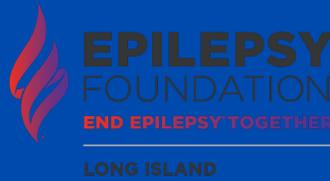


EPIC Family



Spring 2021 Newsletter

**EPIC Long Island &
Epilepsy Foundation
Long Island**
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East Meadow, NY 11554
(516) 739 - 7733

**South Shore Child
Guidance Center**
91 Guy Lombardo Ave.
Freeport, NY 11520
(516) 868 - 3030

www.epicli.org



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO



"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."
— Anne Bradstreet

So, here we are in the spring of 2021, our second pandemic spring. Whoever thought that we would ever be reading a sentence like that? For the past year, we have been confronting isolation, suffering, and loss. We have responded with courage, sacrifice and hard work. We kept our heads down but our eyes on the prize of an eventual end to this unanticipated disaster. Now, as we find ourselves entering Year Two, we all wonder what the future holds for us. Will it be a gradual reduction of the threat as more people are vaccinated and adopt good social distancing and masking habits? Or will the pandemic continue to be a step-forward/step-back process, with alternating surges and respites? Unfortunately, our eyes are blind to the future. We do know, however, what we have learned of each other in the past year – that although that there are many who value their right to exercise their personal choice above all else, there are many more who have achieved a lasting insight. They have learned that we are all connected, that everything we do has an impact on others, that our strength lies in our individual decisions being guided by their impact on our neighbors and families. With this in mind, as a society and as a not-for-profit agency, we can anticipate and savor better seasons ahead.

- Tom

Tom Hopkins, President & CEO

2021 Gala

Virtual Gala Celebration



2021



THANK YOU!

2021 Virtual Cocktail Reception Sponsors

EPIC Family Sponsors

M&T Bank

Understanding what's important®

MGD Consulting Inc



Gold Sponsors

Don & Grace Luneburg



Bronze Sponsors



Every year, we are overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that we receive from our donors, the gala planning committee, and the sponsors for our events. Despite the challenges that COVID presented, our stakeholders remained committed to supporting the programs and services of the EPIC Family and celebrating the work of our organization.

We offered a new sponsorship level this year: the **EPIC Family Sponsor** which underwrites our four main fundraising events - the Gala, Spring Fling, the Don Luneburg Golf & Tennis Classic, and the Walk to END EPILEPSY - as well as supports the programs and services of our three agencies.

For 2021, we are proud to showcase our EPIC Family Sponsors and to highlight the agency that each supports:

MGD Consulting Inc - EPIC Long Island

M&T Bank - South Shore Child Guidance Center

SK Life Science - Epilepsy Foundation Long Island

To all our sponsors and to those who participated in our virtual event, we thank you for your generosity and for investing in our programs and services. We are forever grateful and we look forward to gathering together in person to celebrate these meaningful and longstanding partnerships.

2021 EPIC Family Gala Honorees

THANK YOU

This is not a simple thank you,
Not a message just because;
It has meaning that runs deeper,
Sharing what we all have thought.

You have worked and stayed attentive,
Doing more than just your share;
When at times it seemed the darkest,
You held on, and you were there.

These days seem like no other,
Calling for a team who cares,
Drawing on the love that binds us,
You are heroes! Fair and square.

It has not been easy;
Nor the going smooth as silk.
There've been pressures quite outstanding,
Charged and challenged us to the hilt.

You have shown your strength and bravery,
At a time when it counts the most.
Please remember you have made a difference.
To our front line workers, here's your toast!

And now we raise our glasses,
Singing all the praise you're due,
Nothing could have gone much better,
Had it not been for you!

Dedicated to the EPIC Family Gala Honorees!

Lois Stein, Board Member
South Shore Child Guidance Center



EPIC Long Island

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Day Habilitation

It has been well over a year since the Day Habilitation program paused its in-person services and began offering activities and working on goals via Zoom. Over the past several months, some people have been able to return to the East Meadow program site but in order to follow health and safety protocols, the program is not operating at full capacity.

The director, program managers, and direct support professionals have been very creative in providing hybrid services. In our next newsletter, you will learn of the exciting activities and celebrations that they have incorporated into the program.

Residential Services

The individuals who live in our 18 group homes in Nassau and Suffolk counties have been learning to cope with the restrictions of remaining at home and not being able to participate in their day program services; because of this, the residential management and staff provide the supports and services in-house. For those who are able, they have resumed their employment or have returned to day program sites but for most, it will be sometime before they can resume their typical daily routines.

Community Habilitation

Community Habilitation's individualized services are provided in people's homes and communities with the intention of developing increased confidence, independence, and social opportunities. As with our other habilitation services, Community Habilitation was also adapted to maintain health and safety. Services are being provided via virtual platforms such as Zoom and Skype.

Through this use of virtual technology, participants continue to learn new skills, enjoy hobbies such as knitting, photography, and baking, as well as maintaining those important social connections.

Clinic Services

Prior to the pandemic, the Clinic Services at EPIC Long Island, were offered in-person, six days per week.

For the past year, most clinical services have been provided through telehealth methods. Until in-person sessions fully resume, the clinicians will provide treatment and hold sessions via HIPAA-compliant virtual platforms.

To learn more about the programs and services of EPIC Long Island as well as to access updates on COVID-19 protocols, please visit our website: www.epicli.org



LONG ISLAND

Extraordinary People In Care



"Teamwork is how we get it done!"

Pat Nidds, MSRN

Nursing Supervisor

Residential

"When you work at Day Program, you are part of the family"

Theresa Gyamfi

Treatment Team Leader

Day Habilitation

**EXTRAORDINARY
PEOPLE WORK
HERE!**



The quotes from the nurses, program staff, and clinicians were taken from our 2021 Virtual Gala. Please enjoy the full video at www.epicli.org/events

South Shore Child Guidance Center

CLINICAL SERVICES

Prior to the pandemic, the Clinic Services at South Shore Child Guidance Center and the CARE Center were provided in-person, seven days per week. The clinicians continue to offer their expertise in behavioral health services and addiction treatment via HIPAA-compliant virtual platforms.

Despite the remote nature of the work, the South Shore Child Guidance Center clinicians and support staff remain available to provide the following services:

- Individual, Group, and Family Therapy for children, adolescents, and adults, and families
- Home-Based Crisis Intervention (HBCI) provides intensive, home-based services to families to help prevent the psychiatric hospitalization of a child or adolescent. HBCI helps to keep families together and promotes healthier parent-child relationships
- **Nassau County Mobile Crisis Team (516) 227-8255** offers an alternative to police intervention or to assist the police with the goal of minimizing a potential crisis in the community. Services include triage and assessment, stabilization, and referral linkages
- School Support Programs provide counseling to students onsite, to improve behavior as well as academic performance
- The **CARE Center** provides chemical dependency treatment to individuals who have substance use disorders, as well as offers supports to their significant others, and loved ones with special emphasis on children of people who struggle with substance use. Education on chemical dependency individual/group counseling, and a DWI Offenders Program are offered

To learn more about programs and services of South Shore Child Guidance Center and the CARE Center as well to access updates to COVID-19 protocols: www.epicli.org/southshore



South Shore Child
Guidance Center

**WE ARE
HERE
FOR YOU!**

516-868-3030



NOW OPEN!

ADULT
MENTAL
HEALTH
CLINIC



South Shore Child
Guidance Center

Contact: Wendy Lang, LCSW-R
Director of Adult Mental Health
Services, South Shore Child
Guidance Center

516-868-3030
EXT. 113



South Shore Child
Guidance Center



"We are incredibly lucky to be working with a team of committed and devoted employees. We really come together to take care of one another and to take care of the people we work for"

Jennifer Colbert

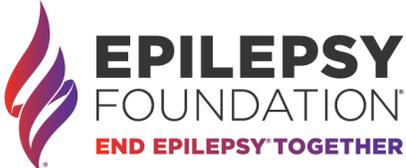
Vice President

Clinic Services

EPIC Long Island &

South Shore Child

Guidance Center.



LONG ISLAND

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION LONG ISLAND

COMMUNITY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, & ADVOCACY



What is most important to us is that the we were able to advocate for funding and to share what living with epilepsy is all about"

Mike Veteri

Parent, Advocate

I feel as though we still all came together to fight for our goal and to share our unique stories"

Caroline Gross

Self-Advocate

2021 TSU Participants

Education

The collaborative efforts of our Community Education Coordinator, Janet Romeo and Sophia Adinou, Professor at Nassau Community College were featured in a recent issue of Campus News. Their long-standing education and training arrangement has created the opportunity for future healthcare workers and professionals to increase their understanding of epilepsy, learn seizure recognition and first aid, and realize improved healthcare outcomes through certification training.

To read the entire article, please click on www.campus-news.org or go to our website: www.epicli.org/news

Outreach

EFLI has begun offering monthly virtual trainings for the Seizure Recognition and First Aid Training Certification. Currently, over 150 people have been trained. To find out more information or to register for one of these trainings, please contact Janet Romeo: jromeo@epicli.org

Advocacy

In late March, the advocacy team participated in the annual *Teens Speak Up! Public Policy Institute program*. As in years past, the teen representatives practiced sharing their personal journeys of living with epilepsy and

and advocated for all people living with epilepsy. What was different about 2021? All of the training sessions and visits were done via a virtual format. Given the virtual nature of the training and visits, the national Epilepsy Foundation encouraged past and current participants in the advocacy effort.

EFLI was well-represented by Giovanna Veteri, who participated in the 2020 TSU/PPI and Caroline Gross, 2021 TSU/PPI representative - both also participated in the advocacy visits for the 2020 August Recess meetings. All meetings were conducted via telephonic or video conference. The advocates had visits with the offices of Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand as well as Congressman Tom Suozzi.

While the experience was different, the message was the same: The urgent need for epilepsy education programs as well as research to offer a variety of effective treatment options with minimal side effects, cures for epilepsy, and for access to care for all. Caroline and Giovanna will also be participating with EFLI and the network of other New York epilepsy advocacy groups to enact Seizure Safe School legislation so that all school personnel are trained in seizure recognition and first aid.

For more information about the programs, services, and advocacy efforts, of the Epilepsy Foundation Long Island, please visit our website: www.epicli.org/epilepsy

