

EPILEPSY SERVICES

OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

SERVING CLIENTS SINCE 1968

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Help Us Help You...

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN FOR SUPPORT

Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida is able to provide services to clients utilizing funding from sources like the Florida Department of Health and local United Way agencies. Doctors, laboratories, diagnostic companies and drug companies also provide products and services at little to no charge. Currently there are more patients who need services than there are funds available.

Here's How You Can Help

Please consider using the enclosed envelope to make a financial contribution or pass it along to

someone who also might consider making a donation. Your support will help to assure that we can continue to provide our programs and services to all who qualify. Thank You!

Another Way to Help

Ever thought about becoming a volunteer? Epilepsy Services needs volunteers to assist with fund raising, mailings, grant writing, community outreach, answering phones, organizing and more. Let us know of your interest in volunteering and we'll do our best to match our needs and your skills. Contact Sharon Keen at (941) 953-5988 x316.



**Epilepsy Services
of Southwest Florida**

Provides Free or Low Cost Services

- Initial consultation with a neurologist
- Necessary diagnostic follow up like EEG, MRI, lab work
- Prescription medications
- Case management and referral to other helpful agencies

Serving Eight Counties

Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Manatee and Sarasota



*Walk for Epilepsy – Josh Provides Epilepsy Assistance Foundation, Inc.
Photo by Cliff Roles*

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ABOUT EPILEPSY SERVICES OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Our goal is to assist in the process of empowering epilepsy patients toward self-management in order to be able to lead as close to a normal life as possible. With appropriate and effective diagnosis and treatment we regularly experience this outcome.

According to a recent report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM), epilepsy is the nation's fourth most common neurological disorder after migraine, stroke and Alzheimer's disease. Epilepsy is a complex spectrum of disorders that affects millions of people in a variety of ways and is characterized by unpredictable seizures that differ in type, cause and severity. Living with epilepsy is much more than just seizures. The disorder is often defined in practical terms such as challenges in school, uncertainties about social situations and employment, limitations on driving and questions about independent living.

Preventing epilepsy is possible for some causes of the

disorder. The IOM report states that progress has been made in developing new seizure medications and refining medical devices and surgical techniques to reduce or eliminate seizures for many individuals with epilepsy.

Epilepsy Services can provide patients with medical, prescription and case management services at little to no cost. These services help the patients control their epilepsy and drastically reduce emergency room visits which can cost taxpayers thousands of dollars. Our doctors donate or substantially discount their services as do laboratories, medical suppliers and pharmaceutical companies.

For more information about Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida and how we can help, contact us at any of the numbers listed on the back page or visit epilepsy-services.org

TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO MANAGE EPILEPSY

More than 3000 years ago people recognized the behaviors that today we know are caused by a brain disorder called epilepsy. Epilepsy is more common than most people think. About 2 million people of all ages in the US have epilepsy and as many as 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime.

Epilepsy is a serious medical condition. Today many people can manage epilepsy and live well, just as others learn to live well with other long-term medical conditions.

Epilepsy does not have to rule your life! As many as two of every three people newly diagnosed with epilepsy are likely to have their seizures become well-controlled by using epilepsy medicines. And medicines and other types of treatments can help people with epilepsy no matter when they were diagnosed.

A key is to get help early and work with health care providers, for example neurologists, specialists in treating epilepsy. This kind of partnership can help you take full

advantage of the many treatment options that exist today. These treatments can often reduce, or sometimes even eliminate seizures.

Some people with epilepsy continue to face misunderstandings about their condition. As a result they can face discrimination in education and employment. Fortunately, more and more people are learning the truth about epilepsy – it is a medical condition that can usually be well managed with treatment.

Source: American Academy of Neurology

Thanks for Your Support!

A special thank you to the [Selby Foundation](#), [The Community Foundation of Sarasota County](#) and the [Doyle Trust](#) for recent financial support.

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A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Dawn Langelle has a new lease on life and she wants everyone to know about it. (see poem)

After two devastating head injuries in 2009, one caused simply by being distracted while on a walk, the other by a fall off of her bike, Dawn began suffering seizures and related symptoms that changed her life.

"There was a significant period of time where all I could do was lie in the dark with earplugs and a pillow over my eyes."

She had seen numerous practitioners, she explains, some even questioning the validity of her story, others suggesting a mental illness. Her search for help was costly. Her seizures led to losing her job. She had no health insurance. Her mother was able to help her pay mounting medical expenses. "She went into the funds she had saved for when she aged to help me," Dawn explains. "I had been planning to be the one



Jean and Dawn Langelle

who helped her," she says, well aware of the irony of the role reversal.

A self-described fitness nut and a computer whiz who had made a good living with her technology skills, she found herself in a desperate situation, barely able to function, let alone think about finding employment. Her plight had lasted more than four years and her health was deteriorating. A case manager with a brain injury support organization suggested she contact Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida.

*I know you have many, clients besides me
Your help has given me, an important key
To unlock my brain, give me a chance
Looking forward without a backward glance
Grateful for all, I've been through
Now I have, many a clue
On how to continue, on with my life
No longer encumbered, overwhelmed
with such strife
Each day I know, how to sift
Through the junk, and look for the gift
A much stronger woman, day in and
day out
My head no longer, filled with such doubt
"Thank you!!!" is what, I wish to say
For with your help, I've become this way*

Dawn Langelle

Dawn participated in the intake process and learned she was eligible for a neurological consult with Dr. Ronald Aung-Din, one of the Epilepsy Services physicians. This was followed up by another appointment with the doctor during a monthly clinic. A new diagnosis and a new medication regimen was working. The fog was beginning to lift and she gained strength and improved clarity of thought. She was on her way back to a new level of self-management. "I told my mother that we would be able to have some fun again," she said proudly.

She still has a way to go with her recovery but she is grateful to be where she's at now. She will continue to participate in the program at no cost. She encourages others to hang in. "These people can give you hope and help you live your life optimally."

Clinical Research Study Led by William McElveen, M.D. Bradenton Research Center

Still having seizures despite taking anti-epileptic medication?

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study. This study will determine if an investigational drug is effective when taken with the drug(s) you are already taking. You may qualify if you:

- Are between 18 and 70
- Are able to provide documentation of your epilepsy diagnosis
 - Are currently taking one, two or three anti-epileptic drugs
- Have had at least 8 partial-onset seizures in the past 8 weeks
 - Are willing to document your seizures on a daily basis

To see if you qualify, contact: Allie Drew, Study Coordinator
(941)-708-0005 alliedrew@bradentonresearch.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

Epilepsy Support Group - JoshProvides Epilepsy Assistance Foundation sponsors an Epilepsy Support Group for the greater Sarasota and Manatee County area. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Center Pointe Building at 2033 Main Street, Suite 301 in Sarasota. For more information contact: sandi@joshprovides.org

Brain Injury Support Group – sponsored by Suncoast Center for Independent Living. Third Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. For more information contact: tim@scil4u.org or phone (941) 351-9545 x 106.

Acquired Disability Support Group – sponsored by Suncoast Center for Independent Living. Meets every Friday from 11 am to 12 pm. Support Group designed to assist individuals understand and manage their disabilities, enhance self-esteem and to realize how to maximize the community resources. RSVP to peermentor@scil4u.org or (941) 351-9545 x 105.

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RESOURCES FOR YOU

American Academy of Neurology
AAN.com

American Brain Foundation
CureBrainDisease.org

Neurology Now® Magazine
NeurologyNow.com

American Epilepsy Society
Aesnet.org

Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE)
CUREepilepsy.org

Epilepsy Foundation
epilepsyfoundation.org

Epilepsy Therapy Project (*source of online seizure diary*)
Epilepsy.com

JoshProvides Epilepsy Assistance Foundation, Inc.
joshprovides.org

Seizure Tracker
Seizuretracker.com

Epilepsy and Legal Rights
Epilepsylegal.org

CONTACT US

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BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT epilepsy-services.org

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