



EPILEPSY NEWS

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 8

OCTOBER 22, 2008

For more Epilepsy information, call toll free: **(800) 336-5843** or contact our office in your area:

North Jersey Office
322 Highway 46
Parsippany, NJ 070554
(973) 244-0850

Central Jersey Office
2516 Highway 35
Manasquan, NJ 08736
(800) 336-5843

Heads Up for Safety
35 Beaverson Blvd.
Building 11
Brick, NJ 08723
(888) 376-0376

South Jersey Office
216 Haddon Avenue
Westmont, NJ 08108
(856) 858-5900

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **A Message from Nicole Hartmann**
- **Walk Update**
- **Notes of Inspiration**
- **EFNJ Presents Dr. Kairys with Community Partner Award**
- **Another Advocacy Victory**
- **Petition Drive**

A Message from our Youth Council Representative

Dear Prospective Youth Council Member,

Hello, my name is Nicole Hartmann, I am 19 and I have epilepsy. I am an intern at the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey. I was diagnosed four years ago while attending cheerleading camp at Rutgers University. My life changed that day and headed down a completely new path. It is now my plan to become a doctor and help children with epilepsy as a pediatric epileptologist. I began my work at EFNJ to pursue my career as soon as possible!



My purpose there, besides helping out around the office, is to create a youth council. For the youth council, we are looking for young people with epilepsy, approximately ages 16-23 who are motivated, possess great teamwork and leadership skills, and most importantly, we are looking for someone who wants to make a difference.

The primary goal of EFNJ's youth council is to spread awareness. It may seem small, but telling one more person about epilepsy and its effect on us, our friends and family, and the world will begin the snowball effect. We can really make a huge difference. A major responsibility of the youth council will be mentors to others with epilepsy. We will reach out to those who need to talk, need advice, support, or just need information on epilepsy and how to deal. The youth council will mostly meet and contact via email and conference call. Actual meetings will be arranged once we have selected our members.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this great movement, email youthcouncil@efnj.com or call 800.336.5843 for more information and an application, which will be due by December 15, 2008.

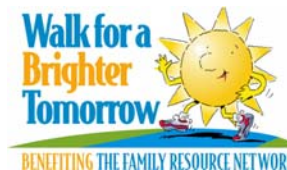
Thank you for your time!

WALK DEEMED "GREAT SUCCESS" OVER \$80,000 RAISED

On Sunday, October 12th, the 4th Annual Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow drew a record crowd, estimated at 550-600, to Roosevelt Park in Edison. Walkers and volunteers were greeted by beautiful weather and a number of activities. The Walk was sponsored by Sciame Construction and The Walking Company. The team that raised the most, again, was *Team Will Power* which has brought in over \$115,000 in four years. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Orsini of Holmdel was applauded for the result. Lunch was provided by Pizzeria UNO

and Dave's BBQ. Activities included interactive play with mascots of the Somerset Patriots and Trenton Devils. With more donations yet to be tabulated, over \$80,000 had been credited to walkers.

Please look for the November issue of Epilepsy News for pictures and updates from the Walk.



“Notes of Inspiration” concert to be held



“Notes of Inspiration,” a concert to raise awareness of Epilepsy will take place on Friday, November 14th, 2008 at 8:00 pm at Benjamin Franklin Middle School Auditorium in Ridgewood, NJ. The concert, featuring Clancy Newman and guest speaker founder and immediate past chair of the National Epilepsy Foundation’s Youth Council, Elizabeth Goldberg, will benefit the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey. For more information or to purchase tickets click [here](#). Thank you to Dr. James Charles for organizing this event.

EFNJ presents Dr. Steven Kairys with Community Partner Award



On October 7, 2008, EFNJ presented Dr. Steven Kairys, Chair of Pediatrics at Jersey Shore University Medical Center with a Community Partner Award for his work with Project Access.

Another Advocacy Victory for the Epilepsy Foundation!

As Congress prepares to recess for the campaign season, much of their attention has been on economic issues and legislation. However, the Epilepsy Foundation continues to see success during this limited congressional schedule as the Senate passed legislation that contained the **VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence Act** by unanimous consent late last week.

Provisions covering a range of programs for veterans were packaged into two big bills (S. 2162, S. 3023) that were sent to the White House for the President’s signature on Monday. Included in this package was legislation that was originally introduced and championed by Representative Ed Perlmutter (D-CO). The bill will provide \$6 million for the Veterans Administration (VA) to designate between four and six health care facilities as locations for epilepsy centers and to designate an individual in the Veterans Health Administration as a national coordinator for VA epilepsy programs. This is a great success that is due to the hard work and outreach of Epilepsy Foundation advocates from across the nation including our affiliates, Kids Speak Up! advocates and families, Public Policy Institute attendees, and our EPALS (Epilepsy Provider Advocacy Liaisons) network! The Epilepsy Foundation has been working with the American Academy of Neurology and the American Epilepsy Society in support of the legislation. While the centers will most directly benefit veterans, **the advances in care, treatment and diagnosis will ultimately help all Americans affected by epilepsy.**

The Epilepsy Community Needs Your Help!!!

2008 has been an extremely successful year for the Epilepsy Foundation’s advocacy activities. Thanks to your support, we persuaded Congress and the White House to ...

- * Enact the ADA Amendments Act to protect people with epilepsy in the workplace.
- * Enact the VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence Act to treat returning servicemen.
- * Preserve funding for key epilepsy research and community-based programs.

We’re on a roll and need to keep the momentum going! That’s why [we’re challenging the epilepsy community to, over the next 90 days, collect 100,000 signatures on a petition in support of increased funding, ending discrimination and affordable, quality care.](#) By collecting signatures, we can show policymakers that the public supports us!

The timing is perfect for such an effort. With a new President, 535 Members of Congress and nearly 10,000 state legislators set to assume office in January, it is critically important that we show them the impact epilepsy has on our nation. This effort will also help us raise significant public awareness about epilepsy.

[We need your help to reach this important goal! Here’s what you can do:](#)

- (1) **Sign Online**- We have created an online petition at www.epilepsypetition.com. Please add your name to our list and encourage your friends, family coworkers and neighbors to sign. In fact, why not send an email to everyone on your contact list?
- (2) **Use a Sticker** - Download and post [our sticker](#) on your Facebook, MySpace or webpage and drive people to our online petition. It’s a great way to spread the word.

(3) **Paper, Not Plastic** - We’ve also created a [paper petition](#) you can use to collect signatures. Start with your friends and family, then move on to your church, club and other groups. Need more ideas for collecting signatures? We’ve got 36 of them [right here!](#)

(4) **Tell Your Story**- How have you collected signatures? Tell us by sending an email to aractoropi@efnj.com. We’ll highlight the best stories and post photos if you send them.

Questions? Please consult our petition drive [FAQs](#) or contact us if you have additional questions, comments or require additional information. We’ll be in touch shortly with more information about this exciting campaign. Many thanks for your ongoing support and please stay in touch.