

2023

ANNUAL
REPORT



EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN

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WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT?

EMBRACING OUR LEGACY & FORGING NEW PATHWAYS

By Andrea Schotthoefer, President-Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan

In 2023, the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan celebrated its 75th Anniversary! For nearly eight decades, the Foundation has been a cornerstone of support for people in Michigan who are affected by epilepsy. As we reflect on this milestone, we acknowledge how far we've come since our inception – growing our team, expanding services, educating thousands of individuals on seizure recognition and first aid, and advocating for the rights and well-being of the epilepsy community. These reflections reveal the impact we've had and emphasize how important it is to honor and embrace our legacy while forging new pathways.

As part of our ongoing commitment to build from our legacy and enhance the lives of individuals and families living with epilepsy, we launched a Needs Based Assessment Survey in October 2023. The objective of this assessment is to better understand the needs of people with epilepsy in the state of Michigan. The survey findings are instrumental in guiding the following outcomes: identifying personal needs, customizing support services, and advocating for change. With the data collected, the Foundation is reflecting on how we can better serve these needs of our community in the coming years.

As we finalize the 2023 Annual Report, we take a moment to reflect on our journey and the impact we've made together. Our mission to improve lives through education, advocacy, and connection remains at the heart of everything we do. Each step forward deepens our commitment, fueled by the resilience and strength of those we serve. While new challenges may emerge, our unity empowers us to drive meaningful change, shaping a brighter future for our community.

Standing with you - Andrea



HOW WE CHANGE LIVES

Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan works to ensure that no one faces epilepsy alone.
This section illustrates how the mission is at work in people's lives.

- 1,287 client interactions were received on our **Here for You Helpline** for individualized education, consultation, and support.
- 42 contacts were made on behalf of 28 clients to help resolve conflicts related to employment, education, health care, or legal rights through our **Individual Advocacy** program.
- 15 campers (ages 7-15), attended **Camp Phoenix** at no cost through our partnership with Camp Duncan and the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago. This partnership allowed campers to bond with one another and enjoy a variety of outdoor activities.
- 280 community members attended our **Epilepsy Innovation Conference, Back to School Conference, and Wellness & Epilepsy Conference**. Thanks to educational content from 37 expert speakers who volunteered to share their knowledge, the community received 26 hours of educational content and were provided opportunities to connect socially. For the Wellness & Epilepsy Conference, 99% of attendees rated the conference as "excellent" or "good." For the Epilepsy Innovation Conference, 100% of attendees shared that "as a result of attending this conference, my knowledge of epilepsy and related issues increased."
- Through 38 presentations, 1,433 educators and other human service professionals received **Seizure Recognition and First Aid Training** and learned potentially life-saving skills to care for seizures.
- Over 1,152 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.
- 8 teenagers completed **E-SMART (Epilepsy Self-Management, Advocacy, & Resilience for Teens)** in the summer. This 6-week, Zoom-based program brought together teens with epilepsy who focused on building knowledge, skills, and goal setting while providing peer support. Teens shared, "I learned more about epilepsy and how to live with it," and, "The program made me feel seen and related to in my experiences."
- Through 8 phone sessions, 8 adults completed **Project UPLIFT**, a phone-based, epilepsy self-management program focused on the management of depression. After participating in Project UPLIFT, the large majority of participants experienced improvements on scored assessments for depression and anxiety.

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- The **Call & Connect Network** provided opportunities to learn about epilepsy and connect in support. 27 Adults with Epilepsy, 33 Parents of People with Epilepsy, 26 Young Adults with Epilepsy, 11 Older Adults and Caregivers, and 10 teens with Epilepsy discussed epilepsy-related challenges and strategies for managing them through our weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly Call & Connect Network sessions.
- **Optimizing Health Outcomes for Older Adults with Epilepsy**, a grant project funded by Michigan Health Endowment Fund, was completed with impacts that will continue to sustain and support, education, and outreach toward older adults with epilepsy and their caregivers.
- The **Big Brain**, an educational tool that teaches about epilepsy and brain health, was present at two Strolls for Epilepsy™ and was featured at the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City, where over 7,500 people walked through the brain and learned about epilepsy, seizure safety, and how to care for brain health.
- The **2023 Challenge of the Year** was entitled, "Breaking Barriers." Information about this topic was integrated into our existing programming (e.g., Conferences, Call & Connect Network, etc.), social media messaging, and website.
- The Foundation was able to harness the power of statewide, donated **Media Coverage** with 18 story placements on television, radio, print and electronic media in 4 major markets within Michigan as well as nationally.
- The Foundation distributed its **2023 Epilepsy Needs Assessment Survey** in October. There were 424 respondents that completed the study, including people diagnosed with epilepsy, their family members, and their friends.



ELEVATING YOUR VOICE

Our mission is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives.



2023 Challenge of the Year

"My thanks and I hope others will thank you for Breaking Barriers. I have learned how to live with epilepsy, dealing with the stigma associated with epilepsy and the comfort to openly speak to others about my epilepsy journey."

Camp

"My son loves camp! He loves to be with kids who are like him."

Here for You Helpline

"Thank you for stepping far beyond the norm and sharing your heart so that mine could heal."

Project UPLIFT

"I feel more positive about me. I understand I must put myself first. I find time each day to reflect on myself and clear my mind. It helps so much with getting through health and social challenges."

Call and Connect Network

"We have a common thread, and it's epilepsy. It's the things we go through: It's seizure activity, not driving, and all the things that are associated. And the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan is the only game in town, because we can't get this kind of support just anywhere."

"Thank you for such a beautiful gift you have given me – this gift of, 'Here, you can borrow my belief in you until you can find your own again.' Thank you for your kindness."

Epilepsy Innovation Conference


"Excellent, high-quality speakers!"

Wellness & Epilepsy Conference

"I had a blast! I got to be with people – my people."

E-SMART

"I liked meeting new people and learning that certain places can accommodate my epilepsy."



BEING A GOOD STEWARD

Full Financial Summary and 990 available upon request and on our website: www.epilepsymichigan.org

Statements of Financial Position As of December 31, 2023, and 2022			Statements of Activities For the years ended December 31, 2023, and 2022		
	2023	2022		2023	2022
Cash & cash equivalents	\$646,928	\$994,623	Support & Revenue		
Investments	1,562,352	856,195	United Way designations	\$9,824	\$12,726
Contributions receivable	28,703	28,293	Revenue from governmental agencies	62,770	39,505
Prepaid expenses	19,220	21,405	Foundation & corporate grants	144,500	122,500
Property & equipment (net)	23,684	33,390	Special event revenues (net)	356,098	371,987
Operating right-of-use asset	111,668	173,712	Contributions & bequests	680,930	707,162
Total assets	\$2,392,555	\$2,107,618	Program service fees	2,960	1,935
Trade payables	57,056	40,356	Investment income (loss)	110,759	(97,732)
Accruals – salaries & benefits	86,429	53,624	Paycheck Protection Program Income	0	101,815
Accruals - other	14,950	334	Total revenue	\$1,367,841	\$1,259,898
Deferred revenues	0	2,250	Program Expenses		
Operating lease liability current	66,589	64,334	Individual & family services	\$417,028	\$338,562
Operating lease liability – net current	52,196	118,815	Community services	505,530	463,343
Total liabilities	\$277,220	\$279,713	Advocacy & Public Policy	15,140	19,641
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$2,088,812	\$1,750,951	Support Services		
Net assets with donor restrictions	26,523	76,954	Development	17,712	18,289
Total net assets	\$2,115,335	\$1,827,905	Management & general	125,001	113,343
			Total expenses	\$1,080,411	\$953,178
Total liabilities & net assets	\$2,392,555	\$2,107,618	Change in net assets	\$287,430	\$306,720



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CURRENT TEAM MEMBERS

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