



"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game."

- Babe Ruth

**Epilepsy Services of
Southwest Florida**

**Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Fourteenth Edition-
May/June 2022**

**Greetings to our clients,
physicians, donors, sponsors,
supporters, and community
members!**

We are still faced with many of the challenges we experienced in 2021. The COVID-19 virus and other variants are still evident, and we hope that you, your family and friends will be vaccinated soon.

We are looking forward to where we can all eventually come together again and continue on a path to a healthy, safe and prosperous life.

Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida always puts the health, safety, and well-being of our clients, employees and stakeholders first.

We are following the recommendations of the local and national authorities and are abundantly concerned for all members of our community.

IMPORTANT! Our staff will be in our offices on a limited basis to take deliveries and phone calls, but will continue to work remotely and can be reached via email or phone.

All client clinic visits with their physician will be coordinated from our offices.

These visits will be scheduled by your Case Manager and they will contact you regarding your appointment.

Please call the following numbers or email to connect with your Case Manager:

Fort Myers Office (also serves Naples), Dee Cilento: (239) 275-4838 ext.1, email dcilento@esswfl.org or **Gwendolyn Howerton;** (239) 275-4838 ext.2, email ghowerton@esswfl.org

Sarasota & Bradenton office, **Diane Walz:** (941) 752-6226; email dwalz@esswfl.org

Other inquiries:

Executive Director, **Barbara Coleman:** (941) 953-5988, ext. 316, email bcoleman@esswfl.org

Prevention & Education information,

Executive Director, **Barbara Coleman:** (941) 953-5988, ext. 316, email bcoleman@esswfl.org

Director of Development,

Tom Swanston, (941) 953-5988, ext. 303, email tswanston@esswfl.org

In the event of an emergency, please call 911, as Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida is not an emergency service organization.

Our staff hopes you and your loved ones stay healthy and safe during this difficult time.



GIVING CHALLENGE 2022!! GLASSER SCHOENBAUM CAMPUS OF CARING EVENT!

Thank you to all donors and participants in Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida's Giving Challenge Campaign on April 26-27th. We sincerely appreciate your support in our mission to help uninsured adults with epilepsy live as close to a normal life as possible.

We surpassed previous years' contributions and enjoyed partnering with Glasser Schoenbaum's Campus of Caring event on April 26th. Many people visited our campus and we had a great time enjoying the great food, music and friendship. Thank You Glasser Schoenbaum for this wonderful opportunity!



EPILEPSY SERVICES OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ATTENDS "WALK THE TALK" EVENT IN NAPLES, FLORIDA

Members of our board, staff and friends came together on April 2nd to support Epilepsy Florida's "Walk the Talk" event at Baker Park in Naples, FL.

We joined forces to make a difference for the more than 500,000 individuals living with epilepsy in Florida and helped Epilepsy Florida celebrate their 50th anniversary of excellence and service to the community.

The event featured a walk around the park, an awards ceremony for the top fund raisers and supporters and ESSWFL sponsored a booth that offered information about our services and prevention and education opportunities.



"Ask the Expert" - a new way to ask your questions or express concerns:

In response to the government health recommendations regarding COVID-19, **we have cancelled our monthly group support meetings.** We want to "keep the conversation going" and would like to hear any questions or concerns you have regarding epilepsy. These can be questions about yourself, a loved one, friend, family member, neighbor, etc. We will gather questions and respond to them in upcoming newsletters. All questions posted will remain anonymous and we will "ask the expert" to respond to your question or concern.

Listed below is a question we received this month.

"I heard about something called SUDEP. What exactly is SUDEP?"

SUDEP is the sudden, unexpected death of someone with epilepsy, who was otherwise healthy. In SUDEP cases, no other cause of death is found when an autopsy is done. Each year, more than 1 in 1,000 people with epilepsy die from SUDEP. This is the leading cause of death in people with uncontrolled seizures.

The person with epilepsy is often found dead in bed and doesn't appear to have had a convulsive seizure. Over one-third of the time, there is a witnessed seizure or signs of a recent seizure close to the time of death. They are often found lying face down. No one is sure about the cause of death in SUDEP and it may differ between cases. Some researchers think that a seizure causes an irregular heart rhythm. Other research has shown that breathing difficulties following a seizure lead to death.

"How can you prevent SUDEP?"

Until further answers are available, the best way to prevent SUDEP is to lower your risk by controlling seizures. Research has found that people with all types of epilepsy that experience convulsive seizures can be at risk.

Learn more about SUDEP and how it affected Cameron Boyce's family via this YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e237WQUc6Q>

Education and awareness information can be obtained from the SUDEP Institute via this link:

<https://www.epilepsy.com/programs/sudep-institute>

To submit a question for our next newsletter, please email:
bcoleman@esswfl.org.



In each issue of this newsletter we will feature members of our staff or volunteer board of directors with the intention that you will be able to get to know a little bit better the faces behind the names.

This issue we are featuring Danelle Parks, ESSWFL's new Administrative Assistant in our Sarasota, FL office.



Hi, my name is Danelle Parks and I am the new Administrative Assistant in the Sarasota office.

I grew up in Iowa in a small town across the Missouri River from Omaha, NE. I have a very large extended family where I am the oldest of 19 grandchildren. I am married and have two children. My husband Darren is a Nurse Manager and has been traveling and supporting different facilities for the last 7 years. My son is Noah and graduated from Iowa State University last year and works in the IT world. My daughter Madison is currently a Junior at Iowa State University studying Biochemical Engineering. GO CYCLONES!!!

I have worked in the Insurance field over 25 years. I have worn many hats, such as Customer Service, Claims, Case Manager, Recruiting, Teaching, and all aspects of Insurance support. I also have a background in administrative support and Event Planning. I have always enjoyed helping others.

In 2020, my husband and I decided to downsize and move to Florida. My daughter said, "Mom, move where it feels like a vacation." So, here we are! I really enjoy working with everyone in the Sarasota office and look forward to my future at Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida.

Thank you,



DONATE TODAY!

We need your help! Donations are always welcome and without them we would not be able to do the work that we do. Your gift helps ensure our clients continue to receive critical medical attention including access to neurologists, diagnostic testing and assistance accessing medications as well as case management services and prevention and educational programs to the community at large. Here are current donation opportunities:



Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust Matching Gift Program

The 2022 Flanzer Matching Gift Program will match any gift from \$5 to \$500 to Epilepsy Service of Southwest Florida. "Louis and Gloria Flanzer always believed in the goodness and generosity of people" said Eric Kaplan, co-trustee of the Flanzer Trust. Please support Epilepsy Services by donating today.

How to donate:

- Click on the BE A DONOR TODAY button below and you will be directed to a page where you can pay either by PayPal or Credit card.
- Type in the amount of your gift from \$5 to \$500.
- **Designate Epilepsy Services of SWFL in the drop down menu at the bottom of the page to ensure your gift is directed to us.**
- If you would like to make a donation by check, please make the check out to: The Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, 1843 Floy Street, Sarasota, FL 34239 and **indicate Epilepsy**



Prevention & Education Services

If you would like a presentation to your business, your club meeting or your office, please contact Barbara Coleman, Executive Director at bcoleman@esswfl.org or 941-953-5988, Ext. 316 for a **free** presentation. Presentations can be done via Zoom to promote social-distancing.

Barbara will be glad to train your staff on how to respond to someone having a seizure or just make an informative presentation about epilepsy – the fourth most common neurological disorder in the United States after migraine, stroke, and Alzheimer's disease.

About Us

The goal of Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida is to assist in the process of empowering our patients toward self-management in order to lead as close to a normal life as possible.

Go to our website to learn more about our organization and take time to view our video:

epilepsy-services.org



Services of Southwest
Florida in the memo section.



Thank You!

BE A DONOR TODAY!



Shop at Amazon Smile and support Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida.

You can shop at Amazon Smile and the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to our organization. Just select Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida as your charitable organization. You can use your Amazon account or set up an account at Amazon Smile.

We sincerely thank you for your consideration and support!

For more info go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=Lw==>

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