

Summer Stroll  
for Epilepsy™



I joined the fight to end epilepsy!



**EPILEPSY  
FOUNDATION**  
Michigan

## Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan was built on a foundation of empowerment, hope, and that together, we can persevere through epilepsy and its challenges. Like each year before, 2017 presented triumphs and challenges. But the “thing” that sticks out the most is, how at every turn, we were reminded of the bravery that exists among the epilepsy community.

For some of you, bravery is shown in your daily struggle to manage your seizures, find the right medications, and fight through side effects. It takes bravery to look epilepsy head on and tell it “I will win.” Bravery is exhibited each time you remind those around you that, although you might have epilepsy, epilepsy does not define you.

For others, being brave means loving and supporting someone with epilepsy, never knowing when the next seizure may happen. And let’s not forget those who have lost someone to a seizure; those who wake up each day and find the strength to move forward in life without their loved one - that is bravery.

We want you to know how much we, the Foundation, admire you. Whether you are a donor, volunteer, sponsor, client, a friend - let me take this opportunity to remind you how much you matter to our mission. In our quest to lead the fight to stop seizures, you are the fighters...you are the brave.



BRIANNA ROMINES, MPA

# OUR MISSION

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan leads the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives.

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## 2017 PROGRAM IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS: HOW WE CHANGE LIVES

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN STRIVES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY. MORE THAN 6,500 PEOPLE RECEIVED DIRECT SERVICES FROM THE FOUNDATION IN 2017. THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATE THE LEVEL AND IMPACT OF THESE SERVICES:

- 801 client calls were received on our **Here for You Helpline** with an average of 25 minutes per call of individualized education and consultation.
- Our **PROGRESS Toward Wellness** program, an epilepsy self-management program, was continued throughout 2017. A total of 642 coaching calls were made to assist 40 program participants in developing and implementing Individual Wellness Plans that focused on one or more of the following areas: Stress, Sleep, Depression, Medication Management, and Memory & Thinking. As a group, participants experienced *statistically significant* improvements in daytime sleepiness, sleep quality, physical symptoms, depression, stress, cognitive function, and quality of life. At program completion, 90% of participants intended to continue using the Individual Wellness Planning process to help them manage their epilepsy and their health.
- 37 contacts were made on behalf of 30 clients to help resolve conflicts related to employment, education, insurance benefits, health care, or legal rights through our **Individual Advocacy** program.
- 85% of campers agreed that **Camp Discovery** helped them feel more independent than they did before camp. 100% of parents agreed that Camp Discovery increased or reinforced their belief that exercise is valuable and safe for their child. 89% of parents said that their camper's self-esteem increased as a result of Camp Discovery.
- We held our first ever **Back to School Conference**, an educational opportunity that focused on readying students with epilepsy for a successful school year. 92% of attendees agreed that, by talking with other conference attendees, they learned something new about epilepsy or related issues. 91% of attendees agreed that, as a result of attendance, they intend to change at least one aspect of how they manage epilepsy or its consequences.
- 89% of attendees of the **Wellness & Epilepsy Conference** indicated that their knowledge of epilepsy and related issues increased as a result of attending. 86% of attendees agreed that, by talking with other conference attendees, they learned something new about epilepsy or related issues. 82% of attendees agreed that, as a result of attendance, they intend to make at least one positive change in their behavior to promote improved health.
- Participants in our Wellness & Epilepsy Conference, Back to School Conference, and our monthly **Learn & Share Conference Calls** had access to over 29 hours of educational content provided by 52 expert speakers who volunteered to share their knowledge.
- 1,602 educators and other human service professionals learned potentially life-saving seizure recognition and first aid skills through our **Seizure Smart** Seizure Recognition and First Aid Training.
- 18,971 people learned more about epilepsy by visiting one or more of the six educational pages in the **About Epilepsy** section of our website.

# 2017 FINANCIAL DATA: BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF YOUR SUPPORT

FULL FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND 990 AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AND ON OUR WEBSITE:  
WWW.EPILEPSYMICHIGAN.ORG

Statements of Financial Position As of December 31, 2017 and 2016			Statements of Activities For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016		
	2017	2016	Support & Revenue	2017	2016
Cash & cash equivalents	\$202,794	\$117,567	United Way designations	\$27,809	\$29,797
Investments	199,646	184,764	Revenue from governmental agencies	58,048	33,340
Contributions receivable	32,745	34,710	Foundation & corporate grants	230,250	159,050
Prepaid expenses & deposits	21,062	14,723	Special event revenues (net)	385,044	340,402
Property & equipment, net	3,751	578	Contributions & bequests	209,517	211,987
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$459,998</b>	<b>\$352,342</b>	Program service fees	43,080	34,293
			Investment income	13,947	6,046
Line of credit & trade payables	\$8,940	\$10,614	<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$967,695</b>	<b>\$814,915</b>
Accruals – salaries & benefits	59,351	32,356			
Accruals - other	1,432	1,528			
Deferred revenues	3,767	48,118	<b>Program Expenses</b>		
Deferred rent	18,267	22,394	Individual & family services	\$356,750	\$285,347
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$91,757</b>	<b>\$115,010</b>	Community services	294,081	319,687
			Advocacy & Public Policy	82,501	44,136
Unrestricted net assets	\$357,204	\$231,702	<b>Support Services</b>		
Temporarily restricted	11,037	5,630	Development	9,132	15,235
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$368,241</b>	<b>\$237,332</b>	Administration & general	94,322	97,833
			<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$836,786</b>	<b>\$762,238</b>
<b>Total liabilities &amp; net assets</b>	<b>\$459,998</b>	<b>\$352,342</b>	<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>\$130,909</b>	<b>\$52,677</b>

## IN YOUR WORDS: IMPACT QUOTES FROM 2017

### *Camp Discovery*

“Camp Discovery was life-changing for our daughter and for our family. The care is simply unbelievable, and the staff and volunteers understand how to strike the balance between providing safe, attentive, compassionate care and allowing campers to enjoy all that a camp experience has to offer. As parents, the 24/7 care by someone other than us is something we had never experienced before. Our daughter will be coming back as long as she is able!”

“She thoroughly loved camp! She is much more independent and actually seeks out opportunities to be independent now.”

### *PROGRESS Toward Wellness*

“It was a wonderful program. There were so many different avenues I wouldn’t have begun to think about without you as a coach prompting me and us brainstorming back and forth. I would have never thought of these ideas, and it has greatly improved my life.”

“[The Health Coach] helped me to see that I had the right idea, and I felt so strong about it that you weren’t telling me what to do, but you were giving me the support to keep on trucking and follow through with what I knew was best. That was one of the best things about the program. I would recommend it to someone else.”

“For me going through this for past year and a half, there’s such a difference from then to now. The outlook is so different, even though what happens all the time is pretty much the same. I don’t see that having changed much without the program...It’s helped my mental outlook so much.”

### *Here for You Helpline*

“Reading your response brings tears to my eyes, literally. But not out of sadness, for a change, but for hope... you are quite the asset to the Epilepsy Foundation, I am truly and deeply thankful for you.”

“Because of you guys, I’ve not only found a new doctor who has me on new meds and has me waiting on a bed for video EEG, but it also looks like I have found a new job in the field that I love. I did that because I knew how to interview and I knew how to do my physical, and how to answer questions (and what questions not to answer)...that’s all because of you guys. I wouldn’t have known how to do this without your guidance. I just really wanted to thank both of you. All my friends and family have been a lot of help, but no one’s been as much help as [the Foundation]. I just wanted to pass on a big ol’ thank you – I really couldn’t have done this without you!”

“You have no idea how much it means to me to be able to reach out to you in my time of need. You have gone above and beyond, and I will be forever grateful.”



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## THANK YOU

Because of your support, another person with epilepsy can be filled with hope.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan is leading the fight to stop seizures. We remain focused on our goals: to close the treatment gap between what is being done for people with epilepsy and what should be done, to improve how people with epilepsy are perceived, accepted, and valued in society and to ensure that people with epilepsy and their families have access to full life experiences. When our supporters demonstrate their commitment to the epilepsy community, our organization gets even stronger.



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