2020 AT A GLANCE

In 2020 we shifted much of our programming and events to virtual experiences— with great success. Going virtual allowed us to reach more people than ever! Our education, programs and special events experienced record-breaking registration and participation numbers thanks to creative planning and our supportive and engaged community.

With the addition of “virtual” options, people affected by epilepsy can find connection, education, and empowerment regardless of social-distancing guidelines, geography, transportation challenges, or caregiving responsibilities.

Nothing, not even a global pandemic, will stop us from providing help for today and hope for tomorrow!

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Launched the monthly Th1nk26 webinar attracting more than 50 attendees each session
- Virtual Epilepsy Connect Symposium more than tripled in attendance with more than 350 attendees
- Launched Spanish language and Teen Support Groups
- Provided information and resources to more than 400 individuals newly diagnosed with epilepsy through Project Backpack
- Provided $5,800 in emergency assistance funding to individuals and families in crisis
- Engaged our Preferred Provider Network of more than 60 epilepsy-trained therapists to provide mental health services to our community
- Pursuing Seizure Safe Schools legislation in Colorado and Wyoming
- Gave out $500 worth of school supplies to families affected by epilepsy
- 1,200 walkers participated in the virtual Walk to END EPILEPSY in Denver & Colorado Springs
- 35 kids attended Virtual summer Camp
- Virtual “Gala at Home” raised even more than 2019

WHAT'S COMING IN 2021?

- “Joey’s Law” has been introduced in Colorado - this bill will ensure seizure recognition and first aid training is provided to staff in ALL Colorado public schools!
- Two NEW Walk to END EPILEPSY events are planned for Northern Colorado (June 20th) and the Western Slope (June 27th)
- We will begin offering PACES (the Program of Active Consumer Engagement in Self-management in epilepsy), an 8 week program designed to help adults manage their epilepsy and learn strategies for emotional and community adjustment.
- In 2021, our goal is to ensure the success of our programs and services through more monthly donors than ever before. For just $26 a month, less than $1 a day, you can continually impact the lives of people with epilepsy in our community. Visit epilepsycolorado.org/individual-giving to join the Purple Circle today!
2020 presented unique challenges. It’s not news to anyone that the COVID-19 health crisis caused ripple effects on both the local and global economy that will be felt for years to come. Our organization was no different than any other, and we felt the impact. The fundraising environment during the pandemic was challenging and our general revenue was down significantly from FY 2019. However, you’ll see that our financials actually reflect significantly higher revenue than the previous year - this is due to the fact that we moved our fiscal year from July 1 to January 1, and so these numbers represent 18 months instead of the usual 12. To weather the financial storm, we tightened our belts and cut expenses in every possible area. Unfortunately that included eliminating several positions, and all of our staff took pay cuts for several months. On the positive side, we were fortunate to receive a PPP loan, which was forgiven. And even better, we were, and continue to be, blessed by an endlessly generous community of supporters and friends who continue to give generously despite the ongoing uncertainty facing us all. And now, with the development and deployment of vaccines, it appears that an end to the health crisis is coming into view. We hope that with the uptick in economic activity and the pent-up demand for social interaction, we’ll see renewed engagement with our fundraising events as well as with our programs and services. We have accomplished all the things in this Annual Report, and much, much more, only through the support and generosity of our many volunteers, donors, and community partners. It is you, our Epilepsy Foundation friends and families, who are the heart and soul of the work that we do. Your investments of time, energy, creativity, and financial resources are what enable us to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of people with epilepsy, every single day. On behalf of our board and staff, we sincerely thank you.

MISSION AND VISION

We are the leader in connecting, educating, and empowering to improve the lives of everyone affected by epilepsy. We connect people to healthcare providers, support networks, and a listening ear. We educate schools, employers, and the community at large, to reduce stigma and raise awareness. And we empower people affected by epilepsy with knowledge, resources, and advocacy to live their best lives. For more than 50 years, we have remained committed to our mission, and we will not rest until we achieve a world free from seizures.

Our mission: The Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado leads the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures and save lives.

*NOTE: NUMBERS REFLECT THE 18 MONTH PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020*
OUR LEADERSHIP

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

2020 Lifetime Achievement Award Winners
Brooke & Tom Gordon

THE FOUNDER’S SOCIETY
PATRONS ($500,000-$999,999)
Brooke & Tom Gordon

HUMANITARIANS ($100,000-$499,999)
Evan & Debbi Crist
David Cutler

HARRIOT HUNTER CIRCLE ($50,000-$99,999)
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