



Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

To have a “heart of gold”; it is defined as “a very kind and good nature” and “alludes to gold in the sense of ‘something valued for its goodness’.” That is how we would sum up the extraordinary support that took place in 2019. Two incredible organizations, each with a history of supporting worthy causes, chose the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan to be their beneficiary. Yes- two in one year. We were awarded exclusive awareness opportunities and large financial gifts from Michigan’s Fraternal Order of Eagles and East Grand Rapids School District’s “Hearts of Gold” Campaign (pictured above). Awareness and funding: two absolutely essential components needed to carry out our mission. We are grateful for these gifts, and all gifts, we are honored to receive. Each gift means another person with epilepsy will no longer feel isolated, another family will get to send their child with epilepsy to camp, another student will have a teacher that is Seizure First Aid trained, and another family will feel the comfort and love of our community in the wake of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP).



BRIANNA ROMINES, MPA

Without question, 2019 was a special year. And while we can make the argument that every year where we are able to make a transformational impact on the lives of those living with epilepsy is special, 2019 was remarkable. We were able to bear close witness to those who have “hearts of gold”, and it was truly something to behold.

2019 MISSION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS: HOW WE CHANGE LIVES

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN STRIVES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY. THE FOUNDATION SERVED MORE THAN 6,410 PEOPLE IN 2019.

THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATE HOW THE MISSION IS AT WORK IN PEOPLE'S LIVES:

- 661 client calls were received on our **Here for You Helpline** with an average of 21 minutes per call of individualized education and consultation.
- 55 contacts were made on behalf of 34 clients to help resolve conflicts related to employment, education, health care, or legal rights through our **Individual Advocacy** program.
- 64 children with epilepsy attended **Camp Discovery** at no cost through our partnership with North Star Reach. This partnership also allowed an additional 20 teens with epilepsy to attend **Solstice Camp** with other teens who have chronic health conditions. 100% of parents agreed that their camper's self-image, social interaction with peers, openness about their epilepsy, and willingness to try new things improved as a result of attending camp.
- 100% of attendees at our second annual **Epilepsy Innovation Conference** indicated that their knowledge of epilepsy and epilepsy-related innovations increased as a result of attending. 88% of **Wellness & Epilepsy Conference** attendees agreed that, by talking with other conference attendees, they learned something new about epilepsy or related issues. 91% of **Back to School Conference** attendees agreed that, as a result of attendance, they intend to change at least one aspect of how they manage epilepsy or its consequences.
- Over 741 hours were dedicated to the **Michigan Pediatric Epilepsy Project**, a collaborative grant with Children's Special Health Care Services that is focused on improving epilepsy care and outcomes for children and youth with epilepsy in rural and underserved areas.
- Awareness of **SUDEP** (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) was raised through SUDEP Institute exhibits at 9 conferences and events. In addition, through our advocacy, a new form was added to the Michigan State Medical Examiner Database that will now allow us to capture data on seizure-related deaths in Michigan.
- 641 participants in our Epilepsy Innovation Conference, Wellness & Epilepsy Conference, Back to School Conference, and monthly **Learn & Share Conference Calls** had access to 35 hours of educational content provided by 53 expert speakers who volunteered to share their knowledge.
- Recorded conference presentations and Learn & Share Conference Calls on our **YouTube channel** were viewed over 11,000 times.
- 28 adults with epilepsy discussed epilepsy-related challenges and strategies for managing them through our weekly **Call & Connect Network** sessions.
- Through 16 phone sessions, 13 adults with epilepsy completed one of our phone-based epilepsy self-management programs (**PACES in Epilepsy or Project UPLIFT**). For Project UPLIFT, which is focused on managing depression, 89% of participants experienced improved depression scores, and 56% had *clinically significant* improvements in depression scores.
- 1,811 educators and other human service professionals learned potentially life-saving seizure recognition and first aid skills through our **Seizure Recognition and First Aid Training**.
- Our 2019 **Challenge of the Year** program focused on "Brain Health Awareness." Information about this topic was integrated into our existing programming (e.g. conferences, Learn & Share Conference Calls, etc.), social media messaging, and website. In addition, we conducted a survey on brain health awareness, and created and disseminated a report based on survey findings.
- The Foundation was able to harness the power of statewide, donated **Media Coverage** with 32 story placements on television, radio, print and electronic media in seven major markets within Michigan.

2019 FINANCIAL DATA: BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF YOUR SUPPORT

FULL FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND 990 AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AND ON OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.EPILEPSYMICHIGAN.ORG

Statements of Financial Position As of December 31, 2019 and 2018			Statements of Activities For the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018		
	2019	2018	Support & Revenue	2019	2018
Cash & cash equivalents	\$291,560	\$194,029	United Way designations	\$17,081	\$32,980
Investments	524,878	282,068	Revenue from governmental agencies	36,396	40,933
Contributions receivable	17,324	43,820	Foundation & corporate grants	114,775	179,100
Prepaid expenses	31,556	22,367	Special event revenues (net)	393,967	407,072
Property & equipment, net	4,453	4,263	Contributions & bequests	583,016	217,359
Total assets	\$869,771	\$546,547	Program service fees	14,541	12,741
			Investment income (loss)	40,843	(12,748)
Trade payables	\$6,521	\$1,694	Total revenue	\$1,200,619	\$877,437
Accruals – salaries & benefits	64,425	59,827			
Accruals - other	14,484	7,011	Program Expenses		
Deferred revenues	12,234	8,011	Individual & family services	\$323,914	\$328,297
Deferred rent	4,469	12,276	Community services	417,556	287,016
Total liabilities	\$102,133	\$88,819	Advocacy & Public Policy	40,045	68,293
			Support Services		
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$756,124	\$439,731	Development	10,715	8,502
Net assets with donor restrictions	11,514	17,997	Management & general	98,479	95,842
Total net assets	\$767,638	\$457,728	Total expenses	\$890,709	\$787,950
Total liabilities & net assets	\$869,771	\$546,547	Change in net assets	\$309,910	\$89,487

IN YOUR WORDS: IMPACT QUOTES FROM 2019

Our Team

“Thank you for all the hard work and dedication you provide to so many people whose lives you touch on a daily basis, including ours.”

Camp Discovery

“He just comes home on a high, feels good, and is happy. This is not what he experiences at school, so it is a magical five days in his life.”

“[My daughter] said ‘someone would have a seizure and go to the clinic, and after a short while a bunch of us would go check on them and bring them back to join the activities.’ It was very heartwarming and a part of camp that helped normalize the episodes.”

“You don't realize the stress a chronic condition has on your family until you pull that out of the equation. When we send our camper to family members overnight, there is still that fear that she is not taken care of in the way we take care of her. By being able to send her to [camp], a weight was lifted off our shoulders and we could breathe again.”

Epilepsy Innovation Conference

“In 1977...I served on the Commission for the Control of Epilepsy and Its Consequences. Now at age 91, I rather felt a need to learn how things have moved (or not) in the field. I was pleased to learn much progress has been made, and still much needs to be done for patients with epilepsy. I am very impressed with the EFM. A superb conference!”

Seizure First Aid Training

“Thank you so much for sharing your expertise in epilepsy with our staff yesterday. I know it was a long trip and we appreciate the time you took with us. I think we all feel more comfortable and prepared in the event of a seizure at school. We will try not to wait as long to schedule our next training session!”

Project UPLIFT (phone-based depression and epilepsy self-management program)

“I got to hear about everybody's problems and discover that they're going through the same things I am. It's not just 'poor me' and I'm 'the only one.' And I can talk to people about what I'm experiencing. When I get to that wall where I can't see anything else in sight to help me out, I now have new techniques to use to help me get over it and find my way back into the light.”

OUR MISSION

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan leads the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives.

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THANK YOU

Because of your support, another person with epilepsy can be filled with hope.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan is leading the fight to stop seizures. We remain focused on our goals: to close the treatment gap between what is being done for people with epilepsy and what should be done, to improve how people with epilepsy are perceived, accepted, and valued in society and to ensure that people with epilepsy and their families have access to full life experiences. When our supporters demonstrate their commitment to the epilepsy community, our organization gets even stronger.



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