The Epilepsy Association of Western and Central PA (EAWCP) is a private, non-profit service organization providing public education and supportive services to individuals and families affected by epilepsy/seizure disorders.

Established in 1972, and with offices and staff in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Altoona, the EAWCP offers its programs and services to residents throughout western and central Pennsylvania. The work of the EAWCP is supported through private donations, a variety of grants, a contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and special fundraising events. With support from a volunteer Board of Directors and Professional Advisory Board that provides medical expertise, the EAWCP works to ensure an improved quality of life for those who face the challenges presented by epilepsy or seizure disorders.

OUR MISSION
We endeavor to improve the quality of life for persons with epilepsy/seizure disorders, and to dispel the myths, stigmas, and misunderstandings associated with epilepsy.
I am truly honored to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Epilepsy Association of Western and Central PA (EAWCP) and I promise you we will continue to work to end stigma and serve more people living with epilepsy in Pennsylvania.

We have a great treasure in the powerful board of leaders and advocates that support the EAWCP. As our 2019 report reveals, we are thrilled to have an impact on the lives of thousands of individuals and families who are dealing with consequences of epilepsy and seizures. Our volunteer Board of Directors listens to the voices of those affected by epilepsy and guides us in fulfilling our mission with passionate, thoughtful, and deliberate direction. Our Professional Advisory Committee provides us with the medical expertise, advice, and knowledge that allow us to provide efficient and effective programs. Our wonderful staff works tirelessly each day, helping people to navigate the challenges of living with seizures and assisting volunteers in increasing awareness of epilepsy in our communities.

The EAWCP strives to celebrate day-to-day successes, acknowledge families experiencing hardships or loss, and meet the needs of people affected by epilepsy in their local neighborhoods. We are committed to the belief that those living with seizures deserve compassionate help now, and that our greatest challenge is to provide that care today to the very best of our ability.

We are inspired by and thank all of you who are donors and volunteers and who give us your time, energy, and financial resources to pursue our mission. You are moms, dads, teachers, corporate leaders, neighbors, family members, friends, co-workers, and like me, people living with epilepsy, and those who love someone living with epilepsy. You make it possible for us to continue to grow and reach out to those who deserve our help, and we thank you for that strength. You are helping us raise awareness and provide services to those who need it most.

We have accomplished great things together. Of course, we have many challenges and a lot of work on the road ahead. I hope that as you review this report, you are as encouraged as I am that our organization will continue to have a great impact, by any measure, on the goal of improving the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians affected by epilepsy and seizures.

Thank you for supporting the Epilepsy Association of Western and Central PA in 2019 and into the future. We hope you will join us in 2020 as we celebrate the monumental milestone of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the most significant civil rights law for Americans living with disabilities!
Clockwise from top left: participants in the Share Your Story/PA Public Policy Conference brainstorm what to include when sharing their epilepsy story; the Huwalt children volunteer to help at the Expo that is part of the Epilepsy Awareness Day at Disneyland while on a dream trip funded by the Zonne Fund; longtime friends enjoy the Pittsburgh Holiday Party; two young adults recreate the epic photo showcased on the 1 in 26 Tour RV; Camp Frog campers explore the wilderness; handmade decorations adorn our epilepsy awareness tree in Harrisburg; a family enjoys painting pottery at the Prancing Pig.
WHO WE ARE

2019 By the Numbers

6,160 trained to recognize seizures and provide first aid
5,284 staff and students in schools
184 first responders
526 other community members
166 1 in 26 tour education event attendees

939 families assisted with individual consultation
391 new clients
1,535 non-event interactions

350 respite care hours covered
38 advocates sharing their stories with legislators

29 support group meetings
21 emergency medications provided

17 education events
7 conferences and seminars
7 health care transition events
3 SUDEP events

13 movement monitors granted

10 scholarships awarded

4 sessions of Camp Frog & Camp Firefly
51 campers

3 Oscar dogs placed

$725,660 raised by our special events
1 Mardi Gras Gala
4 run/walk events
Highlights from 2019 that your support helped us provide:

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR ADULTS
  Monthly support groups in Hershey, Johnstown, and York

SOCIAL EVENTS FOR FAMILIES
  Mar 23  PURPLE PARTY
  Sep 22  PITTSBURGH FAMILY PICNIC
  Sep 28  HARRISBURG FAMILY PICNIC
  Oct 16  HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR
  Oct 19  BOO-LING: Bowling Event
  Oct 23  JOHNSTOWN HALLOWEEN PARTY
  Nov 16  BOWL FOR AWARENESS
  Nov 20  PAINT YOUR OWN POTTERY EVENT
  Nov 23  ZONNE FUND MOVIE: Frozen 2
  Dec 7   PITTSBURGH HOLIDAY PARTY
  Dec 14  CAMP HILL HOLIDAY PARTY
  Dec 17  ERIE HOLIDAY PARTY
  Dec 18  JOHNSTOWN HOLIDAY PARTY

PATIENT EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS
  Mar 2   HARRISBURG EPILEPSY MINI-CONFERENCE
  Apr 28-30 SHARE YOUR STORY CONFERENCE
  May 9   EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR: Challenges Facing Epilepsy Patients
  Jun 14  EDUCATION EVENT AT THE PITTSBURGH ZOO
  Sep 20  GATEWAY CLIPPER EDUCATION EVENT
  Oct 24  EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR: Challenges Facing Epilepsy Patients
  Nov 9   YORK EPILEPSY MINI-CONFERENCE

HEALTH CARE TRANSITION EDUCATION FOR TEENS
  Feb 6   WEBINAR: The Post-Millennial Transition Blues
  Apr 27-28 YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
  May 4   MOVING UP, MOVING OUT MOVIE EVENT: Avengers Endgame
  Jun 29  MOVING UP, MOVING OUT MOVIE EVENT: Spider-man Far from Home
  Aug 9-11 NEXT STEPS TRANSITION CONFERENCE
  Aug 14  EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR: Ensuring a Smooth Sail to Adult Care
  Aug 28  EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR: Take Me Out to the Ballgame

SUDEP EVENTS
  Apr 15  PROFESSIONAL DINNER: SUDEP Education for Doctors
  Apr 16  SUDEP SYMPOSIUM
  Oct 22  SUDEP FAMILY DINNER

1 IN 26 TOUR TO INCREASE EPILEPSY EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY
  Mar 10-14 York, Chambersburg, Harrisburg, Lebanon, and Bloomsburg
  Mar 16-21 Lewisburg, Williamsport, Towanda, Wellsboro, Saint Marys, and Clarion
  Mar 24  Washington
  Mar 27-29 Indiana, Clearfield, and State College
  May 9-14 New Castle, Meadville, Erie, Bradford, Oil City, and Butler
  May 16-17 Somerset and Altoona
  May 19  Greensburg
  May 21-22 Uniontown and Pittsburgh

CAMP PROGRAMS
  Apr 12-14  CAMP FIREFLY
  Jun 16-22  CAMP FROG @ Camp Conrad Weiser
  Jun 23-29  CAMP FROG @ Camp Fitch
  Oct 11-13  CAMP FIREFLY

OTHER EVENTS
  Jan 18  LUNCH AND LEARN DISABILITIES JOB FAIR
  Jul 25  PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION: Special Needs Trust and Estate Planning
  Aug 20  PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION: Special Needs Trust and Estate Planning
**Revenue**

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<td>Government Grants</td>
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<td>Net Special Events</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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**Expenses**

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**Year End Net Assets**

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*Numbers are from the EAWCP 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. Revenues and Expenses are reported on a fiscal year, not calendar year basis. Our fiscal year ends June 30. Audited financial statements and the 990 are available on our website at www.eawcp.org.*
Ten outstanding high school seniors, all of whom have epilepsy or a seizure disorder, received scholarships to further their education.

$1,500 Rohr Golden Family Scholarship
Gabriella Sable

$1,500 Mason Langford Memorial Scholarship
Morgan Anderson

$1,000 Celeste Katherine DeFrank Memorial Scholarship
Haley Earl

$1,000 Hinds Family Scholarship
Renee Urda

$1,000 Julie McCormick Memorial Scholarship
Christine Easterday

$1,000 UPMC Center for Inclusion and Engagement Scholarship
Madison Callahan

$1,000 EAWCP Scholarships
Griffin Josephs
Brooke Kennedy
Heather Osterhout
Luke Restiti

At a picnic for Oscar Project recipients, Alexis poses with her new service dog, Riley; Camp Firefly staff and campers gather for a group photo.

Highlights from 2019

- **Scholarships for High School Seniors**
  Ten outstanding high school seniors, all of whom have epilepsy or a seizure disorder, received scholarships to further their education.

  - $1,500 Rohr Golden Family Scholarship
    Gabriella Sable
  - $1,500 Mason Langford Memorial Scholarship
    Morgan Anderson
  - $1,000 Celeste Katherine DeFrank Memorial Scholarship
    Haley Earl
  - $1,000 Hinds Family Scholarship
    Renee Urda
  - $1,000 Julie McCormick Memorial Scholarship
    Christine Easterday
  - $1,000 UPMC Center for Inclusion and Engagement Scholarship
    Madison Callahan
  - $1,000 EAWCP Scholarships
    Griffin Josephs
    Brooke Kennedy
    Heather Osterhout
    Luke Restiti

- **Disabilities Job Fair**
  Thanks to a grant from Lee Initiatives Health and Wellness Endowment, we hosted a Disabilities Lunch and Learn Job Fair in Johnstown.
  Eighteen employers attended to discuss their available positions and resume writing help was available.

  **38 individuals attended**
Individuals with epilepsy should have the opportunities to go to camp, attend college, and live an independent life, just like their peers. We strive to make sure there is inclusion for all who are affected by epilepsy and seizures.

**Camp Frog**

Our Camp Frog program places extra supportive and medical services into existing YMCA summer camp programs, allowing children who have seizures to enjoy summer camp just like their peers. Two separate week-long overnight sessions are held each summer at Camp Conrad Weiser in Wernersville and Camp Fitch in North Springfield. By having geographically diverse locations for camp, we hope to provide a camp that is convenient for everyone.

**Camp Frog Scholarships**

All kids should have the chance to go to camp, regardless of their ability to pay for it. Financial assistance for Camp Frog is available through the Steve “Froggy” Morris/G. Peter Rockwell Endowment Fund.

23 campers received full or partial scholarships

**Camp Firefly**

Camp Firefly is a weekend camp experience designed to accommodate campers with more complex seizure, medical, emotional, cognitive, and/or behavioral needs. Camp Firefly provides a one-to-one ratio of staff to campers at The Woodlands campsite in Wexford, a fully-accessible camp for individuals with special needs. Sessions were held in the spring and fall.

**Oscar Project**

The Oscar Project is funded by the Michael R. Zupancic Seizure Response Dog Endowment Fund. Inspired by Michael’s close relationship to his dog Oscar, and knowing that dogs can be trained to respond to seizures, the Zupancic Family established this endowment to both honor Michael, and to help others living with epilepsy. The fund pays for service dogs and their training for children and adults living with epilepsy who can gain independence with the help of a specially-trained service animal.

3 Oscar dogs were placed in 2019
• **New EMS Training Certified**

We work with the PA Bureau of EMS to certify our trainings to provide continuing education credits whenever possible. In addition to the online course that is available on the TRAIN PA website, we certified an in-person presentation given by Dr. Jayant Acharya to interested EMS providers and organizations.

• **Seizure Smart Schools**

In 2019, six schools were recognized as being “Seizure Smart” for putting a priority on educating their staff and students about epilepsy and how to recognize and help someone who is having a seizure: Masontown Elementary (Masontown), Montour Elementary (McKees Rocks), and four Council of Three Rivers American Indian Centers - Rochelle, Hazelwood, Churchview, and Dorseyville (Pittsburgh).

• **My Not-So-Secret Seizures**

Our new coloring book program debuted this year. *My Not-So-Secret Seizures* is a picture book and accompanying coloring book that was written by our staff and illustrated by Kristen Baars. The book tells the story of a young boy named Ezra, how each of his best friends learned about his epilepsy, and how his friends support him when he has a seizure. *My Not-So-Secret Seizures* is more culturally diverse and addresses many more issues that relate to epilepsy than our old coloring book program. The presentation and coloring book are also available in Spanish as “Mis ataques de epilepsia no son tan secretos.”
When a person has epilepsy, they must rely on the ability of the people around them to recognize when they have a seizure and provide the appropriate first aid. We provide free seizure recognition and first aid trainings to schools, first responders, and anyone else in the community who wants to know how to help.

Project School Alert
Project School Alert is a free program that brings epilepsy education to our schools. We travel to schools throughout western and central Pennsylvania to educate students, teachers, nurses, bus drivers, and other support staff how to recognize and respond to seizures. Anyone can request Project School Alert trainings at any time — a parent, teacher, school nurse, or administrator.

3,207 students, 1,116 teachers, 144 nurses, and 817 other school personnel were trained during 204 presentations

First Responders
First responder is a general term that refers to those whose job it is to arrive first on the scene, including EMS personnel, firefighters, police officers, and more. While most of these jobs require training that includes general information about epilepsy and seizures, we offer free trainings that serve both as a refresher of basic seizure first aid and as a source of information about the latest advances in epilepsy treatment, including medical marijuana and devices that are used to manage epilepsy.

131 first responders trained
Highlights from 2019

• Zonne Fund

The Zonne Fund was established in memory of Mark Zonneveld to support fun activities for children and families living with epilepsy. This year we hosted a free showing of Frozen 2 for families in the Pittsburgh area. Families were treated to free popcorn and drinks, had the opportunity to win movie-themed door prizes, and even got to meet Princess Anna.

130 people attended the movie event

We also sponsored a family of four to attend Epilepsy Awareness Day at Disneyland, which features a two-day epilepsy expo and then a day of fun in the Disneyland parks.

• Language Inclusion

As part of our efforts to be more inclusive, many of our more popular resources have been translated into Spanish. The end of 2019 found us researching closed-captioning for our transition videos and other visual media. Our goal is to provide material in whatever language or format is needed.

• Mason Langford Center for Support and Learning on SUDEP

As part of our efforts to support families affected by SUDEP, we launched a new resource on our website in the fall. The Mason SUDEP Center is named for Mason Langford, who was only 21 months old when he died from SUDEP. The Mason SUDEP Center is dedicated to providing information about SUDEP and resources that can help families. It also features a place where people can create memorial pages in memory of loved ones.

SUDEP is an acronym for Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy. Each year SUDEP causes the death of 1 per 4,500 pediatric and 1 per 1,000 adult patients living with epilepsy. We dedicate our increased commitment to SUDEP education and awareness to all families who have lost a loved one to this tragedy.
How we help
Building local epilepsy communities of support

Epilepsy is a condition that tends to isolate people, by choice or by circumstance. We strive to connect people with epilepsy across all walks of life to help them to feel less alone, and to meet people going through the same struggles they face.

Support Groups
Support groups are held monthly in Hershey, Johnstown, and York. These groups offer a chance for people to connect and share their experiences. Many sessions also include guest speakers who present on a variety of health and wellness topics.

29 support groups were held in 3 locations, 314 people participated

Social Programs
We host events throughout the year for children and adults living with epilepsy and their friends and family, providing an opportunity to relax and socialize. These events give anyone impacted by epilepsy the opportunity to meet and share their story with others who may be struggling with the same challenges or celebrating the same successes.

786 people attended 1 Purple Party, 2 Family Picnics, 3 Halloween Events, 4 Holiday Parties, and 2 other events

Youth Leadership Summit
The Youth Leadership Summit is for teens living with epilepsy who have a desire to build personal and leadership skills. Both professional and student speakers led sessions throughout the weekend. At the end of the summit, participants presented on their story, what they learned, and their future goals.

6 teens attended the Youth Leadership Summit
Highlights from 2019

• Take the NEXT Steps Transition Conference
  Transitioning from pediatric to adult health care providers can be a challenge for teens with epilepsy. Our NEXT Steps Transition Conference prepares teens to take control of their health care decisions and prepares parents to be supportive while letting their child gain independence.

  60 attended the conference

• Health Care Transition Education Series
  We hosted two educational seminars for teens and their families that focused on transition. Ensuring a Smooth Sail to Adult Care took place on a boat that cruised along the shore of Lake Erie. Take Me Out to the Ballgame took place in Altoona and was followed by a baseball game. Both events featured presentations from doctors to help families prepare for health care transition.

  102 attended the seminars

• Transition with Ease Videos
  Our new Transition with Ease series includes three videos: one that provides advice to parents, one that provides encouragement to teens, and one that walks teens through the health care transition process. We partnered with Dr. Todd Barron to film segments with his patients that were included in the videos.

• QuILT and Professional Education
  The Quality Improvement Leadership Team (QuILT) is a group of individuals who work together to improve the quality and access to care that patients with epilepsy receive. This team includes neurologists, primary care physicians, families and teens affected by epilepsy, EAWCP staff, other community and statewide agencies, and clinical site partners. The QuILT mentors, supports, and provides training and technical assistance to the clinical sites.

  At the QuILT’s recommendation, we hosted trainings at Keystone Pediatrics and St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children on Medical Assistance, Special Needs Trusts, and Estate Planning.
The “Strategic Approaches to Improving Access to Quality Health Care for Children and Youth with Epilepsy” grant was a three-year Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant that ran from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2019. Funding from this grant supported work on activities including telemedicine, mobile health (mHealth), transition to adult healthcare, community education, and increasing the capacity of medical home and other pediatric primary care practices to support children and youth with epilepsy and their families.

Community Partnerships
Much of our project’s success is thanks to the amazing community partners that we worked with including: DLP-Conemaugh Adult Neurology, Drexel University-St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children Pediatric Primary Care, Drexel University-St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children Pediatric Neurology, Keystone Health/Keystone Pediatrics, Pediatric Care Specialists of Johnstown, Pediatric Specialists of Franklin County, WellSpan Adult Neurology, WellSpan Health/WellSpan Neurosciences, and WellSpan Health/WellSpan Pediatrics.

- 14 professional education opportunities provided to our partners during the three-year grant
- 5 pediatric primary care, 2 pediatric neurology, and 2 adult neurology practices

Serving Children and Youth with Epilepsy
One of the goals of our HRSA grant was to serve 1,000 unduplicated children and youth with epilepsy over the duration of the grant. We exceeded the goal by providing support through direct clinical work with patients on transition, surveying youth and their families, and providing information through various educational events.

- 3 Teen Leadership Summits, 3 NEXT Steps Transition Conferences, 10 transition education movie events, 5 transition seminars, and 1 webinar during the 3-year grant
- 1,644 children and youth with epilepsy served by this project during the 3-year grant

Telemedicine
We improved the access to care for patients in rural areas of the state by coordinating telemedicine visits to connect the office of their primary care provider to their neurologist. Telemedicine simplifies these visits, by preventing families from having to spend a lot of time and money going to and from their specialty care appointments.

- 119 telemedicine visits conducted during the 3-year grant
• Two day event on SUDEP
Dr. Jeffrey Buchhalter, a pediatric neurologist from St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ, spoke about SUDEP at a dinner for neurologists from Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, UPMC, and Allegheny General Hospital.

20 physicians attended
The following evening, we hosted a dinner seminar for persons with epilepsy and their families. Dr. Buchhalter, and Dr. Anto Bagić of UPMC spoke about SUDEP. A panel of three families who lost a loved one to SUDEP, led by Dr. Miya Asato from UPMC’s Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, discussed why it is important to learn about SUDEP and shared how they are honoring their loved ones.

66 people attended the seminar

• 1 in 26 Tour
A family of EAWCP supporters lent us their 35-foot RV to be used for our 1 in 26 Tour. We visited 26 mostly rural communities across Pennsylvania to reach families, towns, and cities that our staff are seldom able to visit due to time and geographical barriers. We wrapped the RV with a custom design created by IdeaMill that included EAWCP branding and information about our programs and services.

The 1 in 26 Tour ran from March through May. Along the way, each tour stop featured a local education event, lunch or dinner, a social element, as much public awareness as possible, and a chance for selfies with the RV. In all of the local communities, residents were welcoming, happy to meet our staff, and pleased to learn that we are here to help them, their family, neighbors, and friends.

2,600 miles traveled to educate 166 individuals
We reach doctors and patients, parents and kids, and people with no connection to epilepsy through our varied education and outreach activities. There is always something more to learn about epilepsy, treatments, or first aid.

**Conferences and Seminars**

We offer a variety of education event lengths, times, topics, and locations in order to try to reach the largest audience. **Seminars** are less than three hours and usually cover a single topic, **mini-conferences** are half day events meant to provide multiple topics in a single sitting, and **multi-day conferences** offer an in-depth learning experience around a single theme. In 2019 we held education events on topics such as epilepsy treatment options, autism and epilepsy, pediatric epilepsy surgery, special needs trusts, transitioning to adult health care, understanding the PA budget cycle, and advocating for epilepsy and your rights.

- **386 people attended 1 multi-day conference, 2 mini-conferences, and 4 seminars.**

  Note: These numbers do not include the health care transition conference or seminars (pg 15-16) and SUDEP education events (opposite page).

**Health Fairs**

To reach new audiences, we frequently attend community health fairs and conferences to provide information about epilepsy and the services we offer.

- **We attended more than 25 health fairs and conferences**

**Tree Events**

We participated in two tree decorating events to help teach people about epilepsy during the holiday season. At the Saint Vincent Festival of Trees in Erie, the theme of our tree was **1 in 26**, and featured a photo opportunity for attendees to pose with our tree while holding a sign that described their epilepsy story (e.g. “I am one,” “I love one,” “I teach one,” etc.). At the Parade of Trees in Harrisburg, trees are on display from Thanksgiving through the end of December. The theme of this tree was **everybody needs a hand at some point**.

- **Over 11,000 people saw our trees, during these two events**
Highlights from 2019

• **Website**
  2019 was the year we completely revamped our website. Our previous website was full of information, but you had to already know what you were looking for to find it. A lengthy process of asking “What would you call this if you didn’t know what it was called?” ensued. The website is now separated into over 50 pages organized by About Us, How We Can Help / Our Programs, and How You Can Help, which you may have noticed is how this annual report is also organized.

• **Digital Resources on Website**
  As part of the redesign of the website, we added PDF copies of brochures and fliers that we distribute often. Many of these resources are also available in Spanish.

• **Caring for Your Child Binder**
  In 2016 we published “Caring for Your Child”, a binder of information geared towards caregivers of newly-diagnosed children with epilepsy. In 2019, we revised the binder and expanded the resources section from only a few to over 50 pages. Although originally intended for families with newly diagnosed children, many parents have indicated the materials are useful for families who have been living with seizures for a long time. The binder is also available electronically in Spanish as “Cómo cuidar de su niño.”

  770 binders were printed in 2019, and 226 have been handed out
Epilepsy is a challenging diagnosis, and needs change as a person progresses through life with seizures. Many people who contact us are not sure what they need or how we can help. We spend time discussing each individual’s situation to provide them with the best information and resources possible.

**Information and Referral**

Coping with epilepsy can sometimes mean that you need information, support, and help from a variety of local service organizations. Knowing where to find and how to access these local services can vary greatly depending upon where you live and the specific help you need. Individuals and families can get help finding out about issues such as health insurance, medications, physicians, social security, driving laws, housing, education, and employment by contacting us.

939 people contacted us for assistance

**Emma’s Gift**

The Emma’s Gift grant program provides in-home movement detection monitors to qualified applicants through the Emma Bursick Memorial Fund. Movement monitors are designed to detect several seconds of sustained convulsive movement like that of a tonic-clonic (grand mal) seizure. They are often used to alert caregivers to nocturnal convulsive seizure activity.

7 Emfit Movement Monitors, 4 SAMi Monitors, and 2 SmartMonitors were awarded totaling $7,255

**Emergency Medication**

Our Emergency Medication Assistance Program can pay for up to a 30-day supply of anti-seizure medication. During those 30 days, we work with the individual to identify other patient assistance programs and find a long-term solution to the problem related to the cost of prescription drugs. A one month supply of a single anti-seizure medication can cost more than $1,000.

13 adults and 8 children received emergency medication assistance costing $13,113
• **Every Fundraiser Matters**

Third-party events hosted by our supporters help to keep the lights on. We appreciate everyone who helps to raise funds or awareness. Some examples of fundraisers this year included:

- 14th Annual Julie McCormick Wiffleball Tournament
- Siblings selling purple bracelets for Purple Day (March 26th)
- A softball tournament
- A plumbing company that donates $5 for every service call during November
- A car show
- A 3-on-3 basketball tournament
- Facebook fundraisers
- Selling hand-knitted scarves
- Partnering with a car dealership to donate a portion of sales during a month
- A furniture store that displays information and collects donations during November

• **Golf Outings**

We provided assistance at two memorial golf outings that raised money in support of our organization this year.

The 4th Annual Mason Langford Memorial Golf Outing in Export included over 100 golfers and 30 additional dinner guests. The $21,000 raised at this event will support the Mason Langford Center for Support and Learning on SUDEP as well as additional programs.

The 3rd Annual Paige Nagy Memorial Golf Outing was held in Uniontown. Perfect weather accompanied the 25 foursomes who helped to raise over $16,000 to support our programs and services.

Highlights from 2019
Fundraising events held throughout the year allow us to not only gather with corporate leaders, friends, and family, but also to raise awareness and much needed funds to support our mission.

**25th Annual Mardi Gras Gala**

Always held on Fat Tuesday, this year’s Mardi Gras Gala honored Deborah Rice-Johnson of Highmark Health as the King of the Mardi Gras. Our $25,000 Fleur de Lis sponsors included Highmark, PNC, and Peoples.

Over 700 people attended the Mardi Gras Gala which was supported by 71 companies.

**The 31st Annual Pittsburgh Family Fun/Run Walk for Epilepsy**

Over 1,500 people attended the Pittsburgh Run/Walk at PNC Park to raise funds and awareness for people affected by epilepsy. The festivities included breakfast, scholarship presentations, prize and t-shirt distribution, the 5K run/2 mile walk, tailgate party, music, bubbles, and the popular tribute garden which features pinwheel flowers planted in honor or memory of a loved one.

1671 people and 124 teams registered for the Pittsburgh Run/Walk.

**17th Annual Harrisburg Senators Fun Run/Walk for Epilepsy**

Held at FNB Park on City Island, the Harrisburg Run/Walk included breakfast, face painting and hair coloring, the 5K run/2 mile walk, encouragement from Harrisburg Cheerleaders, and a tailgate party featuring hot dogs, fruit, and sno-cones.

494 people and 49 teams registered for the Harrisburg Run/Walk.

**Highmark Walks for a Health Community**

We participated in the Highmark Walks in both Altoona and Erie this year. These walks are subsidized by Highmark, so all of the money raised by participants comes directly to the organizations they are supporting. While these events do not represent a large portion of our fundraising income, we believe it is important for us to have a presence at these events to make the public aware of our programs in the region.

92 people registered for the 2 events.
Ways to Give

• **One Time or Recurring Donations**
  Consider a cash, check, or online donation to honor or memorialize a loved one or to celebrate a special event.

• **Gift Matching**
  Many employers offer gift matching up to 100% of your personal gift. Check with your HR Department to see if your gift can be matched.

• **Plan Your Legacy Gift**
  Legacy Gifts from individuals who believe in our mission, passion, and leadership will provide a base of financial stability on which to build the future. Call 412-322-5880 to set up a meeting. We can explore different gift options, and help you to decide if it is more beneficial to give immediately or through other giving strategies. Meet with your professional advisor to discuss the materials and documents we provide, and encourage them to call us when drafting your charitable giving plans.

• **Corporate Giving**
  Gifts from businesses and foundations in the region allow us to grow and expand the reach of our programs and services. We look forward to discussing corporate philanthropy options with you.

• **Workplace Giving**
  PA State Employees Combined Appeal (SECA): 2000-001
  Combined Federal Campaign (CFC): 99717
  United Way: Check with your campaign manager for the EAWCP number in your area
  United Way Southwestern PA: 288
  United Way Capital Region: 10070

The Epilepsy Association of Western and Central PA actively seeks diversified sources of income to support our programs. Individual and corporate donations, as well as special event fundraising, are critical to the long-term success and sustainability of the EAWCP.
It is impossible to put into words the gratitude I feel for all of the things that our supporters do to make the programs of the EAWCP possible. Our epilepsy community in western and central Pennsylvania is thriving because of our passionate families, enthusiastic advocates, and committed patrons. We have a staff dedicated to providing the best programs, services, and events. The staff and I are thankful for the support of a committed Board of Directors, past and present, corporate partners, doctors and other medical personnel, volunteers, donors, and especially the families that we serve.

The pages of this annual report provide you with the numbers for the year. It includes fabulous photographs and accurate accounting of our activities. What it could never adequately convey is the true impact that so many of these programs have on the people who receive our help. How could I possibly explain how our programs transform lives or find words to say thank you to those who make these services possible? Did you know, for example that:

- Providing a seizure dog to a woman in her 30s who has epilepsy and is Deaf means giving her independence
- Paying for emergency medication for a youngster whose family temporarily lost their health insurance means that dad does not face a decision between paying for one child’s seizure medication or another’s insulin
- Conducting seizure first aid trainings in a second grader’s school after he is diagnosed with epilepsy means his mom does not have to sit in the hallway at school all day anymore, just in case he has a seizure
- Giving a movement monitor to a family who has a child that has seizures at night means no one has to stay up all night watching the youngster sleep
- Arranging for nursing services and respite care for a family means that both mom and dad can attend an honors night with a sibling at school, secure in the knowledge that their child with uncontrolled seizures is well cared for at home

It’s hard to know exactly what it feels like for these and the many other families who receive similar services, when they find out that the EAWCP is here and willing to help during a difficult time. I can tell you that the families we serve are overwhelmed with gratitude. I can tell you that, like them, I extend my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to everyone who makes our programs a reality. And, I can tell you that there are countless more families that need our help.

So, look past the numbers and into the faces in these photos. I hope they might inspire those who read this report to find new ways to get involved with our work. It is because of our collective efforts that we have been successful in the past. I know that coming together will propel us to even greater achievements in the future.

Peggy Beem Jelley
President and CEO