



*We run for Aj* ❤️  
#epilepsyawareness

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

As I look back on this past fiscal year, the reality we live in is still somewhat surreal. And yet, I find that the work of the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago's staff and the resilience of our clients continues to persevere as we lead the fight against epilepsy.

We continue to follow COVID-19 protocol and our office remains closed.

Working remotely has been challenging, however, we have made significant adjustments and are able to provide impactful services and support to the epilepsy community. Our Client Services Department continues to meet with their clients either by phone or online. Our support groups meet virtually on a regular basis and continue to grow and create engaging activities. Our education team continues to provide seizure first aid training, as well as monthly "Virtual Chat with an Expert" sessions via Zoom giving our clients the opportunity to hear from leading epilepsy specialists. Our Kids & Teens Club events and ever-popular Camp Blackhawk are being held virtually. While those experiences cannot compare to what the kids have experienced in-person in years prior, it is important that we continue to provide this opportunity. While we might not be physically together, it is the Foundation's goal that no one feels alone.

Our adaptations to COVID-19 have even led us to places I would not have expected. We collaborated with the Epilepsy Foundation affiliates of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to host the inaugural Virtual Upper Midwest Rare Epilepsies Conference. On May 4, 2021, 250 registrants from across our combined regions took part in this event to learn about the rare forms of epilepsy from leading experts in the field. This was a great success, and I am not sure if it would have happened if not for everyone's ability to "think outside of the box." Not too long ago, it would have been difficult to imagine co-hosting an event with multiple organizations that are hundreds of miles apart. However, this is a new time and collaboration is key.

I look forward to seeing everyone again in person. I can't wait to catch up with our clients at our annual Picnic in the Park or sit around a table with our staff for a brainstorming session. That time will come, until then, I know that we have done and continue to do everything we can to provide our services and support. The smile on a Camp Blackhawk participant's face when they present their animal balloon to the group will always be priceless, even if it is through Zoom. As I eagerly anticipate the future, I am overwhelmed and gratified by what we have done this past year.

Thank you,

Bryan S. Anderson  
President & CEO  
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago

## THE EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF GREATER CHICAGO

Created in 1946 as a grassroots effort in Illinois to help people with epilepsy, the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago is an Illinois not-for-profit organization serving 44 counties, offering advocacy, case management, and educational services to people with epilepsy, their families, and the communities in which they live.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives.

## WHAT IS EPILEPSY?

Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. It's also called a seizure disorder. When a person has two or more unprovoked seizures, they are considered to have epilepsy. A seizure happens when a brief, strong surge of electrical activity affects part or all of the brain. One in 10 adults will have a seizure sometime during their life.

Seizures can last from a few seconds to a few minutes. They can have many symptoms, from convulsions and loss of consciousness to some that are not always recognized as seizures by the person experiencing them or by health care professionals: blank staring, lip smacking, or jerking movements of arms and legs. The frequency of seizures varies greatly, from once in a while to several per day.

Epilepsy is one of the world's oldest known medical conditions, and yet too many people do not understand it. In too many cases, this misunderstanding has led to fear, discrimination, and social stigma.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

**65 MILLION:** People around the world who have epilepsy.

**3.4 MILLION:** People in the United States who have epilepsy.

**1 IN 26:** People in the United States that will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime.

**Nearly 140,000:** People in the Chicagoland area that have epilepsy.

**150,000:** New cases of epilepsy in the United States every year.

**ONE-THIRD:** People with epilepsy who live with uncontrollable seizures because no available treatment works for them.

**6 OUT OF 10:** People with epilepsy where the cause is unknown.

**50,000:** People who die from epilepsy-related causes in the United States every year.

**More people live with epilepsy than Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy – combined.**

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# 2021 IMPACT



**5,258**

**PEOPLE EDUCATED**



**504**

**PATIENT VISITS AT CLINIC**



**4,650**

**INSTANCES OF COUNSELING, ADVOCACY,  
CASE MANAGEMENT AND INFO/REFERRAL**



**71**

**MENTAL HEALTH  
COUNSELING CLIENTS**  
(INCLUDES 1:1 COUNSELING AND GROUP THERAPY)



**1,711**

**ATTENDEES**

**AT**



**245**

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

# 2021 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## **REVENUES**

### **Public support and revenue:**

Clubs and organizations	\$ 16,687
Corporate gifts	61,459
Foundations and trusts	77,882
Individual gifts	136,836

### **TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

**292,864**

## **OTHER REVENUES**

### **Grants:**

Department of Human Services	1,301,692
Grant from the SBA	100,000
Clothing donation income	374,903
Special events (net of direct costs)	131,301
Investment income	28,791

### **TOTAL OTHER REVENUES**

**1,936,687**

### **TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT**

**2,229,551**

## **EXPENSES**

### **Program services:**

Patient services	\$ 942,116
Community services	339,754
Professional education and training	145,331
Public health education	222,830

### **TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES**

**1,650,031**

## **OTHER EXPENSES**

Management and general	181,790
Fundraising	239,889

### **TOTAL EXPENSES**

**2,071,710**

### **CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

**179,946**

# 2021 STATEMENT OF POSITION

## ASSETS

### CURRENT ASSETS

#### Cash:

Accounts receivable

Prepaid expenses

Security deposit

Certificates of deposit

### TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Furniture and fixtures

Leasehold improvements

Equipment

Less accumulated depreciation

### TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

### TOTAL ASSETS

## TOTAL

\$ 3,688,416

126,963

26,006

9,916

750,000

4,601,301

19,056

8,040

72,961

(85,016)

15,041

4,616,342

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### LIABILITIES

Accrued expense

Deferred rent

### TOTAL LIABILITIES

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted

Temporarily restricted

### TOTAL NET ASSETS

### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 62,048

123,107

185,155

4,422,794

8,393

4,431,187

4,616,342

# 2021 DONORS

THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF GREATER CHICAGO WERE RECEIVED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

## **\$25,000 +**

The McInerney Family Charitable Fund  
Northwestern Medicine

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

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Epilepsy Foundation of America (EFA)  
Greenwich Biosciences  
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## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

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**EPILEPSY  
FOUNDATION**

Greater Chicago