2024

ANNUAL REPORT

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

MICHIGAN

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN
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WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT?

Looking Ahead with Gratitude

By Andrea Schotthoefer, President-Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan

In June 2024, I had the honor of stepping into the role of President of the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan, succeeding Brianna Romines — a remarkable leader who dedicated nearly 20 years to this organization, including eight years as President.

I am deeply grateful for Brianna's vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of people with epilepsy. Her influence continues to shape who we are today. Having worked alongside her for many years, I am humbled to follow in her footsteps and inspired to build upon the strong foundation she helped create.

As we finalize the 2024 Annual Report, we are reflecting on what we have achieved together, and envisioning what lies ahead. The needs of the epilepsy community are evolving, and so must we. With the continued dedication of our staff, Board, volunteers, and partners, we are expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and ensuring our programs remain accessible and relevant for every individual and family affected by epilepsy across Michigan.

In the coming year, we will focus on deepening our connections — reaching individuals and families in every corner of the state, and ensuring that no one faces epilepsy alone. We will continue to strengthen our education initiatives, advocate for improved access to care, and provide resources that empower people to live full and meaningful lives.

I am deeply thankful for your continued trust and partnership. Your involvement — as donors, advocates, volunteers, and champions — makes everything we do possible. It is your belief in our mission that propels us forward and inspires us to dream bigger for the epilepsy community in Michigan.

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.

- 1,506 client interactions were received on our **Here for You Helpline** for individualized education, consultation, and support.
- 117 contacts were made on behalf of 81 clients to help resolve conflicts related to employment, education, health care, or legal rights through our **Individual Advocacy** program.
- 56 members of the epilepsy community attended our **Epilepsy Innovation Roundtable,** a half-day, conversational experience, focusing on medical innovations and community innovations in epilepsy care, alongside an opportunity to build relationships over brunch. 100% of attendees shared that they strongly agree or agree that the conference "provided inspiration, encouragement, or hope."
- We provided our **Back to School Conference** as an on-demand conference for the first time, with sessions on epilepsy medications and cognitive needs, navigating the educational system, and building independence through transition planning. To date, the on-demand conference has 457 views.
- 168 members of the epilepsy community attended our **Wellness & Epilepsy Conference,** where we provided educational content, social connection, and an Inspirational Keynote Address from Jennifer Levine. Jen shared about her cross-country cycling journey where she raised awareness about epilepsy.
- Through 34 presentations, 1,155 educators and other human service professionals received **Seizure Recognition and First Aid Training** and learned potentially life-saving skills to care for seizures.
- After successfully completing the five-year **Michigan Pediatric Epilepsy Project (MPEP)** grant in 2024, the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan once again partnered with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services on a new initiative. Through the **Michigan Youth with Epilepsy in Transition (MiYET)** grant, another five-year HRSA-funded program, the focus will shift to supporting youth and young adults (ages 13-26) with epilepsy as they transition to adulthood. In the final three months of 2024, the MiYET planning team, held two meetings to define the project's scope and lay the groundwork for a landscape analysis. This analysis will identify resources to support youth, young adults, and their families in navigating the transition to adulthood.
- 9 teenagers completed **E-SMART (Epilepsy Self-Management, Advocacy, & Resilience for Teens)**. This 6-week, Zoom-based program brought together teens with epilepsy who focused on building knowledge, skills, and goal setting while providing peer support. In an evaluation summary, 100% of teens shared that "I achieved at least one goal that I set during the program."

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- 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.
- The **Call & Connect Network** provided 279 meetings for our five Call & Connect Groups. We had 130 unique participants attend our weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly sessions where they had opportunities to learn about epilepsy and connect in support.
- The **Big Brain** was displayed at the Metro Detroit and Grand Rapids Strolls, and for the first time, it was displayed at the Flint Farmer's Market where people walked through the brain and learned about epilepsy, seizure safety, and how to care for brain health.
- Our **Book Club** offered three opportunities to discuss books about epilepsy. Participants enjoyed connection and shared conversation.
- The **2024 Challenge of the Year** was entitled, "Accessibility." Information about this topic was integrated into our existing programming (e.g., Conferences, Call & Connect Network, etc.), social media messaging, and website.
- Through three Zoom Workshop offerings, 23 adults completed the **Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)**. This was our first year offering the program, and we had a 92% completion rate.
- 24 families joined us for **Family Camp** at North Star Reach (96 individuals; 26 youth with epilepsy) for a weekend of connection with camp activities like swimming, boating, fishing, archery, art, games, and more in a medically safe and supported environment.

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.

Family Camp

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you! Camp gave us a reprieve from daily life, feeling the stress melt away within hours of arriving, bonding with other families, and being around others who are incredibly accepting is a breath of fresh air. We cannot give enough appreciation to the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. Family Camp is the place we never knew we were missing.

Book Club

They have allowed me to connect with others who have epilepsy. Because of them, I know I am not alone and stronger than I thought.

E-SMART

My favorite thing was learning how to advocate for myself better. I liked the program because it gives people ideas of what to do to make goals for yourself and how to help others.

Here for You Helpline

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan has given us concrete resources and information that can't be found in any other single source. We have used materials, references, and resources, not only for ourselves, but for others that are involved in our son's life.

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, 2024, and 2023

	2024	2023
Cash & cash equivalents	$211,737	$646,928
Investments	1,902,228	1,562,352
Contributions receivable	112,309	28,703
Prepaid expenses	38,284	19,220
Property & equipment (net)	13,997	23,684
Operating right-of-use asset	344,610	111,668
Total assets	**$2,623,165**	**$2,392,555**
Trade payables	17,620	57,056
Accruals – salaries & benefits	84,465	86,429
Accruals - other	0	14,950
Deferred revenues	2,450	0
Operating lease liability current	51,909	66,589
Operating lease liability – net current	304,263	52,196
Total liabilities	**$460,707**	**$277,220**
Net assets without donor restrictions	$2,102,357	$2,088,812
Net assets with donor restrictions	60,101	26,523
Total net assets	**$2,162,458**	**$2,115,335**
Total liabilities & net assets	**$2,623,165**	**$2,392,555**

Statements of Activities

For the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023

	2024	2023
Support & Revenue		
United Way designations	$7,277	$9,824
Revenue from governmental agencies	40,886	62,770
Foundation & corporate grants	151,925	144,500
Special event revenues (net)	334,515	356,098
Contributions & bequests	496,172	680,930
Program service fees	2,575	2,960
Investment income (loss)	156,874	110,759
Paycheck Protection Program Income	0	0
Total revenue	**$1,190,224**	**$1,367,841**
Program Expenses		
Individual & family services	$439,149	$417,028
Community services	515,347	505,530
Advocacy & Public Policy	34,201	15,140
Support Services		
Development	14,861	17,712
Management & general	139,543	125,001
Total expenses	**$1,143,101**	**$1,080,411**
Change in net assets	**$47,123**	**$287,430**

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CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Angie May– Board Chair

Nadia Vann, Esq. - Vice Chair

Stephen Kuehn, CPA - Treasurer

Kellie Jankowski - Secretary

Kelly Kiss - Executive Committee

Yaniv Ribon - Executive Committee

Stephanie Bayma, RN

Allison Beers

Melissa Conway

Jason M. Geisz, CFP

Sandy Gulick

Pamela Harris, PhD

Nancy McNamara, MD

Michael Nanzer DPT, MBA, CSCS, FACHE

Robert Pulliam, CPA

Steve Soules, CPA, E.A.

Sarah Stempky-Kime

William Weatherston

Benjamin Worthington, III

Andrew Zillgitt, DO

CURRENT TEAM MEMBERS

Andrea E. Schotthoefer
President

Pam Bird
Sr. Administrative Manager

Renee Roederer
Sr. Director of Programs and Community Care

Alyx Newton
Development Director

Nicole Fitzpatrick
Community Program Specialist

Alecia May
Helpline Assistant

Matt Montpas
Accountant

Marissa Ogea
Development Coordinator

Maanya Tarnal
Volunteer Coordinator

Shannon Waid
Sr. Manager of Education and Outreach

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