



# EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

New England

November 12, 2018

Name  
Address  
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Dear

You recently received our Annual Report. The theme of the report is Taking Flight because that is what we have done over the past year, with your help. As you think about your year-end giving, I ask you to keep in mind the transformative impact we are having on people and families in New England thanks to the generosity of supporters like you. A year in pictures, data, and highlights in our Annual Report show how we magnified our impact in 2018 thanks to you:

**Middle Schoolers Connecting** - Our middle school program offers a chance to have fun, make friends, and learn about advocacy and leadership. Last month, 15 of our kids and 8 volunteers spent a night at the Museum of Science in Boston MA.

**Make Epilepsy History** - Our 2nd annual Innovation in Epilepsy event, showcasing the amazing work happening right here in New England, yielded \$50,000 to support research for a better tomorrow.

**YOUR GIFT MADE THESE SMILES POSSIBLE IN OUR COMMUNITY**



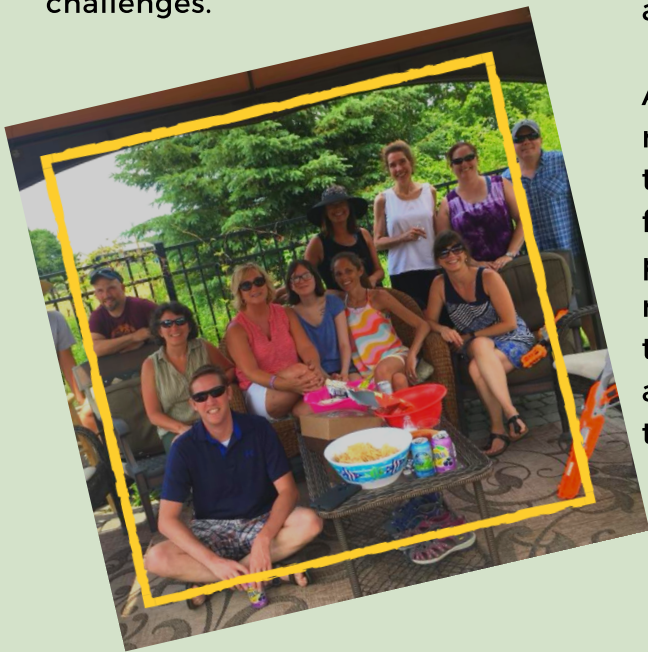
Above: Former Olympian Chanda Gunn, a person living with epilepsy, founded our Young Leaders Network. Juggling school, work, friends, and growing into one's own is no easy feat for any young adult. Our Young Leaders Network is more than 250 strong with monthly meetings in Boston, Springfield, and Worcester MA; Portland ME; Manchester and Concord NH; and Providence RI.

Below: Our 10 2018 Camp Programs included something for all ages and abilities, all over New England. A 2018 program evaluation showed how critical camp is to our kids and families. Camps have a very favorable impact on campers' willingness to try new things and take on challenges, improving sense of self, showing respect for self and community, ability to build healthy relationships, increasing confidence to work through health challenges, and willingness to contribute to family, school, or community. Camper John was all smiles at Ironstone Farm; Northeastern University Co-op student Andie helped prepare camp meals for our 8 campers using dietary therapies.





Above: Three of our teens visit Capitol Hill. Below: Reaching New England - The Foundation's leadership team now includes Councils who meet monthly in RI, NH, ME (pictured), and Western MA. Councils provide direction and support for the epilepsy community in their regions and ensure that services and strategy are attuned to each area's unique strengths and challenges.



Light the Way Today - On March 26, hundreds of people participated in our first annual #lightthewaytoday campaign to raise awareness of epilepsy and shine a light on the difficult reality that epilepsy can be fatal. People across New England lit purple candles and participated on social media to honor loved ones lost and support those battling epilepsy. Our newly formed Remembrance Network deploys trained volunteers to support those experiencing an epilepsy-related loss in the hours, days, months, and years that follow.

Emergency Aid to Families in Dire Need - We provide a listening ear and advice by phone, online Knowledge Center, 40+ online and in-person SHARE groups a year, 14 scholarships to aspiring students, and more. Over the past 12 months, we assisted 38 families with \$50-\$1,000 one-time emergency aid gifts when epilepsy caused a financial crisis. For example, after being contacted by her Therapist, we provided medical equipment to a young woman living on public assistance, when she was discharged to her bedridden mother from rehab after a 2-month coma and status epilepticus.

And there's more - Policy advocacy in every state with more than 4,000 volunteer advocates, more than 30 trainings to 600 people across New England, four family education conferences, a Career Navigator program that has helped 125 people obtain and/or retain employment: Together, we are helping thousands of people and families - including my own - affected by epilepsy in New England, and I'm honored to work with and for each of you on our journey.

Sincerely,

Susan Linn  
President/CEO

**PS - Your generosity makes it possible. Please take a moment right now to send your gift today. Because of your support, we are reaching new heights to help people with epilepsy.**

