



Annual Celebration 2010 Celebrating Epilepsy Awareness Month

On November 18th The Epilepsy Center celebrated Epilepsy Awareness month with its Annual Celebration University of Michigan versus The Ohio State University Tail Gate Party held at The Pinnacle in Maumee Ohio. The event was yet another success with many of the attendees dressed in their team colors of scarlet and grey, maize and blue, as well as some brown and orange of Bowling Green and blue and gold of the University of Toledo.

The evening was emceed by WTOL Toledo 11's very own **Chrys Petersen**. She welcomed everyone to the event as patrons perused the many items that were in the silent auction. Items ranged from wonderful office chairs, hunting and fishing trips, Toledo Walleye, Toledo Mudhens and Detroit Redwing tickets, to assortment of Wines from Heidelberg Distributors to the crowd favorite client artwork.

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Executive Director **Roy Cherry**



Emcee **Chrys Petersen**

Annual Campaign 2010

The Epilepsy Center's Annual Campaign is in full swing and we have received over \$10,000 already! This has been a great accomplishment and is much needed to assist in continuing to provide our great Awareness, Education, and Outreach programs about epilepsy. Thank you to every one who has contributed to this great cause. The campaign will continue to run until November of 2011 and our goal is still \$20,000.

The monies raised will benefit all of our Awareness, Education and Outreach programs, such as Kids on The Block, Living With Epilepsy Series, Family Camp, and the Epilepsy Center's Resource Library.

Kids on the Block: Funds from the annual campaign would help purchase much needed new puppets and help with marketing this wonderful program to more schools.

Living With Epilepsy Series: Funds from the annual campaign would assist in distribution of materials and development of flyers to communicate this great educational series to the community.

The Epilepsy Center Resource Library: Funds from the annual campaign would be used to update the library resources. In addition funds could be used to purchase a newer and faster computer for internet research.

Family Camp: Funds from the annual campaign will be used to help buy supplies for the activities, help with distribution of materials and be used to pay for the meals.

Please consider making a donation with the enclosed envelope to help support these great programs for epilepsy awareness.



Report from the Executive Director



Roy Cherry

Let it snow. That seems to be the theme this winter as we have seen our fair share of snow. I know I have seen enough, although it does make for beautiful scenery. As you will read in this quarter's *Torchlight*, there has been a lot going on over the past few months with the Annual Celebration kicking off our Annual Campaign, Christmas Party, and client vacations. While the bitter cold of winter can be daunting, we continue to be warmed by our clients and efforts every day.

And who are our residential clients? Our clients are a brother, a sister, a friend or maybe even a son or daughter. What makes them unique is that they have a developmental disability. However, this doesn't mean they are that much different. They love, they laugh, they live. They enjoy trips, they enjoy sports, they enjoy art, and they enjoy the holidays. They enjoy food, they enjoy conversations, they enjoy a game with a friend, and they enjoy going bowling. And they enjoy the many things we do every day.

Last month I shared some information on Epilepsy, however we here at The Epilepsy Center also focus on developmental disabilities. With March being Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month I would like to share some information on developmental disabilities.

First, what are the many causes of developmental disabilities (DD):

- Brain injury or infection before, during or after birth
 - Growth or nutrition problems
 - Abnormalities of chromosomes and genes
 - Premature birth
 - Poor diet and health care
 - Drug misuse during pregnancy (including alcohol intake and smoking)
 - Child abuse
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
-
- DD affects between 1 - 2% of the population in most western countries; worldwide it is believed to be approximately 1.4%
 - Twice as common in males as in females
 - Prevalence higher in areas of poverty and deprivation, and among people of certain ethnicities
 - According to the Autism Society of America, as many as **1.5 million Americans today** are believed to have some form of autism.
 - **1 in 150 children** is diagnosed with autism, with **67 children diagnosed per day**. That is equivalent to a new diagnosis almost **every 20 minutes** (Autism Speaks, Inc.).

- According to the United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation, **between 1.5 and 2 million people** have cerebral palsy in the U.S. There are an estimated **10,000 new cases each year**.
- About 3 in 10 children with cerebral palsy have severe learning disabilities; 1 in 3 children cannot walk; 1 in 4 cannot feed or dress themselves (United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation).
- The National Down Syndrome Society estimates that Down Syndrome occurs in **one out every 733 live births** - approximately **5,000 births per year**.
- Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring genetic condition, currently affecting more than **350,000 people** in the U.S. (National Down Syndrome Society).
- An estimated **2.5 million people** in the United States have an intellectual disability - approximately **1 percent of the population** (U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission).
- **There are no cures for any of these developmental disabilities.**

So, as we move through 2011 people with developmental disabilities will continue to need the assistance of The Epilepsy Center and other similar providers of services. I myself am very thankful for all providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities, so that they can achieve the fullest life they can.



Santa comes to The Epilepsy Center

While Santa's elves made ready the treats for the festivities the guests began to arrive. Clients and their families, Staff and their families and Board Members all came to The Epilepsy Center of Saturday, December 11th for a fun afternoon.

Annual Celebration 2010 ... continued from cover

Executive Director's Address

Executive Director **Roy Cherry** gave his annual address to the crowd, again in full Jim Tressel gear. With an OH...IO, Director Cherry addressed the many accomplishments the Epilepsy Center achieved over the past year. These accomplishments included clients in the waiver program moving to new homes, bathroom renovations at the BJM ICF home, the facelift of the *Torchlight* newsletter and the upcoming new marketing material which the Epilepsy Foundation granted funds for. In addition, Director Cherry highlighted the Sign Language Class that was offered which all of the staff participated in as Mr. Cherry used his newly learned skill to express this as.

With all that being said, he then kicked off the 2010-2011 Annual Campaign to benefit the Awareness, Education and Outreach programs the Epilepsy Center provides. These programs include the Kids on the Block puppet show, Family Camp, Living With Epilepsy Series, and the Epilepsy Center Resource Library. All of these programs are offered free of charge and the contributions from the campaign will assist in funding for them.

Director Cherry then went on to thank all of the volunteers and staff for all of their hard work and contributions to the agency, of which none of the accomplishments would not have been possible without their efforts.

Board President Address and Key Note Speaker

The evening continued with a Message from the Board President **Susie Nowak**. She addressed the Board of Trustees and all of

Leading the practice session of songs for Santa, Elf Logan Diaz, grandson of long time Staff Member Karen Diaz belted out *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* with great gusto. Not to be out done, every child and adult practiced, too. When Santa finally arrived after making a thunderous entrance the songs were so enthusiastic, that the joy could not be contained. Santa received many hugs and kisses for making it to the party with his hectic schedule and people got their picture taken with Santa. They also received a stocking with treats and movie passes to The Maumee Indoor Theatre.

The Epilepsy Center has presented a Holiday Party annually for clients, staff, Board Members and all their families. We are planning to carry on with this tradition this year, too. Making it bigger and better each year is our goal to make our clients lives the best they can be.



Enjoying a friendly game of cornhole



Marie Plotts (center) receives the Karen Straw Community Service Award

their dedication and service to The Epilepsy Center. She continued expressing her appreciation to the staff and management of The Epilepsy Center, and discussed how important the mission was to her heart as her mother for years cared for individuals with developmental disabilities. She spoke of the accomplishments she has seen the Center achieve in just over a year and how proud she was of the Agency.

The **Key Note Speaker** for the evening was **Dr. Hongyan Li** from the University of Toledo Medical Center and who also spoke at the Living With Epilepsy series. He gave a very informative presentation about what epilepsy is and why it is so important for the community to be educated and aware of this disorder.

Annual Awards

The event continued with the annual tradition of the Epilepsy Center Awards. The **Volunteer Award** was presented to **Beverley Helmlinger** for her dedicated service on Tuesdays as the Center's receptionist. The **Karen Straw Community Service Award** was given to **Marie Plotts** for her outstanding community service, getting the word out in the community about The Epilepsy Center. The **Robert Wilson Award** went to former Board Member **Alex Gerken** for his continuing generous financial donations each year and his support to the Agency. Finally, the **Lamplighter Award**, the highest honor The Epilepsy Center can bestow, was awarded to Board Treasurer **Terry Moore**, which became the first two time winner of the award.

The evening concluded with the live auction for two amazing customized UM/OSU corn hole sets. Both sets went for a generous price, with the OSU set outbidding the UM set just by a hair. Overall the event was a fun filled night and raised over \$8,000 for the Agency's Awareness, Education and Outreach programs.



Epilepsy Center of NW Ohio starts its 10th season of Kids on the Block

The Epilepsy Center is proud to be presenting its 10th season of **Kids on the Block**. This puppet show is geared toward 3rd and 4th graders to teach them about epilepsy and friendship. Presented in a style and language that works for any age groups the show is both entertaining and educational at the same time.

Using a style of Japanese of puppetry called Bunraku (Boon-rah-koo) the puppeteers are actually seen but eventually blend into the background, because they are dressed in black. Kids on the Block (KOB) began in 1977, the same year The Epilepsy Center was founded. They have over 40 different topics covering disability awareness, plus medical & educational differences. Our presentation concentrates on epilepsy but the National KOB can be contacted for other topics at www.kotb.com or call 1-800-368-KIDS (5437).

The Epilepsy Center began presenting KOB in April of 2002 and since that time we have presented 296 shows to 11,206 children and 986 adults. Over the course of time we have had 13 different puppeteers and currently have 5 regulars. Three of the puppeteers begin in 2002. They are Crystal Tate, Nora Warejko and Irina Zaurov. Our newest members are Aaron Copeland and Jenny Kahn.

If you would like to see this program brought to your child's school, contact their teacher or school nurse and ask them to schedule a performance of Kids on the Block by calling Mary Jo at The Epilepsy Center at 419-867-5950 (ext 206).

Torch Bearers for 2010



Mary Jo Zeisloft

1st Quarter 2010 - **Mary Jo Zeisloft** - nominated by Karen Diaz, Olga Ruiz, Madeline Moreland, Faron Garvey, Jennifer Janowiecki, Cheryl Tam, and Laura Toth on 1/5/10 - For teaching new tricks on the computer, copy machine (office equipment in general!) and making our work easier and more efficient - thus making us more valuable assets to the corporate structure, and for the lovely decorations for Valentine's Day and St. Pat's.



Ebony Jones

2nd Quarter 2010 - **Ebony Jones** was nominated by Kim Smith. Kim says the nomination is for obtaining free tickets to the Mud hens baseball game for several of the BJM clients.



Lovette Kamfolt

3rd Quarter 2010 - **Lovette Kamfolt** is nominated by Laura Toth because Lovie drove out to pick up the Agency bus from Tesco (in Oregon) on her off time between shifts, saving valuable time for other tasks for one home coordinator.



Shirley Young

3rd Quarter 2010 - **Shirley Young** is nominated by Donna Woods because even though Shirley is "sleep staff" at Secor she always goes the extra mile and makes sure she completes a cleaning project, like cleaning windows or filters or stoves. Things second shift may not have time to do. Thanks Shirley.



Ingrid Stoudimire

4th Quarter 2010 - **Ingrid Stoudimire** is nominated by Karen Diaz in recognition of a valuable contribution to "Community Awareness". Ingrid met a young family through her other job, who has a 4 year old with epilepsy. Ingrid explained that she also worked for The Epilepsy Center and offered to pass along information to the Mom. Ingrid took the time to speak to Mary Jo to confirm services we provide. She talked to the Mom again and got permission to give information to Karen so Mom could receive educational information about epilepsy in children and our services. Thanks, Ingrid! That's the Spirit!



Nancy and Steve impersonate Elvis

Memphis & More Vacation

We recently reported on a vacation that involved some of our clients taking a train to the Grand Canyon. That was quite an adventure with memories to last a lifetime. Well our vacations didn't stop there. In mid October we had another vacation that was titled Memphis and More where they would take a trip to Tennessee by bus with stops to be enjoyed along the way. Marjorie Ripple, Nancy Sheaffer, Steve Kidder, Diana Bracken, and Kathy Clemens all enjoyed this trip to Graceland and staff members Cheryl Tam and Gail Obliske had the pleasure of accompanying them. At the heart of this vacation was a tour of Elvis Presley's Graceland along with his car museum which has his famous pink Cadillac. They also had a Tour of Sun Studio Recording Studio where Elvis recorded his chart topping music. A carriage ride along Beale Street was also enjoyed by some of

our clients. Some other highlights of this trip included a tour of St. Jude Pavillion, and Harrah's Paula Deen Buffet. They also enjoyed dinner and dancing while traveling down the Mississippi River on the Tunica River Boat in Tunica, MS. And what would a vacation be with out souvenirs? Caps, magnets, books and other Elvis memorabilia was purchased in honor of "The King". T-shirts and mugs, and gifts from the Hard Rock Café in Memphis were purchased as well, to give the vacationers something to always remind them of this memorable trip. On their way back home they had a last stop at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky. After speaking to our clients after the vacation, I have come to realize that Memphis and More was an exciting trip that will stay with them forever.



Tunica River Boat

Contributors

The following contributions have been made between October 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010. If you name is not listed and you have made a contribution during this time, we apologize for the oversight. Please contact Mary Jo Zeisloft at 419-867-5950 and we will acknowledge your gift in the next issue of the *TorchLight*.

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Award-Winning Publication

The Epilepsy Center, an independent organization serving Northwestern Ohio, is a member of the United Way of Greater Toledo, Defiance, Fulton, and Paulding Counties

Our Mission:

The mission of the Epilepsy Center of Northwest Ohio is to improve the lives of people affected by epilepsy and those with developmental disabilities.

Our Vision:

People with epilepsy and those with developmental disabilities will attain the highest quality of life and gain full acceptance and understanding from the community.



The Practically a Golf Tournament will be held May 20th at Levis Commons. For more information about the 2011 PGT please call 419.867.5950.

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Upcoming **Living With Epilepsy** Seminars

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Locations</u>
March 3, 2011 7:00pm – 8:30pm	Sources of Services Angie Hiser, The Ability Center	St. V's Conf. Rm #2
June 2, 2011 7:00pm – 8:30pm	Autism & Seizures Dr. Michael Nagel Toledo Neurological Clinic	St. V's Conf. Rm #2

For more information about **Living With Epilepsy**, the Annual Celebration, or any of our services and events, please contact us at 419-867-5950.