

## VOLUNTEERSpotlight . . . David & Laura Noonan



**We have amazing families within our Foundation community.  
We recently interviewed David and Laura Noonan 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?

We first heard about the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan when epilepsy hit "home" in 2009. Our son, Dominic had just started medical school in Florida and out of nowhere started to have seizures. No one in our large family had ever had seizures, nor were we one bit familiar with them other than what we had seen on TV.

### What are your main volunteer roles with the Foundation?

Due to our initial lack of knowledge with epilepsy, our main role as volunteers is to help bring awareness on a daily basis to all those we come into contact with; co-workers, friends, members of our Catholic Parish, baseball teammates, etc. even if it's a lighthearted conversation in line at a store with a total stranger. In life, especially in epilepsy, there are no total strangers. Our larger input is to run TEAM ANGEL DR. DOMINIC in the annual Stroll for Epilepsy at the Detroit Zoo to not just raise money for this needed cause, but again to bring awareness to people who unfortunately may one day be exposed to it out of the "blue" just as we were. This past September we attended our first Toasting Hope Tasting Event where we met so many people involved in the Foundation on so many levels. We look forward to attending again this year and "hope" to have others join in.

### Tell us something that would surprise the people you have volunteered with?

We both come from very large families, so the thought of not being more aware of epilepsy is quite mind boggling. Laura is one of nine children, and I am one of eight boys. After being each other's only boyfriend and girlfriend since young teenagers in high school, we got married and set out to beat our parent's records. We had hoped for ten children. God had other plans and blessed us with just one amazing baby boy who weighed in at 11 pounds and was 26 inches long. Laura's oldest sister Nancy is married to my oldest brother Joe and they are Dominic's Godparents.

### What would you tell others to encourage them to become volunteers?

Don't wait until it hits home, because unfortunately chances are it will. 1 out of 26 people will develop epilepsy. Not only will you be helping others in whatever capacity you decide to volunteer (and trust us there are so many opportunities to do so), but you will be educating yourself, while helping others. Isn't that what makes our world a better place?!

### What does the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan mean to you?

Since losing Dominic to SUDEP (sudden unexpected death in epilepsy) in 2015 and laying him to rest on Christmas Eve that year, the Foundation has given us a purpose that we otherwise may not have found. Our devout faith in God, beyond remarkable family, friends, co-workers, teammates, and our "Foundation Family" that truly gets it, all brings us comfort in knowing that they are here for us in any capacity. Their encouragement for us to get involved truly does make us feel like instead of giving up on life, because Dominic was our life, we can go out and make a difference to help the other Dominic's in our magnificent world. 🌟

To find out about more volunteer opportunities,  
contact Kristyn Pedlow at (800) 377-6226 ext 1210 or email at [kpedlow@epilepsymichigan.org](mailto:kpedlow@epilepsymichigan.org)

## MissionOpportunities

### JULY

**July 20-24**  
Camp Discovery



**July 27**  
Grand Rapids Stroll for Epilepsy™



### AUGUST

**August 10**  
Back to School Conference



### SEPTEMBER

**September 26**  
Toasting Hope Tasting Event



### OCTOBER

**October 23**  
OPEN HOUSE

### NOVEMBER

**November 9**  
Wellness & Epilepsy Conference



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