Volunteer Spotlight . . .

Larry & Michele Wagner

We have amazing families within our Foundation community. We recently interviewed Larry and Michele Wagner about their connection to the Foundation and what being part of our community means to them.

How did you first become connected with the Foundation?
When our daughter, Susan, was about 14, her seizures became more frequent and more severe. As a young teenager, she was anxious, and felt rather alone with her seizure issues. She actually found the Foundation online. Both Larry and I took her to our first open house! She found out about Camp Discovery and we have been hooked ever since.

What are your main volunteer roles with the Foundation?
Larry: I have participated for years in the Stroll for Epilepsy™ and the Open Houses. I especially enjoy volunteering at the Toasting Hope Tasting Event – a major fundraiser and have done that for 10 years.

Michele: I have also done the Strolls, and love the Toasting Hope. I have also volunteered in the office with anything that needs to be done.

Both: We really enjoyed passing out literature and communicating with our state legislators when the Foundation hosted its Legislative Breakfast years ago.

Tell us something that would surprise the people you have volunteered with?
Both of us, although we thought we were educated about epilepsy, were amazed at how little we knew. We were not aware of the complexities of epilepsy, the varied degrees of epilepsy and differences in treatments. As we continue our journey of education and raising awareness, we are sure we will continue to learn even more about this mysterious and frustrating disease.

What would you tell others to encourage them to become volunteers?
Volunteers are so important to the Foundation. They welcome all volunteers, and appreciate any time that you can give. We really enjoy meeting others, especially those who have family members with epilepsy. Volunteering is vital to not only raising awareness and demystifying epilepsy, but also providing comfort, sharing stories and creating a common bond to help battle this disease.

What does the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan mean to you?
The Foundation has provided our family with education, tools, and support to help deal with Susan’s epilepsy. She has stated several times that, as a young teen, she felt that the Foundation “saved” her, providing her with support and the feeling that she was not alone in the battle. For this, Larry and I are forever grateful to the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. We have made many friends and will continue our association.

To find out about more volunteer opportunities, contact Lori Brauer at (800) 377-6226 ext 1236 or email at lbrauer@epilepsymichigan.org

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