Salt City Walk | Over 300 walkers supported epilepsy awareness and epilepsy services for Central NY in Long Branch Park, Syracuse on July 11th. Together we raised nearly $24,000! Family-friendly activities included face painting, inflatable skee ball, a DJ, Otto the Orange, a team t-shirt contest, and more. Thank you for bringing these smiles!

Camp EAGR and COAST | Children with epilepsy and their siblings joined us at the YMCA's beautiful Camp Weona from August 9th-15th for another memorable year of Camp EAGR. At Camp, kids build confidence, make friendships, and just have FUN! Camp COAST also returned, which provides pre-vocational education as well as traditional camp activities to young adults with epilepsy ages 18-25.
Significant changes are on the horizon for people with brain injuries in New York State. The service system designed 20 years ago is scheduled for termination at the end of next year. Individuals who receive services under the current system will be folded into Managed Long Term Care (MLTC). There is great fear across the State that these changes will have a detrimental impact on this complex and vulnerable population. Losing the gains of community access, choice, and deinstitutionalization would be devastating.

Twenty years ago the New York Department of Health (DOH) created a waiver for people with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI). Its design was a comprehensive strategy to prevent unnecessary entrances into nursing homes and to help individuals leave nursing homes and live in the community.

The program has been highly successful assisting participants to live in community-based settings and achieve maximum independence. These services are used in combination with traditional Medicaid services. The successes of this program cannot be overstated. Decades ago many people were trapped in nursing homes or out-of-state institutions that were not well suited to the needs of this population and were a tremendous burden to tax payers. This small but effective program offers highly customized services, specialized training, counseling, and rental subsidies for people with brain injuries.

New York State has proposed many changes to the way it delivers Medicaid services to specialized populations. Over the past few years, a gradual move towards MLTC has occurred with the intent being that improvements in healthcare outcomes will result through better coordination of services.

The problem is that the change as proposed offers no specialized training, assessment, rent subsidy, and accommodation for those with brain injuries. The risk of homelessness, nursing home placement, and out of state institutional placement will grow. The risk of returning to the darker places this population faced years ago is very real.

What are we doing about it?
Our strategy as an agency is two-fold. First, we are advocating on a statewide level for people with brain injuries. We have successfully been a part of the slowdown of the conversion through engagement in conversations, in order to prevent negative outcomes regardless of the changes to the Waiver. The second part of our approach is on a local level. We have entered into the delivery of MLTC services. If and when the TBI Waiver folds into MLTC, we will be able to continue to serve the same individuals through the new funding stream. We will maintain the TBI specific portion of our training and support so that the transition to MLTC will be as seamless as possible for the people we serve.

The proposed changes are not yet finalized. We will continue to advocate on behalf of all individuals with brain injuries in New York to generate positive outcomes. We believe regardless of how funding streams change, individuals with TBI need specialized services and care. The staff that work with them need specific trainings. We are committed to continuing this effort.

For more information regarding changes to the TBI Waiver or how our Agency is responding, please call Paul Akers, VP of Community Services at (585) 442-4430 x2736.
Thank you to the following donors who have made a gift of $25 or greater during 2014 to Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc. This list does not include special event donations. 2015 contributions will be published in the spring of 2016.
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Your support of EPI is not something we take lightly. We work diligently to make every gift go where it's needed most—to the people who turn to us for help.

**General and administrative costs:** 8.9% (*target 7%-12%).
**Fundraising:** 2.1% (*target 1-3%) of total expenses.
**Surplus:** $236,465, 1.7% of revenue.
**Revenue Growth:** 1.2 million due to the building and opening of the Slocum group home.

*Target range used is from the recommendation of auditors, and is based on local benchmarks with similar sized non-profit agencies.

**Growth in 2015**

**Number of employees:** We currently have over 400 employees, and are expecting to have at least 430 by the end of 2015. We began 2014 with 330 employees.

**Broome County**
- Opened a group home and day program in August of 2015.
- Next group home will open in December of 2015.
- Support group re-launch.

**Managed Long Term Care**
- EPI is a lead provider in Managed Long Term Care (MLTC), which involves considering the needs of the whole person. Care managers can also provide support in non-medical areas such as housing, legal assistance, and becoming involved in social or community activities.
- Our MLTC program started in September of 2014 and we served 598 people by the end of 2014. We currently serve over 1500 people through this program, with continuous growth expected.

**Home Services**
- EPI accepts private pay for services such as home health aides, specialized home care nursing, and more. We have added Personal Care Aides through our Licensed Home Care Service Agency and give free nursing assessments to find out exactly what services are appropriate. We are also exploring the possibility of providing Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services (CDPAS). For more information, please contact Kathy Benner, Director of Home Services, at (585) 442-6420 x2277.

**Expect in 2016**
- New creative community-based housing alternatives to expand services to those who need it.
- We are also exploring the expansion of several different services to various service areas.

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**Now Available!**

EPI appreciates the support you give to our Agency. Whether you lend your time, your talent or your treasure, we can't do what we do without you.

**We've made giving even easier.** Consider becoming a **sustaining member** today by setting up a **recurring gift**, and support EPI year-round!

Here’s how it works:

1) Go to [www.epiny.org/donate.php](http://www.epiny.org/donate.php). Choose the amount, and this amount will be debited from your credit card every month, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, depending on what frequency you choose. Just $10/month could fund an outing for adults with traumatic brain injuries. $20/month could sponsor a day at Camp EAGR for a child with epilepsy.

**OR**

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If you have any questions about this NEW way to make a donation, please contact Shaunta Collier-Santos, Director of Development at (585) 442-6420, ext. 2227.
30th Annual Chocolate Ball
February 6, 2016
Join us for an enchanted evening of chocolate as we celebrate
The City of Chocolate
Individual tickets and sponsorships are now available at www.epiny.org.

Get involved and meet other supporters at these upcoming events!

Al Sigl Community WalkAbout
October 25th, Eastview Mall

Join the Al Sigl Community of Agencies for a family-friendly event! There will be over 25 entertainers and trick-or-treat tables. Each registrant will get a t-shirt, breakfast, and entry into the costume contest! Register or donate at www.crowdrise.com/epilepsy-pralid.

Epilepsy Awareness Month
November, 2015
EPI will be celebrating Epilepsy Awareness Month on Facebook, and we hope you will join us and participate! We encourage you to share your epilepsy awareness on our page.

ROC the Day
December 1, 2015
Please consider giving to EPI through United Way donor #2215.

One Door Closes and Another One Opens

For many years, Kirk Matthews spent his life in the Monroe Developmental Center (MDC), a state-run facility with many restrictions in place designed for people with complex needs.

In 2013, Kirk moved into the Slocum residential group home with EPI. At first, many of the restrictions were kept in place, but his success with us ultimately led to his move to our Pinnacle group home. This was a significant step toward independence and less restrictions.

Since the initial transition from the MDC to EPI, Kirk has held a job, joined sports teams, and become an active participant in the community. When asked about the changes, Kirk recalled, “When I first moved to Pinnacle, it was really hard…It took some time to adjust, I felt like I wanted everything to be about me. I have adjusted to others needing staff attention too. Moving here helped me meet new people and new staff. I like it because I am closer to my family, no more 45 minute drives. I’ve accomplished a lot of goals here at Pinnacle, like having portion control. I still have goals to work on, like budgeting my money. My favorite part of living at Pinnacle is staff taking me to softball and basketball practice, they cheer me on. Staff talked to me when I needed help adjusting to Pinnacle and I am very happy here.”

As more institutions shut down, the doors to community integration, freedom of choice, and increased opportunity will continue to open up. EPI will be here to support this change and will continue to help the transition in New York State.