Two Remarkable Events, One Shared Goal: Epilepsy Awareness and Support

We are inspired and heartened by the incredible support of our community. The Seize the Day: Amer’s Epilepsy Trail Run and the One in 26 Challenge have both brought people together to raise awareness and support for epilepsy in inspiring and impactful ways.

Running for a Cause

On July 16th, we hosted the second annual Seize the Day trail run at Mendon Ponds Park. The race was a resounding success. Over 200 dedicated runners participated in this year’s race. Participants faced the rugged terrain with gusto, tackling the tough 5k and 10k trail races. For our younger supporters, a kid-friendly 1-mile race was a delightful adventure. The fantastic turnout filled the air with excitement and determination. This year’s event raised close to $50,000 in support of epilepsy services, contributing greatly to our camps for children and young adults living with epilepsy.

A special shout-out and heartfelt thank you to Amer and the Armbruster family, whose unwavering dedication to epilepsy awareness and generous support has propelled us forward in our mission.

One in 26 Challenge: A Unifying Success

We are thrilled to share the incredible success of this year’s One in 26 Challenge, as it brought together over 270 passionate participants in a collective effort to raise awareness and support for epilepsy. This event has not only touched the lives of many but has also shown that together, we can make a real difference.

On a beautiful fall day, the challenge kicked off with two fantastic walks, one at Abbott Farms in Syracuse and another at Wickham Farms in Rochester. The energy and enthusiasm at these events were palpable, leaving us with a deep sense of shared purpose.

This year’s Challenge extended its reach beyond borders! Some walked amidst the breathtaking landscapes of the Grand Canyon, while others went the extra mile by completing a marathon in the Netherlands. The Challenge raised over $40,000 in support of our epilepsy program and services. These funds are instrumental in providing crucial resources, support, and education to those affected by epilepsy. Heartfelt thanks to our Presenting Sponsor Integrated System and the Hamilton family. Beyond the financial support, the Challenge helped reduce the stigma surrounding epilepsy and educated communities about this often-misunderstood condition.

Thank you to all who supported and were part of these incredible events. Whether you ran through rugged trails or walked in picturesque settings, your dedication and contributions have an immediate and lasting impact on the lives of individuals and families affected by epilepsy. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of those living with epilepsy.
My job always brings new experiences. Recently, I got to see something new. This past June, David Taylor retired from Wendy’s on South Winton Road after being an employee there for 23 years. David, who has lived in an EPI residence for many years, began his career at Wendy’s on his birthday in February 2005. David is the first person with a disability I have known to retire from competitive employment.

“I worked at Wendy’s five days a week, usually from 8:00am to 2:00 or 3:00pm,” says David. “My main responsibilities were making sure the dining area was kept clean, taking out the trash, sweeping and mopping floors plus cleaning the counters, windows and the menu room. I also ‘stacked up’ utensils and straws and cleaned up litter in the parking lot. Whatever the task, I took pride in my work.”

When asked what he’ll miss most about working at Wendy’s, David immediately says the friends he made with co-workers and customers alike. “I joked around with these people and made them laugh,” David adds. “Some customers were really nice and gave me $5.00 or $10.00 tips.” David’s supervisors also valued him as an employee and have asked him to consider going back to work, but according to David, he’s happy being retired. But he does miss eating Wendy’s hamburgers! David would also like to thank his supervisors and fellow employees for his retirement party. “It was so kind of them to think of me,” he says.

When asked why he gave me $5.00 or $10.00 tips, David adds, “Some customers were really nice and gave me $5.00 or $10.00 tips.”

David’s positive attitude, work ethic, and diligence are models for all workers to follow. I am so happy that David was able to be in control of his work life, and now his retirement from that life. Until there are many other Davids amongst the people we serve, there is still much work to do. Congratulations David, and I look forward to the day when stories like yours are commonplace.

From the President
Jeff Sinsebox

Work is a great equalizer. Earning one’s place at a trusted peer is the perfect way to eliminate differences that can isolate people with disabilities. David’s positive attitude, work ethic, and diligence are models for all workers to follow. I am so happy that David was able to be in control of his work life, and now his retirement from that life. Until there are many other Davids amongst the people we serve, there is still much work to do. Congratulations David, and I look forward to the day when stories like yours are commonplace.

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Planned Giving: A Powerful Way to Support Our Mission

As a supporter of EPI, you understand the importance of our mission and the impact we have on our community. One way to ensure that our work can continue for generations to come is through planned giving. Planned giving allows donors to make a charitable gift as part of their overall financial and estate planning. There are many ways to make a planned gift to EPI, from including a bequest in your will to setting up a charitable trust or annuity. Depending on your financial situation, planned giving can also provide tax benefits to donors. By making a planned gift to EPI, you are helping to ensure that our mission can continue for years to come. Your support will help us to provide quality services to individuals with developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries and epilepsy. It will make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

To learn more about planned giving and how you can support EPI’s mission, please contact Lorena DeLancey at ldelancey@epiny.org or 585-442-6420, ext. 2211. We would be honored to work with you to help create a lasting legacy that supports our community.

An Unforgettable Summer at Epilepsy Camp!

This summer, both our Camp Coast and Camp EAGR programs were held at Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp and it was amazing! Zip-lining, campfires, turtle catching, and swimming were enjoyed by all! Camp EAGR especially enjoyed the splash pad at Sunshine Camp as their week was quite hot! Both camps will be back at Sunshine Camp for 2024 and we can’t wait!

This year, we held our favorite event – the Epilepsy Scholarship luncheon - in Geneva, NY. We were thrilled to award our annual scholarships to three outstanding high-school seniors.

Congratulations to Gabrielle DiOrio, Peter Kanakos, and Liody Matta! These remarkable students have demonstrated an unwavering drive to excel, remarkable resilience, a steadfast determination to raise epilepsy awareness, and a heartfelt commitment to support others.

EPI Summer Nights was a blast: 90’s vibes, and good times at Three Heads Brewing with DJUJP! Save the date for next year: June 13, 2024!

This group meets the 4th Wednesday of each month from 5 pm – 6 pm. Please contact Lorena DeLancey at ldelancey@epiny.org or 585-442-6420, ext. 2211. We would be honored to work with you to help create a lasting legacy that supports our community.

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