

*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.*



*2025 Metro Detroit Stroll for Epilepsy™: Team Incredible JAX*

## MISSION ACTIVITIES *(Indicating the Strategic Planning Objective it supports)*

- ❖ The annual Stroll for Epilepsy™ is the Foundation's largest community-building and fundraising event. This year, the Stroll was held in four cities across the state of Michigan and brought together our community to stand united with all those affected by epilepsy. Each location offered both in-person and virtual participation options, making the event accessible to everyone. One of the new event features this year was the "Advocacy Table", which provided key information on current legislative issues that the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan is championing, encouraging folks to use their voice to contact their representatives and contribute to the conversation. Thank you to everyone who participated in this quarter's Stroll for Epilepsy™! *(Objective 1,3,5)*
  - Traverse City Stroll raised a total of \$19,484.31 (9 teams, 80 people registered, \$7,375 in Sponsorships)
  - Midland Stroll raised a total of \$36,204.74 (9 teams, 121 people registered, \$8,625 in Sponsorships)
  - Metro-Detroit Stroll raised \$159,769.03 (78 teams, 1,583 people registered, \$31,050 in Sponsorships)
  - Grand Rapids Stroll to be held on July 12<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ The annual Paul Neu Memorial Golf Classic was held on Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Railside Golf Club in Byron Center. This was an extra special year as it was the 20th anniversary of the event and marked two decades of Paul's family and friends rallying the West Michigan community in his honor to raise awareness and funds to support those affected by epilepsy. There were 144 golfers who attended, and the event generated an incredible total of \$113,955.57 to support the Foundation. Sponsorship support totaled \$57,590.80, golfer registration generated \$21,475, raffle and 50/50 ticket sales grossed \$4,741, and donations raised \$25,953.78. The event set a new fundraising record while honoring the memory of Paul and his mother, Johanne Neu. *(Objective 1)*

- ❖ From March 24<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>, Renee Roederer and Nicole Fitzpatrick co-facilitated the first **Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)** of the year. Two participants completed the full 6-week series, gaining practical tools to manage epilepsy and other health conditions more effectively. *(Objective 2, 3)*
- ❖ As part of our **Strategic Plan**, the Foundation has created an annual internship for minority college students or recent college graduates, and we are pleased to share that Nour Selmane, the Foundation's former Public Health Intern and a recent graduate of Eastern Michigan University, has joined our team this summer to serve as our Community Engagement Intern. *(Objective 6)*
- ❖ Funded by a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the **Synergy Support Circles Project** trained eight peer leaders to launch in-person support groups for people with epilepsy across a seven-county region. Renee Roederer, Nicole Fitzpatrick, and Nour Selmane led the training on May 7, 14, and 21, covering topics such as trauma-informed care, peer facilitation, creating accessible environments, and leading inclusive, participant-centered discussions. Five groups launched in June; the remaining three will begin in July, with all groups meeting monthly through October. The eight groups include: Detroit Peer Connect with Alecia May; Epilepsy Empowerment Circle with Susan Wagner; Epilepsy Sisterhood Circle with Dr. Elinor Artsy Navon; Neuron Nerds with Terri Wilson; No Paperwork Required with Miguel Teran; Purple Pathways with Carlo Zoccoli; Purple Synergy Gamers Circle with Hadi Abbas; and, WAKE: Working Adults Kicking Epilepsy with Dr. Pamela Harris. *(Objective 3)*
- ❖ On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Renee Roederer served as a panelist for the **University of Michigan-Dearborn Public Health Society**. The panel featured local leaders sharing insights into their public health careers and experiences working in nonprofit and community health settings. *(Objective 2)*
- ❖ The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan premiered the **2025 Epilepsy Innovation Round Table** as a single on-demand video via YouTube on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The Round Table featured three sessions: medical advancements in epilepsy care, transportation challenges and solutions in Southeast Michigan, and a detailed overview of the epilepsy surgery process. The program highlighted both clinical innovation and community advocacy, with contributions from health systems in West Michigan and transportation experts across the state. As of this report, the video has received 158 views. *(Objective 2)*
- ❖ On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Nicole Fitzpatrick represented the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan at the **Trinity Health Epilepsy Symposium** in Grand Rapids, hosting a table for approximately 80 health professionals and sharing about epilepsy-related services and opportunities for collaboration. *(Objective 2,5)*
- ❖ On April 26<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with Corewell Health, Andrea Schotthoefer presented "**Operation EEG Tech: Educate, Empower, Engage**" to over 40 EEG Techs at the **Michigan Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists (MSET) Conference**. This initiative aims to inform EEG techs about the Foundation's programs and services, inspire greater involvement within the epilepsy community, and strengthen the connection between patients and the Foundation. *(Objective 2,5)*
- ❖ During the quarter, Nicole Fitzpatrick led a virtual **Book Club** featuring *Seize the Day: One Girl's Inspirational Story of Growing Up and Learning to Live a Happy, Healthy Life with Epilepsy* by Abby Gustus Alford. Four participants joined the conversation. *(Objective 2,5)*
- ❖ Renee Roederer presented "**Epilepsy 101: Empowering Knowledge, Increasing Care**" to members of Consumers Energy's CapABLE Steering Committee on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 15 employees attended this virtual session, which focused on seizure recognition and first aid, epilepsy inclusion, and Foundation programs. *(Objective 2,5)*
- ❖ The Foundation was featured as the **Community Organization of the Night** at Dow Diamond on May 30<sup>th</sup> as a companion event to the Midland Stroll for Epilepsy™, which took place the next morning. During the baseball game, the Foundation hosted an on-site information table, had our logo prominently displayed throughout the stadium, shared custom announcements over the loudspeaker throughout the evening, and had staff interviewed on radio station, 100.9 the Mitt, to share more about our mission and services. In addition to providing some incredible Mid-Michigan community connections, the evening also created an opportunity for some last-minute promotion of the Stroll and raised \$96 from ticket sales. *(Objective 1,2,5)*

- ❖ The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan welcomed 29 attendees to our office in Southfield for an **Open House** on April 24<sup>th</sup>. This event provided a valuable opportunity for community members affected by epilepsy and supporters to meet with our staff and connect with each other. Enhancing this year’s gathering again, a Seizure Recognition & First-Aid Training session immediately followed the Open House, which attracted 19 participants. The evening was an enriching experience, fostering powerful connection, education, and support for those we serve. *(Objective 3)*
- ❖ This quarter, the Foundation launched a monthly “**Good News Round Up**” on TikTok, with cross-posts to Facebook and Instagram. These short, engaging videos spotlight uplifting updates and upcoming programs, helping the epilepsy community stay connected and informed. *(Objective 2,3)*
- ❖ Over the weekend of May 30<sup>th</sup>, Christensen Law hosted **Alistair’s Sunrise Open**, a tennis tournament benefiting the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan and the Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Alliance. Alistair is a young epilepsy warrior who experienced seizure freedom after undergoing a hemispherectomy. He is now thriving and has found a love for playing tennis. *(Objective 1,5)*
- ❖ A **Foundation Overview** took place on May 8<sup>th</sup> with Alyx Newton presenting to the physicians at Trinity Health IHA Medical Group. The presentation focused on the ways that physicians and the Foundation can work together to best support those living with epilepsy, especially the newly diagnosed. *(Objective 2, 5)*
- ❖ On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Board Member Kelly Kiss hosted a Foundation exhibit table at the at the **Michigan PTA Annual Conference**. The event brought together parents, teachers, administrators, nurses, and students from across Michigan. *(Objective 2, 5)*
- ❖ On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Shannon Waid and Heather Carr brought the Foundation’s **Big Brain** exhibit to the 2025 Mental Health and Wellness Fair in Plymouth-Canton. They shared epilepsy education, brain health information, and Foundation resources with over 200 attendees of all ages. *(Objective 2,3,5)*
- ❖ On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Renee Roederer attended the **Michigan Association of School Nurses Conference**, where more than 300 school nurses from across the state gathered. She hosted an informational table to share educational resources and epilepsy support services available through the Foundation. *(Objective 2,5)*
- ❖ During the quarter, Community Engagement Intern Nour Selmane hosted a Foundation exhibit table at the **Eastern Michigan University Health Fair** in Ypsilanti. The event aiming to provide health education, screenings, and access to health resources for the EMU community was attended by over 100 participants. *(Objective 2, 5)*
- ❖ For the second year in a row, Lansing Catholic High School hosted an **Epilepsy Awareness Softball Game** on May 25<sup>th</sup>, in honor of a player on the team who is living with epilepsy. The game raised \$544 to support the Foundation’s programming and services. *(Objective 2, 5)*
- ❖ Hutchinson, a local company, hosted a **Charity BBQ** for its staff on June 25<sup>th</sup>, with donated proceeds to benefit the Foundation. Coworkers rallied in support of their team member who has a child with epilepsy and raised \$842 in donations. *(Objective 1)*
- ❖ The **Individual Advocacy Program** assisted with 21 interactions made on behalf of 19 people with epilepsy and their family members. These statistics represent a 24% increase in interactions and a 36% increase in individuals served compared to the second quarter in 2024. *(Objective 2)*
- ❖ The **Call & Connect Network** included five different groups in the quarter. **Adults with Epilepsy**, which takes place via Zoom, brought together 13 participants in this weekly discussion group. There were 11 meetings with the average number of participants per meeting being 7. The **Young Adult Group**, which takes place via Zoom, brought together 10 participants in this bi-weekly group. There were 6 meetings with an average of 6 participants per meeting. The **Parent Group**, which takes place via Zoom, brought together 15 participants in this bi-weekly group. There were 13 meetings with an average of 2 participants per meeting. The **Older Adult & Caregiver Group**, which takes place via Zoom, brought together 9 participants in this weekly group. There were 13 meetings with an average of 5 participants per meeting. The **UP Virtual Meetup Group**, which takes place via Zoom, brought together 4 participants in this monthly group. There were 3 meetings with an average of 1 participant per meeting. *(Objective 3)*

- ❖ During the quarter, in partnership with Andrea Thomas, MA, LLP, Psychologist at Henry Ford Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, the Foundation held three sessions of the **Mindfulness Moments** initiative. There were 16 people attending with an average of 12 participants per session. This is a monthly opportunity for epilepsy community members to meet one another and practice mindfulness and meditation together. *(Objective 3)*
- ❖ The **Here for You Helpline** assisted the epilepsy community with 315 interactions during the quarter. This is a similar number of interactions compared to the second quarter of 2024. Interactions during the quarter resulted in 90 hours of staff time being contributed with an average call time of 17 minutes per contact. As a result of the departure of the Foundation's Helpline Assistant, this represents a decrease in time compared to last year's second quarter. *(Objective 2, 3, 4, 5)*
- ❖ During the quarter, there were 844 new contacts entered into **Salesforce**. Contacts represent Helpline communication, registrations, and donors. *(Objective 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)*
- ❖ **Seizure Recognition & First Aid Trainings (Objective 5):**
  - **MICHIGAN:** Seizure First Aid ⇒ 9 presentations to approximately 188 School Staff/Students/First Responders/Health & Human Professionals or Company Employees