

VOLUNTEER Spotlight... THE MURRAY Family



Family With a Cause
From left to right:
Michael, Claire, Justin,
Quinn, and Terri at this
year's Turkey Trot
With a Cause

Michael Murray and his family volunteer their Thanksgiving morning to help raise awareness and funds for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan with their annual Turkey Trot with a Cause. Here is what Michael offered as his perspective of being a volunteer with a major fundraiser for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

How are you connected to the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan?

We first connected with the Foundation in 2003 when we decided to have a 5K Fun Run/Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning to try and raise money to help in the fight against epilepsy. Our oldest son Justin, who was 6 at the time, had been diagnosed with epilepsy in 2002 when he started having seizures. Justin's seizures were being treated with medication and we thought it would be a good idea to try and help raise awareness and a little money in the fight to stop seizures. In 2007, Justin had brain surgery at the Cleveland Clinic to remove the growth on his right frontal lobe that was causing the seizures. Justin has been seizure free since that time and we are blessed to continue the Turkey Trot in an effort to help. The Turkey Trot has grown from 60-70 runners/walkers to this past Thanksgiving when we had over 1,500 participants. In terms of dollars, we have gone from giving the Foundation a modest donation of \$2,500 to the last few years where the amount going to the Foundation annually is around \$25,000.



Justin after surgery to remove a growth in his right frontal lobe. Such a trooper!

Tell us one of your most memorable moments in your fundraising role?

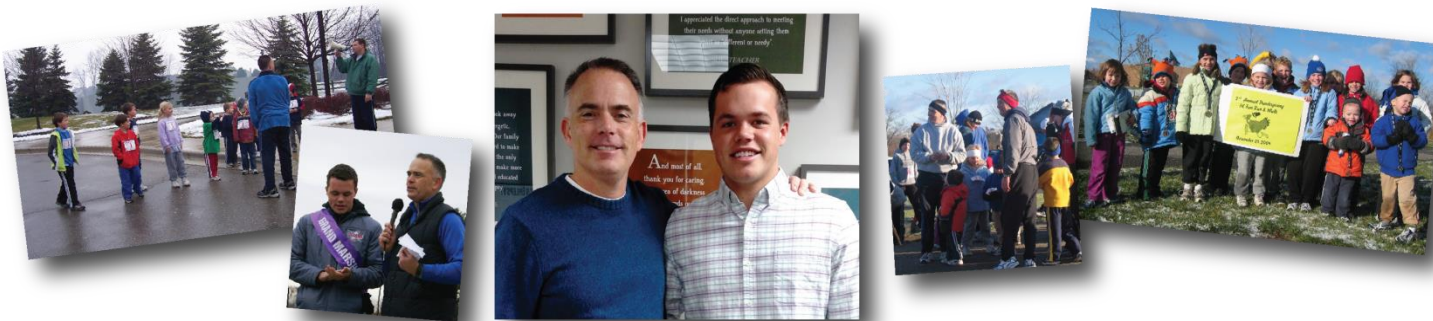
Going over the 1,500 registered participants this year and in 2013 having Bridget Murray as our first Turkey Trot Grand Marshal. The 1,500 speaks for itself and honoring Bridget, who faces the challenges of dealing with seizures on a daily basis for over 30 years was very special. Bridget is one of Michael's 68 first cousins and shares a common birthday with Justin. Bridget was part of the inspiration that started the race back in 2003.

What would you tell others to encourage them to become volunteers in a fundraising capacity? While it is nice to support a cause through a financial gift, volunteering our time has been even more rewarding. We get to spend time with highly motivated and inspirational people as part of a fundraising team working towards something greater than ourselves. Through our volunteer efforts we also have been able to make an even greater impact in the fight against seizures. Finally, over the years it has been a real blessing to watch the event grow beyond our wildest expectations and see so many other families come back year after year for such a worthy cause.



Bridget was the first Turkey Trot Grand Marshal in 2013. She continues to be an inspiration.

What does the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan mean to you? We are very blessed to support the Foundation and work with its dedicated staff members. It gives us a great sense of fulfillment to know that through our volunteer efforts we have raised a significant amount of money and helped the Foundation accomplish its mission in leading the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives.



To volunteer, contact Lori Brauer at
(248) 377-62626, ext 1236 or email at lbrauer@epilepsymichigan.org.

Why we love our volunteers:
Not only do volunteers lend a helping hand; providing valuable support,
they are also some of the biggest advocates for our mission!

MISSION Opportunities

2018

APRIL

April 9-13
VOLUNTEER WEEK!
Email [Lori Brauer](mailto:Lori.Brauer@epilepsymichigan.org) for details!

April 28
Traverse City Summer Stroll for Epilepsy™



JUNE

June 2
Midland Summer Stroll for Epilepsy™



June 9
Kalamazoo Summer Stroll for Epilepsy™



June 23
Metro Detroit Summer Stroll for Epilepsy™



June 25
Paul Neu Golf Classic



JULY

July 14
Lansing Summer Stroll for Epilepsy™



July 28
Grand Rapids Summer Stroll for Epilepsy™



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