your generosity ensures that Sara and other kids with epilepsy living in Michigan have every opportunity to lead as normal and productive a life as their condition will allow. By giving to the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan, you’re allowing us to continue our vision of empowering those with epilepsy to live independent and productive lives.

Please use the enclosed return envelope to send your gift. We thank you for your generous support.

Not another moment should be lost to seizures™

Sincerely,

Arlene S. Gorelick, MPH
President

PS. On the back page, we have summarized some of our programs that we will offer next year. We’ve also added a donation form for your use in making a gift this year. Your gift will help us achieve these programs and continue assisting families like yours and Sara’s.

PLANNED GIVING

Does your estate plan provide for your favorite charitable organization?

With some preparation today, you can ensure the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan continues to provide quality products and services to our consumers beyond your lifetime through bequests and estate planning.

Please consult with your attorney or tax consultant for more information, or contact the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan at (800) 377-6226.
Brian Arndt: “Seize your freedom.”

My name is Brian Arndt. I’m 18 years old and I’ve had epilepsy all my life. For the last three years, the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan has been a support system for me and my family. I’ve met many other teen-agers who have epilepsy while participating in many of the Foundation’s programs, including the Epilepsy Entertainment Gatherings, Teen-To-Teen Support Group, Family Weekend Retreat and Camp Discovery. These events give me and others like me the chance to feel like we’re a part of something. Many of us can’t drive because of our epilepsy, so these kinds of gatherings give us the opportunity to feel good about ourselves.

There are times when people don’t understand epilepsy. Some parents have even kept their kids away from me because they think it’s contagious. That makes me feel horrible. Some people even think that epilepsy is something that just little kids get. It’s not. Epilepsy is something that people of all ages live with everyday, and we still get up each day and continue on. Epilepsy is something I’ll have probably all my life. Other teen-agers go off to college and go out and earn money on their own and take care of themselves and live successful lives. Well, when you have epilepsy, you don’t have the options that other people have.

But the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan has provided things for me to do and people to talk to and other kids to have fun with. I was even a Junior Counselor at camp this year. The Foundation also named me one of their Terrific Teens. I was very happy and very proud of that. After I received the award at the Flame of Hope, I held it in my grasp the whole night—even in the car on the way home. That was a special night.

I’ve learned through the Foundation that I’m not unique; that I’m not the only one with this condition. They’ve given me a voice and a chance to do things that I probably wouldn’t have been able to do. Without the Foundation’s support, I know I wouldn’t have been able to be involved in as much as I have. I also know that it’s because of people like you, who donate to the Foundation, that I am able to do these things. The Foundation’s motto is “Not another moment lost to seizures.” Well, my personal motto is “Seize your freedom.”

I refuse to let epilepsy hold me back. I am in control of my future and have so much more to experience. And with the help from people like you, the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan will allow me to continue to do just that.

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I would like to support the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan by making a gift in the amount of:

- $25
- $50
- $75
- $100
- $_______

I would prefer to give on a yearly basis.

I would like to contribute $_______ for ______ years.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Personal/Cashiers Check made payable to the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.
- Please charge my Visa/Mastercard #________________________ Exp.________ CVV#________
- Please invoice me for my donation/pledge at:
  
  Name: ____________________________
  Address: __________________________
  City, State, Zip: __________________

TRIBUTE OPTIONS:

My donation is: ☐ in memory of ☐ in honor of ________________________________

If you would like an acknowledgement sent, please fill out the enclosed envelope with the name and address of the recipient where it states “Please Notify.”

Questions or other ideas to share? Please contact Brianna Romines at (800)377-6226, option 1, ext.217
EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN: PROGRAMS & SERVICES

To help meet the needs of people with epilepsy in Michigan, the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan offers programs and services that empower people with epilepsy to manage their conditions and reach their goals. The Foundation also helps to build a society that understands and supports them in their efforts.

**CAMP DISCOVERY** provides youth with epilepsy a safe, structured and encouraging home away from home for 5 days and 4 nights. Staff includes Foundation personnel, pediatric neurologists, experienced camp counselors and registered nurses.

**EPILEPSY TODAY CONFERENCES** are designed for individuals with epilepsy, their families and others whose lives are touched by epilepsy. There are numerous topics that are covered during the event, and some attendees may even be eligible for continuing education units.

**EPILEPSY ENTERTAINMENT GATHERINGS (EEG)** is a program that offers social events for individuals with epilepsy and their families. These events are an excellent opportunity to meet others affected by epilepsy and have a great time while doing so.

**THE FLAME OF HOPE** event helps the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan give thanks to a few of the many individuals that help us achieve our goals. The Flame of Hope is much more than just a symbol attached to our logo. The Flame of Hope represents the spirit in which we reach out to those affected by epilepsy and their families every day.

**WINNING KIDS** serve as shining examples of how through daily struggles and challenges, each child can make significant strides and accomplishments.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan's **TERRIFIC TEENS** are active in their communities and serve as representatives and sources of inspiration to other teens affected by epilepsy in Michigan.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan’s **YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL** is an opportunity for young adults, ages 18-25 to develop leadership qualities while furthering the mission of the Epilepsy Foundation. Members become active, dynamic leaders in their communities. Next year, the Council plans to implement initiatives to improve employment prospects for youth and young adults with epilepsy.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan’s **SUMMER STROLL FOR EPILEPSY™** is an inspirational walk through some of Michigan’s most picturesque locations. There are multiple Strolls scheduled for 2009, with the aim being to raise awareness about epilepsy while raising much needed funds for the Foundation. Held every year on “Fat Tuesday,” the **MARDI GRAS GALA** is our New Orleans-themed black-tie event where corporations who support our mission join us for an unforgettable evening.