

VOLUNTEER Spotlight . . . CHERI Compton

Cheri Compton is one of our newest volunteers with the Foundation and she gave us some insight on why she volunteers for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

Tell us about your volunteer role with the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan?

I am hosting Coffee Shop Meet Ups in Holland, Michigan. I began scheduling Meet Ups in May 2017. What I love about helping with the Meet Ups is meeting new people and the fact that we can all relate to each other. Talking about our own experiences with epilepsy isn't easy, but the fact that we have this in common seems to let everyone be open about themselves. At the first Meet Up I hosted, my favorite memory is the smiles that I saw as the participants and I first connected in person. I also participated in the 2017 Summer Stroll for Epilepsy in Grand Rapids. The Summer Stroll was great! (So was dancing with Darth Vader, who was there with other characters!).



Enjoying the Grand Rapids Summer Stroll for Epilepsy with Brianna Romines, President of the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan, and Brian Sterling, of Wood TV8.

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

I have been volunteering through different groups for a long time. I find a deep fulfillment from it. My seizures started when I was 27 years old and the effects of them on my life have made me feel like I'm not contributing to a lot of things. As I was struggling with anxiety and depression, I wished I had people to talk to. There are no support groups for epilepsy in Holland. As I learned about the Meet Ups, I loved the idea of a casual meeting that people can chat. Being able to provide an opportunity for others that know what struggling with seizures is like has been a happy experience. Volunteering with the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan also gives me a way to spread

information about seizures. For those who aren't familiar with epilepsy, they are surprised to hear how common it is. I hope my volunteer efforts help those who live with epilepsy and help raise awareness of seizures. I would love to see awareness spread so that funding and resources are readily available to spur research and seizure treatment options.

How did you first become connected to the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan?

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan offers a lot of information about epilepsy. When I started having seizures in 2012, I used the Foundation's website to learn about seizures and the resources that may be available. I like the help that is offered by the Foundation's staff. I learned about the Meet Ups when I first made contact. I attended the Wellness & Epilepsy Conference in 2017 and loved it as well.

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

Something surprising: Maybe that I am a tax preparer and love going to rock/metal concerts with my sister! My seizures started as I was completing my Bachelor's degree in Accounting. My career plans and goals completely changed. I found it really difficult to pursue my Master's degree, CPA certifications, internships, and job searching. I really try not to let seizures stop me. Seizures may change how I do things and can be difficult, but don't stop me. I actively volunteer at my children's school and am a member on a hospital advisory council also.

What does the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan mean to you?

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan means a lot of things to me. The Foundation is a resource for information and an organization that offers advocacy for people. The amount of information that is available is incredible. The advocacy for the rights of people who have seizures is amazing. The staff at the Foundation have been nothing but incredible as well. Everything the Foundation is doing is focused on how to help others in a variety of ways.

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™



Join us on Facebook and Twitter!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our Summer Stroll for Epilepsy happens because of our volunteers!

Volunteer at one of our 6 locations.

Traverse City – April 28th

Midland – June 2nd

Kalamazoo – June 9th

Detroit – June 23rd

Lansing – July 14th

Grand Rapids – July 28th

Email lbrauer@epilepsymichigan.org to volunteer today!

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!

If you'd like to Make a DONATION Click Here