



## 2017 Annual Report



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## Mission

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) leads the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures and save lives.

## Vision

A world where people with seizures realize their full potential.

## About Epilepsy

One in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime and 1 in 26 will develop epilepsy; an estimated 60,000 people with epilepsy live in Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. EFMN works to improve understanding of epilepsy through regional education programs and public awareness efforts. We work closely with individuals affected by epilepsy, supporting them through their personal journey with epilepsy, and connecting them to resources and to other people with similar experiences.





Dear Friend of EFMN,

“Be THE go-to resource for people impacted by Epilepsy.”

That’s the lofty objective our board and staff are committed to achieving during our 2018-2020 strategic plan, Rise Beyond. We are proud to say that the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) has never been better poised to accomplish that goal than we are today. With a strong staff, committed board of directors and a community of supporters aligned around our vision, we will continue to be that resource for Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. Over the next year, you’ll see EFMN connecting in new ways in communities, educating and supporting efforts in epilepsy research and building on our organization’s strengths.

In 2017 we positively affected over 200,000 people who needed information, support, referrals and more importantly a community of understanding people who all believe that together we can help the people we serve live the best life possible. If you’ve been following us closely, you’ll see that we have featured stories throughout the year about amazing and courageous people who have shared their journey in an effort to build awareness of the many faces of epilepsy and build support of our mission. Each one of these stories has highlighted the programs we are so proud to bring our community.

In the following pages you’ll read about the programs and services that EFMN offers and the strong financial and professional systems that underpin them. Critical in the success of all of our work is the generosity of our financial donors and volunteers. We hope you’ll take a moment to recognize your place in this important work. Thank you deeply for your commitment to EFMN.



Brandon Megal  
Board President



Heidi L. Fisher  
Executive Director



# 2017 PROGRAM SUMMARY AND IMPACT REPORT

EFMN seeks to improve the lives of people affected by epilepsy. We also raise awareness in the general public of the prevalence of epilepsy and improve the public's understanding of the condition. Our programs serve people of all ages and across the spectrum of epilepsy. In 2017, we are proud to report these highlights:

- **Camp expansion** continued in 2017! In addition to our week-long overnight Camp Oz, we added a family camp for youth who are more severely-impacted and their families, as well as a day camp for younger campers.
- **Seizure Smart Schools** educated 15,000 school personnel and students, making these schools a safer place for people with epilepsy.
- EFMN staff provided seizure recognition and response **trainings** to 6,100 people.
- Our **Information & Referral** program provided one-to-one help to 800 people seeking assistance. Thousands more connected to our resources through exhibits, community events, and our Wellness Expo.

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**52,700 PEOPLE**  
WERE DIRECTLY SERVED BY EFMN IN 2017

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## RAISING AWARENESS

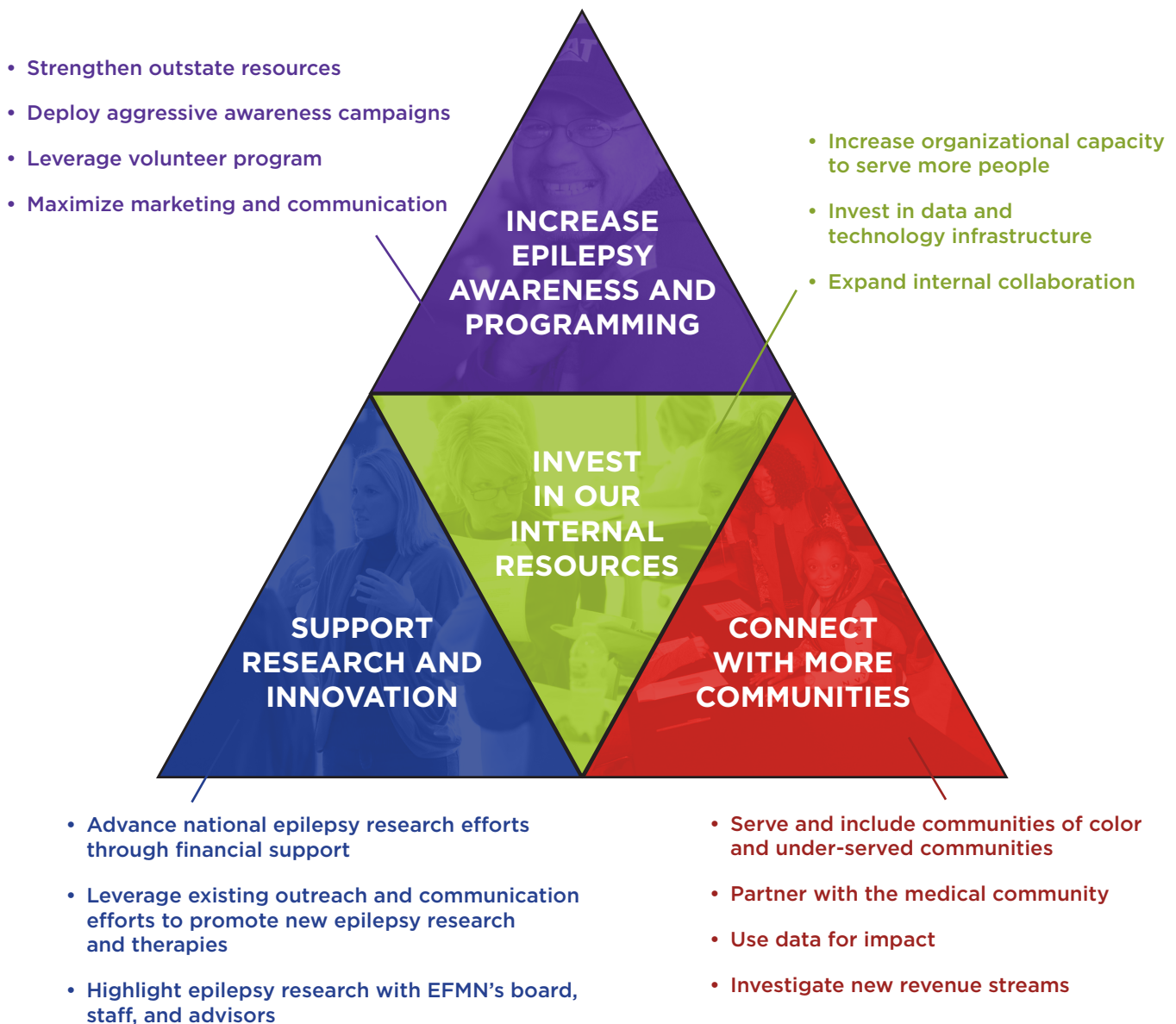
EFMN launched our ONE in 26 campaign in honor of November Epilepsy Awareness Month which focused on the prevalence of epilepsy and the stories behind the statistics. Billboards, bus sides, and social media put the reach of this campaign into the hundreds of thousands. A specially-created video was viewed over 6,600 times, and hundreds of people uploaded their personal messages of strength and inspiration to the ONEin26.org website.



# 2018-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2017, EFMN undertook an extensive strategic planning process. We listened to dozens of stakeholders across the region to better understand what they see as the strengths and opportunities of the organization. That information was used by the Board of Directors and staff as they spent many hours in planning meetings to create our 2018-2020 Rise Beyond Strategic Plan.

Our plan is organized into four areas of focus, illustrated below. Each of these areas augments our ability to serve ALL people in Minnesota and eastern North Dakota with resources, both current and new. We have high hopes that this plan will position us to grow into our areas of strength, while adding new aspects to our work that we think will be a valuable resource to our community.



## THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



Inspired by **patients.**  
Driven by **science.**



## PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

We want to salute the law firm of Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. and the Government Relations Practice team for their pro bono work. Kevin Goodno has been our pro bono lobbyist for over ten years. He channels his passion for helping people living with epilepsy through dedicating his time and talent to helping EFMN forward our advocacy and public policy efforts. Kevin also served on the EFMN Board of Directors for six years, two in the role of President. Thank you Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., Kevin and the entire Government Relations team.

*"When our daughter was diagnosed with epilepsy, EFMN provided my family resources and programs that helped us understand our new normal and supported us throughout the journey. Minnesota and eastern North Dakota are fortunate to have EFMN as the 'go-to' resource for those impacted by epilepsy. I am honored to be able to support this organization as a pro bono lobbyist."*

- Kevin Goodno

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& BYRON, P.A.

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Visions, Inc.



## 2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

"The strong financial performance of EFMN in 2017 has set the groundwork for organizational growth in 2018-2020. This past year we invested in our personnel and had a record-breaking year in our Donated Goods operations. Our team is energized by the vision of our strategic plan and 2017's financial performance will allow us to fund future expansion by investing in our mission on a deeper level. We are grateful to so many who support our mission through volunteerism, financial support and/or donating goods."

- Heidi Fisher, Executive Director

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2017

	2017	2016
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,709,034	1,410,000
Receivables	253,393	224,296
Prepaid Expenses	137,002	91,782
Investments	1,702,021	1,563,828
Property and Equipment, net	134,239	129,041
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,935,689</b>	<b>3,418,947</b>
Total Liabilities	206,307	200,103
Unrestricted Net Assets:		
Undesignated	1,394,322	639,605
Board Designated	1,616,458	1,692,191
Net Investment in Property & Equipment	134,239	129,041
Temporarily Restricted	584,363	758,007
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>3,935,689</b>	<b>3,418,947</b>

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

Revenue:	2017	2016
Individuals, Foundations, and Corporations	672,788	896,995
Special Events, net	285,932	311,749
Program Fees	32,461	34,260
Investments	153,776	44,887
Donated Goods, net income	1,593,987	1,253,198
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,738,944</b>	<b>2,541,089</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Programs that Educate	677,066	695,439
Programs that Connect	507,046	417,184
Programs that Empower	283,759	251,668
Fundraising	482,825	466,890
Management and Administration	277,710	270,569
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>2,228,406</b>	<b>2,101,750</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>510,538</b>	<b>439,339</b>



## COMMITMENT IN ACTION



Brandon and Stephanie Megal at the 2018 Rise Above Seizures Gala

Brandon and Stephanie's personal connection to epilepsy brought them to EFMN and their commitment has made a lasting impact upon our mission. Brandon has served on the Board of Directors since 2014, and is currently President. He has dedicated countless hours locally, as well as working closely with our national office, Epilepsy Foundation of America. Brandon also played a leadership role in developing our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, Rise Beyond. Stephanie has served on our gala committee for several years. As committee chair the last three years, Stephanie led a team of staff and volunteers which planned and executed the top three revenue grossing Galas in EFMN's history while raising ongoing awareness for the foundation. Thank you, Brandon and Stephanie!

## DONATED GOODS PROGRAM

EFMN collected over 10 Million pounds of used clothing and household items, converting unwanted items into a significant revenue stream for our programs. We successfully mounted a Million Pound Challenge, helping us unlock higher pricing from our vendor for 2018.

**Make Space.  
Make a Difference.**



Schedule a pickup at [efmn.org](http://efmn.org) or 800.779.0777



# THANK YOU, DONORS!

## EPILEPSY CHAMPION CIRCLE

*EFMN is pleased to recognize members of the Epilepsy Champion Circle for their annual gifts and commitments of \$1,000 or more. The extraordinary generosity of our donors enables us to make strides in the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy, accelerate therapies, find cures, and save lives.*

### **Dreammaker (\$10,000+)**

Anonymous  
Brewers Supply Group  
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Helen & Gary Bergren  
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Robert Eddy  
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Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation  
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Twin Cities Jeep Show  
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### **Pacesetter (\$5,000-\$9,999)**

Ally Bank  
Janis Clay & Elam Baer  
Barclays  
CarVal Investors  
CentraCare Health Foundation  
Children's Hospitals and Clinics  
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Elizabeth & Ben Smith  
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Tech Guru  
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Scott Tonneson & Jen Thorson  
Tami VanCamp  
Visions

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Larry Wefring  
Julie Weisbecker  
Gregory Worrell





## ELAM BAER AND JANIS CLAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*We are grateful for the continuing generosity of Elam Baer and Janis Clay who make this fund possible.*

### 2017 Scholarship Winners

Michael Blesi  
University of Minnesota  
Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mathematics

Hannah Enge  
University of Minnesota  
Physiology & Neuroscience

Elizabeth McGraw  
University of Minnesota  
Conservation Biology & Sustainability

Aleah O'Neal  
St. Cloud State University  
Radiology Technology

Leng Vue  
University of Minnesota  
Electrical Engineering

Katherine Weidt  
Century College  
Paraeducation for Children with Disabilities

Paige White  
Riverland Community College  
Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement

Katelyn Woehnker  
University of Wisconsin  
Criminology/Speech Language

Cassidy Yueh  
Scripps College  
Environmental Analysis, Behavior

Hafsa Yusef  
Winona State University  
Biology, Physician's Assistant

### \$500-\$999

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Janel Anderson & Craig Dowd  
Anonymous  
Arch Language Network, Inc  
Bill & Janine Atwell  
Gargi & Ambar Bajpai  
Bame Foundation  
Anna Barber  
Baytown Woods Fund  
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Big Time Jazz Orchestra  
Robin Blegen  
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Seth Cohen  
Claire Colliander &  
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Sheri & Kevin Roberg-Perez  
Shelly Rucks  
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Tess Sierzant & Jim Heimer  
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Jordan Smith  
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Allison Steltzner  
Chris Stout  
John Svenkeson &  
Lisa Greenslit  
Dinah Swain  
TVI, Inc.  
Jennifer Tvrdy  
Rosemary Weisbecker  
Mary & Mike Wiggins

### \$250-\$499

Anonymous  
Shawn Ahearn  
Joel Anderson  
Marcia Anderson  
Peter Angelo  
Rebekah Archer  
Judith Axelrod  
Sandy & Barry Baines, MD  
Emily Bakala  
Lori & Don Banghart  
Amy Bauer  
Mary Bedder  
Steven Benner  
Jennifer & Eric Beran  
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Dianne Schmidt  
Tracey Schramel  
SFM Mutual Insurance  
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Sean Shannon  
Michael Sill  
Mark Simmer  
Joseph Skaudis



### TEAM RISE ABOVE EPILEPSY

Gab Szerda, husband of EFMN board member Dr. Julia Valente, raced in the 205-mile race "Tor des Géants" in the Swiss Alps in September 2017. He used the race to raise awareness and funds for the Epilepsy Foundation of MN. Thank you to the 87 contributors who gave over \$34,000 to Team Rise!

## 2017 Donors, Continued

Jessica Snyder  
SPIRE Credit Union  
Gloria Stockinger  
Terry & Lori Stoering  
Swagelok Minnesota  
Cara Sylvester  
TruStone  
United Way of Olmsted County  
University of Minnesota Department of Emergency Medicine  
Kenneth Useldinger  
Daniel Wakemup  
Kathleen Wall  
Vicki Whiteside  
Shelly & Sydney Zeis  
Hans Zoerb

**This list represents direct donations received in 2017. Please contact Rachelle Holm at [rholm@efmn.org](mailto:rholm@efmn.org) or 651-287-2302 with any questions or suggested changes to this donor recognition list. Thank you!**

VOLUNTEERS  
DONATED OVER  
**2,000 HOURS**  
TO EFMN IN 2017!

## In Honor of

*Gifts were received in 2017 in honor of the following:*

Steve & Dana Alpeter	Lincoln Hendrickson	Richard Okoneski, Jr.
Adam Angove	Wyatt Henry	Jacob Olavson
Stephanie Atwell	Grant Herber	Vern Paige
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Toby Hanson	Phoenix Mongin	Velma Witt
Warren Hanson	Robert Alan Nelson	
Adam Hassenstab	Russell Nobbe	
Zachary Heino	Ashley Nygaard	

## ADVOCACY

*"It is important to meet with your legislators because no one but you can tell your story about how epilepsy has impacted your day to day life."*

**-Day at the Capitol participant**

2017 Winning Kid Will Schneider and his parents traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with their representatives and participate in the national Epilepsy Foundation of America's Teens Speak Up! and Public Policy Institute. Pictured: The Schneider family and EFMN's Senior Program Manager Nikki Baker meet with Representative Eric Paulsen in his D.C. office.





## 2017 RISE ABOVE SEIZURES WALK

*Walkers in five cities raised over \$180,000 for EFMN programs. We are especially grateful to our Walk Team Captains who encouraged their family, friends, and co-workers to participate.*

### 2017 Walk Captains and Their Teams (\$250+)

Tamara Abers, Jordan's Jammers  
Marcia Anderson, Weston's Warriors  
Stephanie Anderson, Team Kylie  
Barb Anstett, MINCEP Live Wires  
Kate Arneson, Team Kate  
Bill Atwell, Stephanie Atwell  
Anna Barber, Kayleigh's Shining Stars  
Kari Bassett, Ean's Engineers  
Amy Bauer, G Squad  
Angela Benson, Team Benson  
Jennifer Beran, Team Tanner  
Eileen Bittle, Team Evan  
Lori Braegelmann, Braegelmann Brigade  
Brian Britz, Hope for Isabella  
Carrie Buck-Semrow, Kourageous Kids  
Jenny Campos, Team Dylon  
Sarah Carver, Kayla's Krew  
Laurie Colbeck, MN Epilepsy Group  
Kristin Davis, Abby's Avengers  
Jeff Duncan, Team Gracie  
Shanna Dunne, Guardians of the Galaxy  
Emily duSaire, Team Emily  
Danielle Ehresmann, Ehresmann End to Epilepsy  
Travis Ernst, Team Ernst  
Angel Fawcett, At Home Living  
Stephanie Ferrari, TK's Travelers  
Kacie Finley, Kacie's Crusaders  
Mo Flynn, Team Flynn  
Zachary Frisk, Sanford Neurology Fargo  
Sherri Gallus, Team smartypants  
Kelly Girgen, Seizure Destroyers  
Ashley Grahek, Team L  
Erik Hassenstab, Adam's Superheroes  
Jessica Hauser, Wyatt's Warriors  
Jenny Henningsen, Seize The Day  
Richard Herod III, Team Joe Hager  
Tonya Hoaglan, Spike and Wave  
Erica Holzer, Team Joshua  
Jennifer Hover, Ronan's Rebels  
Caitlin Hunstock-Jansson, Team Leah  
Larissa Indrebo, Isaac's Minions  
Nancy Johnson, Team Ryan J

Paige Johnson, Paige's Pack  
Patty Johnson, Brief Pause  
Ashley Kelner, Marsha's Memory Makers  
Brad Kletzin, Ollie Tumba & The Electric Brains  
Erica Klev, Gage's Gang  
Krystal Koball, Team Kaya  
Hope Kraay, Two Miracles Walking  
Esther Krook-Magnuson, Scientists Against Seizures  
Krista Kujala, Team Hope  
Jeni Larson, Team Mason  
Alison Lillegaard, Cranium Crackers  
Jennifer Madigan, Team Maddie  
Nord Maja, We Go-pher Maja  
Christine Marlo-Triemstra, Stella's Stars  
Patrick Marushin, Elena's Strollers  
Michelle Maxwell, Team EFMN  
Mason McCluskey, PI-and his Pride  
Laura McMahon, BTS - Ian's Crew  
Eric Melby, Team Tyeson  
Kat Metzger, Upsher-Smith Laboratories  
Andrea Mialkowski, Team Andrea  
Julie Miller, We're the Miller's  
Anna Milz, Team Jacob  
Tamra Mrotek, Mad Hatters  
Nicole Muehlhausen, Roberta's Supernatural  
Kristen Murphy, Brynn's Backers  
Fanessa Nason, Boomerang  
Cindy Nelson, Spike & Wave  
Rhea Nelson Rock, Nolan's Crew  
Gina Norris, Hope for Hazel  
Tuesday Ortiz, Team Scarlett  
Stacy Otto, Purple Reign  
Jessica Pack, The Pack Pacesetters  
Lisa Peterson, Seizure Stigma Stoppers  
Ethan Pleshe, Brainstorm Warriors  
Chris Poshek, Team HH  
Caleigh Proulx, Tiara  
Amy Purrington, EEPs PEEPs  
Justin Reid, Iron Rangers  
Kathleen Rieke, NeuronsUnite  
Chad Ruzek, Max's Marchers  
Bethany Sandstad, Loving On Olivia

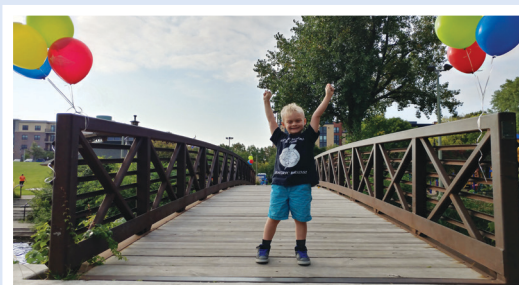
Nicole Schauer, Kaden's Crew  
Jason Schindler, Schindler  
Sara Schmitz, Braden's Pit Crew  
Ruth Schmitz, Ruth's Rockstars  
Susan Skaudis, Zoey's Warriors  
Brynn Soderlind, Rockin' Rowan  
Jill Staloch, Fight Epilepsy  
Dana Stansbery, Team Jillian  
Elizabeth Steinkamp, Beardo's Weirdos  
Cassandra Stoering, Team Silas  
Michael Sund, Team Sund  
Zack Thompson, Gillette Super Strollers  
Robin Tomaszewski, River Lake Stars  
Karen Townsend, Team Levi  
Jennifer Tvrdy, Moovin for a cure  
Janice Tweet, Epilepsy Exponents  
Tami VanCamp, Rally for Aly  
Bill Walsh, Board of Directors  
Ashley Wilson, The Wilson's  
Christy Woll, Holy Walkamolies!  
Angelique Workman, Epilepsy Avengers  
Sydney Zeis, Team Sydney

**When Joe Hager passed away suddenly, his co-workers at White Bear Mitsubishi created a Walk team to honor his memory. Almost 50 people participated in the Metro Walk in memory of Joe and raised over \$20,000.**



*Pictured above: Team Captain, Richard Herod III and EFMN Executive Director, Heidi Fisher.*

## BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENCE FUND



funding awards in the summer of 2018. To ensure that awards will continue to be available, we will continue to actively fund. To find out more or to make a contribution, please contact Rachelle Holm at [rholm@efmn.org](mailto:rholm@efmn.org).

Imagine, suddenly being unable to drive to work due to a seizure. Or needing a seizure dog and the resources to secure it. Imagine suddenly finding out the medication you need to control seizures is not covered by your insurance or the copay is one you can't afford. Sound overwhelming? For many living with epilepsy, these scenarios are real and often create unanticipated expenses. Because of a generous challenge grant by the Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation, EFMN has created this fund to provide financial assistance to individuals or families who have an unexpected short-term financial need. We hope to begin



**Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota**  
1600 University Avenue West, Suite 300  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

**efmn.org**  
info@emfn.org | 1.800.779.0777



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