We have amazing families within our Foundation community. We recently interviewed Suzette Summerfield about her family's connection to the Foundation and what being part of our community means to them.

How did you first become connected with the Foundation?
A coworker of mine asked me to walk in the Midland Summer Stroll for Epilepsy for her daughter that has epilepsy. This was the first person I knew with epilepsy and was before I knew my own children had epilepsy.

What are your main volunteer roles with the Foundation?
Raising awareness. Helping those with epilepsy find the courage to not be ashamed. Also, providing the support and encouragement to people with epilepsy by educating others about epilepsy and what to do if you encounter someone having a seizure.

How long have you volunteered with the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan?
I've been involved for about 8 years - from the moment my son was diagnosed. He was 11, and he is now 19. The entire family leads 2 major fund raising events. We have a dinner and auction in May and the Awareness Hockey Game in December.

Tell us one of your most memorable moments in your volunteer role.
When visiting various local high schools to educate about epilepsy, a teen approached me afterward in tears saying they didn’t think anyone cared. I had another teen approach me indicating they were having seizures of some kind and were afraid to tell someone.

What would you tell others to encourage them to become volunteers?
I found that volunteering helped turn my frustrations and anger of watching my son have multiple seizures into something positive. For us, volunteering is about helping others, sharing our experiences, sharing our connections, and sharing our ambition for awareness, funding, and ultimately a cure.

What does the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan mean to you?
The Foundation has been so generous with their support. Without the Foundation in our lives, my son would not be what he is today.

To find out about our volunteer opportunities, contact Lauren Parrott at (800) 377-6226 ext 1220 or email at lparrott@epilepsymichigan.org

Volunteers are VITAL! We could not do the work for our community if we did not have amazing volunteers like YOU!