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Vol 2, Issue 8

# Epilepsy News

Welcome to Epilepsy News. We pride ourselves at sending you the most 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](http://www.efnj.com).



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## Our Administrative Office has Moved!

Our new address is 1 AAA Drive, Trenton, NJ 08691

### North Jersey Office

322 US Highway 46, Ste. 220  
 Parsippany, NJ 07054  
 (973) 244-0850

### Central Jersey Office

2516 Highway 35  
 Manasquan, NJ 08736  
 (732) 528-8080

### South Jersey Office

216 Haddon Avenue  
 Suite 329  
 Westmont, NJ 08108  
 (856) 858-5900

### Heads Up for Safety

35 Beaverson Blvd.  
 Building 11  
 Brick, NJ 08723  
 (732) 262-8020

## Quick Links

[Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey](#)  
[The Family Support Center of New Jersey](#)  
[The Family Resource Network](#)

## [Join our Mailing List!](#)

## Day at the Beach Event: A Great Success!

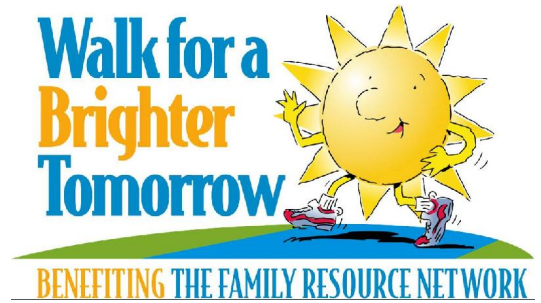
The Governor's beach house at Island Beach State Park was filled yesterday with the laughter and excitement of some of the families that EFNJ serves. The burgers on the grill, the endless waves and beautiful weather, made for a perfect "Day at the Beach"!

Please [click here](#) to view the incredible article written about the event in today's Asbury Park Press and to see the wonderful accompanying video.



## Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey to Hold Walk-a-thon

Families have begun signing up their EFNJ walk teams, and it's time for you to join in on the fun! Join us on Sunday, October 11, 2009 as EFNJ and The Family Resource Network host a state-wide Walk-a-thon titled Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow at Roosevelt Park, in Edison, New Jersey. This will be a fun filled day for families and friends to walk in support of their loved ones. A casual 5k Walk, entertainment and refreshments will be just a few of the day's highlights.



So call your family, friends and co-workers and start a walk team today! You can find more information and register online at [www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org](http://www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org) or via phone 1-800-FRN-2345. When registering to walk please note that you can choose to direct all of your money raised specifically to EFNJ. Just choose EFNJ from the drop down menu on the online registration form.

Please join us in our continuing efforts to provide low-cost quality services to New Jersey families living with developmental disabilities and chronic illness. You can make a difference!

## Epilepsy Awareness Night at Camden Riversharks - August 21st



The Camden Riversharks Minor League Baseball team will be hosting Epilepsy Awareness Night on Friday, August 21st. \$5.00 of each \$11.00 ticket will be donated to the Epilepsy Foundation. To buy your ticket, go to [www.riversharks.com](http://www.riversharks.com) and click on "Click here to Purchase tickets with a Group Code" icon. Our fundraising code is "EpilepsyofNJ".

## "The Purple Event"

The Anita Kaufman Foundation will host The Purple Event: An evening of fashion, food, and music on Friday, September 10, 2009 from 7:30pm-10:00pm at the Sony Plaza Atrium, 550 Madison Ave, New York City. This event supports the 5th Grade Epilepsy Education Program (S.H.A.R.E.) offered free to schools across the US. It features a fashion show presenting purple looks from over 60 designers, a silent auction, and a musical performance by Elliott Yamin of American Idol! The event is co-chaired by Alan Faneca of the New York Jets and his wife Julie. There are 500 tickets open to the public which are \$100/person in advance. For more information, visit [www.afkus.org](http://www.afkus.org).

## The Charlie Foundation Offers Hope Through the Ketogenic Diet

The Charlie Foundation was established in 1994 in order to raise awareness about the ketogenic diet as a treatment for childhood epilepsy. The modern success of the diet has led to new demands on the medical community. In order to meet these demands, the Charlie Foundation has expanded its priorities to include educational programs for dietitians and neurologists as well as support for clinicians and researchers working to perfect its administration and discover its mechanisms

The Ketogenic Diet is a special high-fat diet used in children and young teens to help control seizures. Heavy cream, vegetable oils, and butter provide the needed fats while sweets are completely eliminated. All foods must be carefully prepared and weighed on a gram scale. Each meal must be eaten in its entirety for the diet to be most effective.

For more information on the ketogenic diet and the Charlie Foundation, please visit [www.charlifoundation.org](http://www.charlifoundation.org).

## Youth Council Has It's First Meeting



On July 22nd, EFNJ's Youth Council held its first meeting at EFNJ's Administrative office. The Youth Council is committed to spreading awareness and eliminating the stigma surrounding epilepsy, advocating on behalf of youth with epilepsy and providing mentoring to others in need of support. The purpose, mission and future of the Council was discussed at the meeting, as well as plans for a Youth Conference next summer for youth with epilepsy and their families. If you are interested in becoming part of the Youth Council or would like more information on speaking with or becoming a mentor, please

email Nicole Hartmann at [nhefnj@aol.com](mailto:nhefnj@aol.com).

In this picture: Youth Council Members Nicole Hartmann, Josh Meyers, Samantha Davis

## Duffield's Farm to Sponsor Fundraiser for EFNJ

Duffield Farms in Sewell, Gloucester County, NJ, will be hosting a Corn Maze fundraiser benefitting the Epilepsy Foundation of NJ on Saturday, October 17th. EFNJ will receive all proceeds from the Corn Maze on that day. Last year's benefitting charity was the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which received \$5,000 for breast cancer research. Duffield Farms is located near Rowan University.



## Auto Donations

Are you thinking of selling or trading in that old car? Why not donate it instead? As a charitable contribution your vehicle donation could make a big difference. Our process is simple, quick and convenient and we will provide free and timely pick-up of your vehicle donation. Our program is simple ... The better the car, the greater your tax deduction.

To inquire about a donation please contact Samantha Griffiths at (609) 392-4900.

## Catastrophic Epilepsy Caused by Defect in One Gene

A mutation in a single gene causes catastrophic epilepsy, U.S. scientists say. And that finding, they say, could lead to treatments for a cure for the disorder.

People with catastrophic epilepsy suffer severe muscle spasms, persistent seizures, mental retardation and sometimes autism.

"At present, there is no proven cure to offer children with this specific epilepsy," Dr. Jeffery Noebels, a professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, said in a news release from the college. "We now have new clues into the mechanism and have already initiated studies with a new class of drugs not previously explored for this disorder."

Noebles and his team found that a mutation on a gene called Aristaless-related homeobox (ARX) caused catastrophic epilepsy-like symptoms in mice, including muscle spasms, seizures, learning disabilities and reduced social interaction.

When the researchers examined the brains of mice with the mutated gene, they found that interneurons - a class of cells that inhibit electrical activity in the brain - had failed to develop in specific areas of the brain.

Mice with the mutation will be "an essential tool to find a cure for the disorder," said Noebles, who is also director of the Blue Bird Circle Developmental Neurogenetics Laboratory at Baylor.



Thank you for reading Epilepsy News! If you have any information you would like included in our e-zine, or know of anyone that would like to be added to our listserv, please email me at [aracioppi@efnj.com](mailto:aracioppi@efnj.com) or click the "Join Our Mailing List" button on the top right side of the newsletter.

Sincerely,

Andrea Racioppi  
Associate Director  
Epilepsy Foundation of NJ

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