

# EPIC Family



## FALL 2021 Newsletter

### **EPIC Long Island & Epilepsy Foundation Long Island**

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO



*As the season changes, we learn to adapt.*  
Lailah Gifty Akita

Welcome to our fall newsletter. You will see that this has been a season similar to our previous autumns – we celebrated Direct Support Professionals Month, we played at the Don Luneburg Golf & Tennis Classic, and we learned more about epilepsy through Community Education Workshops.

But in another way, this season was unlike all those prior but one: This was our second COVID fall. These months have been a time of gradual reopening, with staff and those they serve, carefully negotiating the risks and benefits of this pandemic world. At the same time, as we learn of positive test results for friends and family, we realize that this great threat is far from over.

Throughout it all, the staff of our partnership of agencies continue to serve the needs of those who depend on them for specialized service, now more than ever. For those staff, it has been “business as usual” under these most unusual of circumstances.

So, as the season changes, let’s together continue to use our dedication, our determination, and our devotion to our mission, as we adapt to the challenges of the seasons ahead.

*-Tom*

Tom Hopkins, President & CEO

## HAPPY DSP MONTH

In honor of DSP month EPIC is having raffle giveaway!!!!

One lucky staff member from each residential home will have a chance to win one of the following prizes in the picture below. All DSP's are automatically entered to win!



# Direct Support Professionals Month

Throughout the month of September, agencies across New York state that provide services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, recognize the hard work and dedication of the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). The DSPs of EPIC Long Island Day Habilitation, Community Habilitation, and Residential Habilitation programs and services were celebrated in EPIC fashion. In addition to the recognition of their work, all DSPs' names were entered into a raffle drawing and throughout the month had the opportunity to win prizes. A few of the lucky winners are captured in the above photos

Of course, the past year and a half has presented challenges beyond any that we have previously faced. The DSPs have risen to those challenges, offering assistance wherever and whenever they were needed: providing care and support in the group homes and community throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties; offering remote programming options; as well as resuming full operation of in-person services at our Day Habilitation program in East Meadow.

So while DSPs are officially recognized in the month of September, their work is appreciated year-round and without them, we would not be able to keep the programs and services running and thriving.



## The Sheila & Fred Abrams Community Education Workshop Series

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*"How a Seizure Response Dog Can Change Your World"* presented by Grace Murphy of Canine Assistants, Inc. Additionally, Grace invited Giovanna Veteri to share about her first-hand experience of living with epilepsy and the support she receives from her seizure response dog, Cade. You will see more of Giovanna and Cade at the Walk to END EPILEPSY as Giovanna will be joined by her family to lead the Walk as our 2021 Grand Marshal.

Make sure to register for the Walk to END EPILEPSY at Eisenhower Park, Saturday, October 16th!

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/2021walk-to-end-epilepsy](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/2021walk-to-end-epilepsy)

The Sheila and Fred Abrams Community Education Center  
Invites You to a Zoom Workshop



Please join us on  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**How a  
Seizure Response Dog  
Can Change Your World**

PRESENTED BY  
**GRACE MURPHY**  
**CANINE ASSISTANTS, INC.**

Space is limited!  
Please register in advance at:  
<https://bit.ly/92321workshop>  
After registering, you will receive a confirmation  
email containing the Zoom workshop link  
Questions? Contact [jromeo@epicli.org](mailto:jromeo@epicli.org)

Funding provided in part by the Epilepsy Coalition of NYS, the  
Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation, and SK Life Science



**EPILEPSY**  
FOUNDATION  
**END EPILEPSY TOGETHER**

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**LONG ISLAND**

# The Don Luneburg Golf & Tennis Classic Raises \$200,000!

The annual Don Luneburg Golf & Tennis Classic held Monday, September 27th was a driving success! The picture-perfect day at the Mill River Club in Oyster Bay set the scene for great golf and tennis followed by a lovely evening of cocktails and dinner. This annual event which is hosted in partnership with FDR Services Corp., is spearheaded by event Co-Chairs Keith Luneburg and Jesse McCormack to recognize Don Luneburg and his nearly thirty-year commitment to the mission of the EPIC Family of Agencies. Keith, Jesse, and their families have worked to uphold the tradition of volunteerism and philanthropy started by Don and his wife, Grace.

Our EPIC Champion Honoree, Allison Heaney, Owner & President of Skaggs-Walsh was surrounded by family and friends who joined her for the day to support the EPIC Family agencies. We are grateful for Allison's participation on the Golf & Tennis Committee, her generosity, and dedication to our organization.

On the greens and courts, players entered into some friendly competition - all for a good cause. The fun continued throughout the evening as guests bid on live and silent auction items, and purchased raffle tickets in the hopes of winning the Grand Prize Raffle: *A Trip to Anywhere in the World* or one of the many beautiful basket raffle prizes. Along with enjoying a great day of golf, tennis, and comradery, the event successfully raised \$200,00 for the EPIC Family of Services!

















# ANNUAL DON LUNEBURG Golf & Tennis Classic

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