

We've got BIG news!
The Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and Columbus has
changed our name to
EPILEPSY ALLIANCE OHIO.

We are one of the founding members of
Epilepsy Alliance America. Our name is new but our mission to
provide support, resources, and hope to Ohioans living with
epilepsy, remains unchanged and our top priority. We are here
for you, stronger than ever. [#epilepsy](#) [#Ohioan](#) [#Strongerthanever](#)

Camp FlameCatcher
—Summer 2018



More Camp photos on our
[website](#) and on our [Facebook](#)
page!



Greetings!

We are so excited to share that we are now **Epilepsy Alliance Ohio**. As of July 22nd, 2018, we became a founding member of Epilepsy Alliance America and changed our name.

As you may know, for many years we were an independent affiliate of the Epilepsy Foundation of America. Over the course of the past several years, changes were being made to the affiliate agreement, the standards of operation, and the focus was being shifted in a new direction. While we truly appreciate the shift on a national level, our Board of Directors, along with myself, believe that our missions were no longer in alignment.

Our focus is on the mission to serve and provide the best programs and services we can to those in our community living with epilepsy. So while the name has changed, our staff, our programs, our services, and the mission all remain the same.

While the name "Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and Columbus" no longer exists, it has been replaced with the new name, **Epilepsy Alliance Ohio**, with the same staff and the same mission. There may be times that you see the name "Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and Columbus" in a Facebook post or in an email but it is important to note that we no longer send or post anything with that name. If you are ever in question as to the origin of a post please feel free to give us a call.

We are excited for this new opportunity that will enable us to enhance the services we proudly provide and to continue to serve those in our community with the best, most comprehensive programs and services.

Best Regards,

Kathy Schrag

Take It From Me

Drew Goodell, a senior this year at Alexander High School in Albany, Ohio, eagerly awaits the printing and distribution of his Smile Books Project story, "Take It From Me," about overcoming the challenges of epilepsy. Drew has been involved in Camp Flame Catcher for five years as a camper and helps to raise money for others going to camp through proceeds from local car shows. Other camp kids look up to Drew and the challenges he's overcome as he is very friendly and approachable. He has gone through multiple brain surgeries including a hemispherectomy that separates the left and right side of the brain. Drew also uses a VNS in conjunction with multiple medications a day. Drew hopes to one day drive and pursue a career either welding or in the oil industry. Drew does his best to maintain a positive daily outlook on life and participates in epilepsy advocacy-related activities such as a national Teens Speak Up! Initiative in Washington DC. Ultimately, he said, coping with epilepsy is something he has accepted and prefers to meet head-on by sharing his story with others. As he waits for the release of his Smile Books Project story, "Take It From Me," he happily knows he will have it in his hands before beginning his senior year on August 23. Drew said he hopes that others reading his "smile book" will take inspiration from it and that they too can overcome major medical obstacles in life.

For information on how to receive Drew's book go to smilebooksproject.org





Thank you to all who supported our annual Sand Volleyball Tournament at [Flannagan's](#) in Dublin, Ohio.



Congratulations Team Lizard King!!!

Justin Birchfield, Alex Christian, Nicole Howard, Jeff Zimmerman, Kasey Birchfield, Ryan Thompson, Kristina Carton

Community Partnerships

Sometimes our group homes in Clermont County need a helping hand from those companies with lots of hands to help. From clearing debris and building new goat fencing to painting and staining our homes and repairing a fishing dock, these jobs are often more than we can tackle on our own. That's when we are proud to be able to call on our many friends to help. Recent volunteers have included employees from Exhibit Management and Logistics, [GE Aviation](#), and [USI](#).

If your company would like to volunteer for a day or for just a few hours, contact us to arrange. We'd be happy to work with you!



We are excited to once again offer [Art Therapy: The Epilepsy Alliance Ohio Art Therapy Program](#) to people with epilepsy again in Cincinnati and Columbus! *Art Therapy* offers group therapy sessions allowing participants to explore their creativity, meet others with epilepsy and express themselves in an open, accepting and safe group setting. Art is a natural way to communicate, relieve tension and express emotions.

During the program, participants work with licensed art therapists using a variety of artistic media, including painting, sketching and sculpting. Because some things are easier to "say" through art, *Art Therapy* provides people impacted by epilepsy a unique opportunity to express themselves and open up about their experiences with the condition.

Cincinnati Art Therapy has just wrapped up this year's program of 6 sessions for kids and their artwork. Some of their artwork can be seen [here](#).

Columbus Art Therapy is gearing up and is open to those with epilepsy 15 years of age and older. There are 7 sessions scheduled beginning August 23rd and ending October 4th. It is not necessary to attend all 7 weeks but participants are encouraged to attend as many as they can to get the full benefit of the program. Participation is FREE but space is limited and includes all supplies needed!

For more information regarding Art Therapy in Columbus, contact Karen Brown at kbrown@epilepsy-ohio.org or call (614) 725-1031.



Camp for Champs 2018 was held June 25th-29th and offered therapeutic horseback riding, farm activities, and crafts to children with epilepsy from 8 to 18 years of age. Camp for Champs is held at the Shane Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship in Centerburg, Ohio.



Camp Corner

SUMMER CAMP 2018

At the closing program for summer camp, parents got to see their kids singing and dancing to "I am Good" by The Mowgli's. This song encapsulated many of the messages that we were sharing with the kids throughout the week. They are perfect the way they are and can do great things for their family and community. A number of counselors who live with epilepsy shared their stories of how seizures have affected their life. Through them all we heard that epilepsy has made them a stronger person and has helped them work harder to achieve their dreams. Although epilepsy has definitely thrown some road blocks, they have found the detours to be quite rewarding.

Thanks to all who support throughout the year to support our camp program. Your donations have touched the lives of many children living with epilepsy. They have found a second family at camp and appreciate the support they find with others who share similar challenges.

Our camping season is not over yet. We still have our Fall Camp for kids and adults that will both take place the weekend of September 21-23. The kid's camp will be at Camp Kern and the adult camp will be held at Lutheran Memorial Camp.



To register for any of these camps please call our office at (513) 721-2905 or email Mark Findley at mfindley@epilepsy-ohio.org.

Mason Race Takes On a New Look

5K Run/Walk 10K Run

Held the first Sunday in November for several years, we have hosted a 5K and half marathon to raise funds for our services. Although the event has been successful we have seen a decline in half marathon runners. This is a costly event to host. So after looking at the options we have decided to replace the half marathon portion of the event with a 10K run. This will allow us still use the beautiful facility at the Mason Community Center and run through the local parks nearby. It will be a challenging race that we hope will attract some top notch runners.

Click [here](#) for the flyer for this year's race. The price is still competitive with other races and gives runners and walkers a nice shirt, awards, food and drinks after the race. We hope you can join us on **November 4, 2018**.



A big shout out to The Cincinnati Reds who generously donated tickets for the folks in our group homes to catch a game this July.

Go REDS!!

Job Opportunities: Direct Care Workers

We currently have openings for **2nd Shift Full and Part Time** to work with the residents in our group homes located in the **Batavia and Williamsburg** areas. These positions involve assisting in providing for the resident's basic needs and following each client's Individual Habilitation Plan to encourage them to reach their maximum level of independence. Must have a positive attitude and the desire to make a difference in the lives of disabled adults

For more information and to apply go to our [website](#) or call us at 513-744-4543.

Calendar of Events

August 1, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Columbus Adult Support Group:
Dempsey Family Education and
Resource Center (Silver Tower area of
Riverside Methodist Hospital, 3535
Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio
43214) * First Wednesday

August 8 2018 5:30-7:00 PM

Warren County Support Group: Kidd
Coffee (653 Reading Rd., Mason, OH,
45040) *2nd Wednesday

August 8 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Columbus Young Adult Support Group:
Dempsey Family Education and
Resource Center (Silver Tower area of
Riverside Methodist Hospital, 3535
Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio
43214) *2nd Wednesday

August 15, 2018 6:00-7:30

Hamilton County Epilepsy Support
Group: Epilepsy Alliance's Main Office
(895 Central Ave., Suite 550, Cincinnati,
OH 45202) *3rd Wednesday

August 27, 2018 6:30-8:00 PM

Columbus Parent Support Group and
Teen Support Group: Dempsey Family
Education and Resource Center (Silver
Tower area of Riverside Methodist
Hospital, 3535 Olentangy River Road,
Columbus, Ohio 43214) ***Last Monday**

September 5, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Columbus Adult Support Group

September 12, 2018 5:30-7:00 PM

Warren County Support Group

September 12 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Columbus Young Adult Support Group

September 18, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

WV Support Group

September 19, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Licking County Support Group: Licking
Memorial Hospital (Mound View Room,
1320 West Main St., Newark, Ohio
43055) *3rd Wednesday

September 21-23, 2018

Kid's Camp—Camp Kern

September 21-23, 2018

Adult's Camp—Lutheran Memorial Camp

September 24, 2018 6:30-8:00 PM

Columbus Parent Support Group
& Teen Support Group

October 3, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Columbus Adult Support Group

October 10, 2018 5:30-7:00 PM

Warren County Support Group

October 10, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Columbus Young Adult Support Group

October 17, 2018 6:00-7:30 PM

Hamilton County Support Group

October 17, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Licking County Support Group

October 29, 2018 6:30-8:00 PM

Columbus Parent Support Group
& Teen Support Group

November 4, 2018

Mason 5K/10K

November 7, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Columbus Adult Support Group

November 9, 2018 7:00—11:00 PM

Seize Hope Gala—Cincinnati Sign
Museum

November 14, 2018 5:30-7:00 PM

Warren County Support Group

November 14, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Columbus Young Adult Support Group

November 21, 2018 6:00-7:30 PM

Hamilton County Support Group

November 21, 2018 6:00-8:00 PM

Licking County Support Group

November 26 2018 6:30-8:00 PM

Columbus Parent Support Group
& Teen Support Group

No Support Groups in December

Executive Director:
Kathy Schrag

Board of Directors

President: Jake Freyvogel

Vice President: Nicole Stonitsch

Secretary: Dale Dean

Members

Peggy Clark, Dr. David Ficker,
Craig Forrest, Dr. Emily Klatt,
Dr. Diego Morita, Eric Rickard,
Matt Salyers, Chad Schaefer,
Alyssa Whitt

The Update is a periodic newsletter published by the Epilepsy Alliance Ohio (EAO). The EAO was founded in 1953 to assist people with epilepsy and their families in meeting their multiple health and social needs. We provide direct services to optimize each person's understanding of epilepsy and to improve their methods of coping with epilepsy in all facets of their lives.



Another Successful Golf Outing



On Friday, June 8th we hosted another full course of golfers at Elks Run in support of our programs. With the threat of thunderstorms on the horizon, we were able to get all 18 holes in before a thunderstorm overtook the course as we were enjoying dinner in the clubhouse. While at dinner we were able to announce the two scholarship recipients for this year's Taylor Huth Memorial Scholarship. Thanks for all who support this event which enables us to offer these scholarships and fund our many other local programs.

The winners of our 2018 scholarship are Andrea Neyer and Caleb Taulbee. Andrea is a recent graduate of Fenwick High School and will be attending Bowling Green University where she will study Special Education. Caleb will be a sophomore at Wittenberg College where he is pursuing a degree in the Human Services field. We are proud to support these young adults as they prepare to make a powerful impact in our community.

Our 1st Place team was Chris Burger, Andy Schaefer, Bill Knott and Rich Geglein. Second place was won by John Stubbs and friends.

Thank you to [Gem City Tire](#) and [Dayton Freight](#) for providing all the players with golf shirts. Thanks also to [Bridgestone](#) for providing a sleeve of balls to all players. We would also like to thank the following sponsors:

Presenting Sponsors: [BHML Law Firm](#), [Window World of Cincinnati](#) and [Lundbeck](#)

Scholarship Sponsors: Tim & Alison Warning and HCS Supplies, LLC

Beverage Sponsor: [Stagnaro Distributing, LLC](#)

Food Sponsor: [Skyline Chili](#), [UDF](#)

Prize Sponsor: David Taybi

Golf Cart Sponsors: [Matrix](#), [Tarvin Plumbing](#), [Gateway Distribution](#), [Len Riegler Blacktopping](#), [Acute Hearing](#), [DeanHouston](#), [Graydon](#).

Mission statement:

To serve people living with epilepsy and their families in overcoming the challenges created by epilepsy and in meeting their multiple health and social needs.

Epilepsy Alliance Ohio

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