

# Epilepsy News

Welcome to Epilepsy News. We pride ourselves in 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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## Administrative Office

1 AAA Drive, Ste. 203  
Trenton, NJ 08691  
(800) 376-2345

## Quick Links

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

[Join our Mailing List!](#)

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

**Enhancing Life...Through Epilepsy Education and Knowledge**

A seminar on Epilepsy will be held Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - 12 noon at Jersey City Medical Center - 355 Grand Street in Jersey City. The event is free and will be offered in both English and Spanish. An overview of epilepsy, including a look at the latest treatment options, will be discussed by specialists in this area. Space for the seminar is limited. To register, or for additional information, call Beth Wiederspiel at 800.336.5843 or [bwiederspiel@efnj.com](mailto:bwiederspiel@efnj.com).

[click here](#) for information flyer.

### Mark your calendars!

Epilepsy Conference at Hackensack University Medical Center

Please join us on Saturday, April 2, 2011 for an informational session on Epilepsy. More details about speakers and topics to follow.

## Thinking About Epilepsy

Since 2007, EFNJ in conjunction with Anita Kaufmann Foundation has educated over 20,000 fifth grade students through the informative program Thinking About Epilepsy. This free, 40 minute presentation is made to increase awareness and to reduce stigma's about epilepsy. The 5th graders are taught how to recognize different seizure types and provide the proper first aid for each. These presentations are given statewide with the goal to inform as many students as possible.

Now that 2010-2011 school year is underway we are eager to start scheduling!

If you are interested in arranging a presentation or have a connection with any school that may benefit from this program please call Jenna Andolora at 1-800-336-5843 or [jandolora@efnj.com](mailto:jandolora@efnj.com).

Is your school scheduled???? We are coming to the following schools.

Alexander Sullivan School-Jersey City  
PS 29-Jersey City  
Marlboro Elem. School-Marlboro  
Thomas Jefferson-Tunersville  
Nicolaus Copernicus School-Jersey City  
Hoover School-Begenfield  
All Saints Regional Catholic-Manahawkin  
Robert Waters School-Union City  
Richard Butler School-Butler  
Harmony Township School-Phillipsburg  
East Dover Elem School-Toms River  
Nicholas S. LaCorte #3-Elizabeth  
Nehausey MS-Gibbstown  
Garfield School-Kearny  
Netcong Elem. School-Netcong  
Cherry Street School-Bridgetown  
Soehl M.S-Linden  
Gibbsboro School-Gibbsboro  
Immaculate Conception-Annandale  
Lakeview School-Denville  
Upper Pittsgrove-Monroeville  
Washington School-N.Arlington  
East Dover-Dover  
Walter M. Schirra- Old Bridge  
Birches Elem School- Turnersville

## Kids Speak Up

The Epilepsy Foundation is pleased to announce that Samantha Magda Grade 6, 11 years old from Annandale, NJ has been accepted as an official participant of the 2011 Kids Speak Up! program.

### What is Kids Speak Up!

Kids Speak Up! is an opportunity for young people with epilepsy between the ages of 7-16 to come to Washington, D.C., with their families to learn about advocacy and to tell Congress about what it's like to live with epilepsy. The kids will bring their message to Capitol Hill and then take it back home, where they will advocate locally throughout the year. This event takes place in conjunction with the Epilepsy Foundation's annual Public Policy Institute.

The Public Policy Institute (PPI) and Kids Speak Up!(KSU) programs provide participants with a crash course in advocacy, epilepsy and current Epilepsy Foundation priorities to focus on in order to improve the lives of all people with epilepsy.

### What is the message of the program?

The group will be urging members of Congress to help secure a better future for children with seizures by supporting federally funded medical research, programs that improve access to appropriate care, and public health education to reduce discrimination against people with epilepsy.

Last year, the main message taken to Congress were increased funding for research and programs. On Day Three of the conference, all the participants fanned out across Capitol Hill to the House and Senate office buildings armed with well-honed talking points and honest testimonials

## The Family Support Center of NJ presents....Sibshops!

Sibshops are for kids between the ages of 8-12 years old who have a sibling with special needs. FSCNJ will host Sibshop meetings once a month on a Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Each session costs \$25.00 per child.

### 2011 Meeting Schedule

January 15, 2011

February 19, 2011

March 19, 2011

April 16, 2011

May 21, 2011

June 18, 2011

July 16, 2011

August 20, 2011

September 17, 2011

October 15, 2011

November 19, 2011

December 17, 2011

Sibshops will take place at  
The Family Resource Network - Shore Office  
Lions Head Office Park  
35 Beaverson Blvd. Bldg. 11  
Brick, NJ 08723

Please Call the Family Support Center of NJ to Register: 1-800-372-6510. Click [here](#) to download a registration form and follow instructions to ensure proper registration.

**\*\*SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE\*\***

## **Sibshops Now In North Jersey!**

Sibshops are for kids between the ages of 8-12 years old who have a sibling with special needs. FSCNJ will host Sibshop meetings once a month from 10am-2pm  
Each session is \$25 per child

### 2011 Meeting Dates

March 26, 2011  
April 30, 2011  
May 28, 2011  
June 25, 2011  
July 23, 2011  
August 27, 2011  
September 24, 2011  
October 22, 2011  
November 19, 2011  
December 17, 2011

Sibshops will take place at  
The Family Resource Network of New Jersey  
322 US Highway 46 Suite 290  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Please call the Family Support Center of NJ to Register 1-800-372-6510. Click [here](#) to download a registration form and follow instructions to ensure proper registration.

**\*\*SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE\*\***

## **New Educational Opportunity**

EFNJ has been rewarded a grant to implement a new educational program in New Jersey. This program is a spin-off of the already existing high school program- Take Charge of the Facts. *Take Charge of the Storm* is a free presentation designed to raise awareness about epilepsy in middle school students. The one hour long presentation offers education about what epilepsy is, teaches seizure first aid procedures, and alleviates different stigma attached to epilepsy. Another major focus of the program is to prevent epilepsy related bullying in middle schools. The ultimate goal of this program is to promote acceptance and inclusion of young teens living with epilepsy.

Take Charge of the Storm is being offered to middle schools across the entire state of NJ. If you or someone you know may be interested in having this presentation at a school please contact Jenna Andolora at 800.336.5843 or [jandolora@efnj.com](mailto:jandolora@efnj.com)

## EFNJ 2011 College Scholarship Information

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 four \$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 April 29, 2011. For an application click [here](#). Please call 800.336.5843 or email [aracioppi@efnj.com](mailto:aracioppi@efnj.com) for more information.

## Date Set for Shore Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow

Please join the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey on May 15, 2011 for a 5k walk on the beautiful Seaside boardwalk as we raise much needed funds and awareness for individuals and their families living with seizures.

For more information please call Heather Comstock at 609-392-4900

## Donate your car to EFNJ!

Are you thinking of selling or trading in an 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 call Michelle Smith 732-262-8020

## EFNJ is on Facebook!!

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey and The Family Resource Network have joined cyber space and we want to connect with you! Click on [Facebook](#) to become our "fan" to receive bulletins and messages. Our goal is to keep people updated on news, legislation, and other activities important to the community we serve.

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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