The coronavirus pandemic has changed our world in so many ways, but it has not changed how EPI enthusiastically supports the people who choose us for services. Here are a few pictures highlighting how our amazing staff adapted programs and services to keep everyone safe and provide meaningful connections. From wearing masks to finding new ways of getting together, EPI’s staff continue to provide support and high-quality care.

At the heart of EPI’s commitment to care are our nursing staff and our direct support professionals who came to work every day while most of the world shut down or worked from home. They are our heroes and we cannot thank them enough!

As we reach the pandemic’s six-month mark, more challenges are yet to come: a possible surge of COVID-19 in winter months, new and deeper funding cuts, and an uncertain economic outlook.

Now more than ever, we need your help. Please consider being our hero - visit epiny.org to make a donation today. Any amount helps.
COVID-19 has had a dramatic effect on our world. Millions of people have been infected with the virus and hundreds of thousands of have died from it. Our nation has seen unprecedented shutdowns and precautionary measures making this one of the most significant events in our history.

EPI has not been immune to the impacts of the pandemic. Several of our programs and offices were ordered closed by the state. Our residential homes and some community services remained open requiring several hundred of our staff to keep working despite the risks.

From the beginning, the priorities were simple - keep people we serve safe, protect the health and jobs of our employees, and ensure the agency continued to fulfill its mission. The agency aggressively implemented the use of PPE, sanitization schedules, and technology to keep people safe. Many employees were redeployed in temporary roles. Many staff worked remotely. Wide scale telehealth was used for the first time to ensure people stayed connected to EPI. The people we served were able to chose continuation of service or temporary pauses if they were uncomfortable.

March and April were scary months in New York State, but since then things have greatly improved. At EPI we have reopened our offices and day programs. We have found ways to keep people safe and resume most operations in our “new normal”. Even in this uncertain time, we have been able to continue our expansion of community-based and self-directed services. We have pressed on with our recruiting, retention, branding and development initiatives. Our efforts with diversity, equity, and inclusion have not lost focus. We support #BlackLivesMatter and celebrated Juneteenth as an official agency holiday.

I never cease to be amazed at EPI’s resilience. Our staff have done an amazing job of remote working, using technology, shifting their duties, and finding creative ways to continue supporting people and their families. While this pandemic is not yet over, I am confident that EPI will continue to weather the storm. I am proud of what this agency has accomplished, and I know it is ready for whatever challenges lie ahead.

Jeff Sinsebox hikes up a mountain to get his miles in! #20miles20days

20 Miles in 20 Days - EPI’s Virtual Summer Challenge

Our first virtual event was a huge success! We’d like to extend a big thank you to everyone - we had over 300 people register and thanks to some last minute donations - raised exactly $20,020! We loved all your social media posts - so many creative ideas to get your miles in! A special thank you goes to our sponsors: Greenwich Biosciences, UCB, SK Life Sciences, Sunovion, Lyndal Cole, and Neurelis. Also big supporters were MVP Health, UR Medicine Neurology and our own Self-Direction Department! Thank you all!
Visit epiny.org/events for all the details – including registration and links for virtual events!
Follow us on Facebook to stay connected with these and other events.
For more information, contact us at events@epiny.org.

**October 8 - November 19, 2020**

**Project Uplift & Positive Vibes**

Virtual | Project Uplift 2-3pm  Positive Vibes 4-5pm

EPI is offering two skill trainings to support people with epilepsy to better manage stress and anxiety. Project Uplift is for adults with epilepsy/seizures and Positive Vibes is for teens/young adults with epilepsy/seizures and developmental disabilities.

**October 9, 2020**

**Webinar: Epilepsy Education**

Virtual | 12-1pm

EPI Epilepsy Educators Michael Radell and Kristin Oderkirk will be presenting on basic epilepsy topics such as what is epilepsy, seizures types, and most common treatments. Join us to get all your epilepsy and seizure questions answered.

**October 13 - November 17, 2020**

**EPI Art**

Virtual | 3:30pm-5:30pm, Tuesdays, 6 sessions

EPI Art, our guided art therapy classes done virtually! Register by October 6 to receive your art supplies on time for the first class. Link to live online class will be provided to all registered participants. This program is for 17+ with epilepsy.

**October 17, 2020**

**Teen Epilepsy Afternoon**

Seneca Lake State Park, Shelter #2, Geneva, NY | 11am-3pm

For this year, we have turned our usual Teen Epilepsy Weekend program into an in-person afternoon of information with Dr. Inna Hughes from UR Medicine and fun (with COVID safety protocols). Box lunch will be served. Space is limited! Register today.

**October 18, 2020**

**Camp Counselor Celebration & Recruiting Event**

Wickham Farms, Penfield, NY | Noon - 2pm

Calling all current, former, and potential camp counselors! Since we weren’t able to get together this summer, we have organized an afternoon of fun! Have questions about being a counselor? Come and get them answered!

**October 19, 2020**

**Webinar: Psychogenic NonEpileptic Attacks (PNEA)**

Virtual | 7-8pm

Dr. William Watson and Dr. Daniel Millstein from UR Medicine Neurology will be presenting on PNEA, providing basic information on what they are and discussing resources for those who have been diagnosed with PNEA.

**November 2020**

**Dinner with the Doctors**

Virtual | 6-7:30pm

Our usual celebration of Epilepsy Awareness Month will continue virtually! Register for one or all! To be able to pick up a box dinner at the specified office location between 4-5pm on the night of the event, please register a week ahead.

**November 5 - Dinner Pick-up Rochester Office**

Topic: Epilepsy Medications
Speaker: Dr. Robert Gross from UR Medicine Neurology

**November 19 - Dinner Pick-up Binghamton Office**

Topic: Epilepsy in Children
Speaker: Dr. Aubrey Duncan from UR Medicine Neurology

**November 12 - Dinner Pick-up Syracuse Office**

Topic: SUDEP
Speaker: Dr. David Auerbach from SUNY Upstate Medical University
Thank You!

We are grateful for the many people and organizations who have donated money, cloth masks, sanitizer, and many other needed items to EPI during this time. You have helped keep the people we support and our staff safe!

We extend a special thanks to the Community Crisis Fund at the United Way of Rochester & the Golisano Foundation for your COVID-19 grants.

Thank you all for your generosity.

Learn more at epiny.org

Chocolate Ball 2021
*New Date*

June 12, 2021
Hyatt Regency Rochester

We have moved the Chocolate Ball to June! We were worried about the possible limitations to holding large events in the Winter of 2021 due to COVID-19. While this is a big break from tradition, we feel confident that we have significantly reduced our risks and set the conditions for another successful Chocolate Ball! We are already hard at work to bring you an exciting Chocolate Ball next summer and we can’t wait to see everyone in person!

Your gift makes partnerships and new programs possible! Set up a recurring gift at www.epiny.org or simply return the enclosed envelope.