

Epilepsy News

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Welcome to the new version of the Epilepsy News Ezine. We are hoping that by updating our look and technology we can better send you up-to-date information about epilepsy events, conferences, and issues that are important to you.



Please consult our website for further information: www.efnj.com.

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EFNJ Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

The Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey is pleased to announce the existence of a scholarship program for New Jersey high school seniors who have epilepsy. We anticipate offering a least three \$1,000 scholarships.

New Jersey high school seniors with epilepsy who plan to attend a college or university are eligible. Academic achievement, participation in activities and financial need will be considered. The extent of a student's disability(s) will be taken into account as well, so that s/he need not be near the top of her/his class to qualify. Final awards will be made by the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey, which reserves the right not to make any awards.

Applications and supporting documents are due May 15, 2009. For an application [click here](#). Please call 800.336.5843 or email aracioppi@efnj.com for more information.

Calling all NJ Devils Fans!

If you're a Devils fan or just like hockey, come and join the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey on February 28, 2009 when the NJ Devils host the Florida Panthers. The game starts at 1:00pm at the Prudential Center in Newark. As part of this special offer, tickets normally priced at \$65 are being offered for only \$45. Proceeds from these tickets benefit programs of the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey. [Click here](#) to download an order form. Order deadline is February 20, 2009, so hurry!

John Travolta and Kelly Preston's Tragic Loss

Their son's death listed as a seizure disorder:

We were saddened to learn about the death of actors John Travolta and Kelly Preston's 16-year-old son, Jett, on January 2 in the Bahamas. Jett apparently suffered a seizure and collapsed in the bathroom of his family's vacation home in the Bahamas. The autopsy report lists his cause of death as a seizure disorder. It is widely reported that Jett Travolta had a history of frequent seizures.

The Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey sends its sincerest condolences to the Travolta family. We empathize with all parents of children with chronic disorders because we understand the inherent difficulties involved in safeguarding any child, especially one with special needs.

Based on the circumstances of the Travoltas' tragedy, many parents in our community are asking, "What can I do to protect my child from a seizure-related accident?"

[Safety precautions for the home, kitchen and bathroom](#)

[Safety guidelines for children](#)

[First aid during a seizure](#)

Spread Awareness of Epilepsy by Celebrating Purple Day

Purple Day was founded in 2008, by nine-year-old Cassidy Megan of Nova Scotia, Canada. Motivated by her own struggles with epilepsy, Cassidy started Purple Day in effort to get people talking about the disorder and inform those with seizures that they are not alone. She named the day Purple Day after the internationally recognized color for epilepsy, lavender. Purple Day is a grassroots effort dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy worldwide. On March 26, people from around the globe are asked to wear purple and spread the word about epilepsy.

The first Purple Day was a great success. From students in classrooms around the world to Paul Shaffer on the Late Show with David Letterman, people wore purple to spread the word about epilepsy. Cassidy even received support from members of the Canadian federal government who wore purple in the Canadian Parliament to recognize Purple Day. Young Cassidy herself was interviewed by news outlets across Canada and was even featured in a South African epilepsy newsletter.

With the help of partners worldwide, Purple Day 2009 is guaranteed to be even bigger and better than the last. Please join us in spreading the word about epilepsy - wear Purple on March 26, 2009.

For more information about Purple Day, visit www.purpleday.org.

The 3rd Annual National Walk for Epilepsy is Fast Approaching!

Saturday, March 28, 2009
Washington, D.C.

The National Walk for Epilepsy will continue to bring attention to what epilepsy is and is not. As we walk together we will be sending a strong message to others across the nation that people with epilepsy are deserving of respect and are strong members of our community. Epilepsy deserves to be better understood!

If you are interested in joining our team you can go to www.walkforepilepsy.org and sign up under "Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey." Can't make it to the walk? You can still show your commitment by joining us for the Virtual Walk for Epilepsy. Donations can be sent via check to National Walk for Epilepsy, 8301 Professional Place, Landover, MD 20785. Please make sure to include Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey in the memo line of your check.

If you are interested in attending the walk please call Andrea Racioppi at 800.336.5843. Our offices will keep a list of people that are interested in attending and possibly research transportation to the Walk.

Thank you for reading Epilepsy News! if you have any questions about the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey, please contact me at aracioppi@efnj.com.

Sincerely,

Andrea Racioppi
Associate Director
Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey

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