

THE EPILEPSY  AND SEIZURE  
DISORDER RESOURCE CENTRE  
OF SOUTH EASTERN ONTARIO

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# 2014 Annual Report



~Pulling together for epilepsy~

~ Our Mission ~

The Epilepsy & Seizure Disorder Resource Centre of South Eastern Ontario is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for those affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders. The mission of the organization is to provide support, education and advocacy services for those affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders.

# Board Chair and Executive Director Report

The past year has been busy and successful at the Epilepsy Resource Centre. We have made tremendous strides in achieving what we set out to do in the first year of our three-year strategic plan. Our organization has now reached the point where we are becoming a leader in the community in the field of providing support to those affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders.

On the direct service side, we have created a new epilepsy community liaison position, which will assist with improving support for those newly diagnosed with epilepsy, as well as expanding outreach across our service area. The KLF&A United Way has recognized our progress and has increased its funding to assist us with this effort.

Over the past year, community awareness of our organization has increased dramatically, which is evidenced by an increased number of individuals accessing our services. We are also working with our provincial partners to establish best practices in community epilepsy support, and through this are ensuring that our clients receive the best support possible when they approach our organization.

Some of the special initiatives that we have taken part in to inform the community and to raise funds include the Pull Together For Epilepsy fire truck pull, our Purple Day activities which included two successful pancake breakfasts, and a new endeavor with the Kingston Frontenacs, aptly titled Purple Pucks For Epilepsy.

Our board has continued to grow and has taken on new members, many of whom have strong skills that were needed to help the organization expand and grow. With the addition of a strong, experienced treasurer, we have cemented our financial recovery to the point that we now can comfortably say that the organization operates from a very strong financial base. As an organization, we enter the coming year with strengthened relationships with funders, the media, the medical community and the educational community.

As we look to the future, we hope to build on this year's successes with further expansion of services while maintaining a high quality of community involvement and education. An essential part of our focus will be on the diversification of our funding base, with a view to obtaining more grants, along with the development of a comprehensive fundraising plan, that will benefit the community and our clients. Looking ahead, the future bodes very well for the Epilepsy Resource Centre. We can proceed with confidence knowing that we have the staff and board in place that will focus on all of our hopes and dreams for the organization.

None of the successes of the past year would have been possible without the support of our many dedicated volunteers, donors, funders, and supporters, to whom we extend a very warm thank you!

James N. Docherty  
Board Chair

Susan Harrison  
Executive Director

# The Year in Review

## Providing Support

We provide support to individuals living with epilepsy and their families, throughout the City of Kingston, and Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, and Leeds & Grenville counties. Through the provision of information, supportive counselling, peer-support, and school and workplace advocacy, we work to empower individuals affected by epilepsy to live well with the condition. As awareness of our services continues to expand, we are seeing an increase in the number of clients accessing our services, whether in-person, or by phone or email.

In the past year, we directly supported ninety-five individuals living with epilepsy.

## Raising Epilepsy Awareness and Understanding

Training people in seizure first aid and dispelling myths about epilepsy are at the core of our community education programs. We provided twenty-five education presentations to a wide range of audiences in the past year, including many school staff and students, nursing students, daycares, government agencies, and local workplaces. In addition, we worked to raise awareness of the Epilepsy Resource Centre and epilepsy by staffing thirteen epilepsy display tables across our service area.

We continued our popular Speaker Night series, with events held in both Kingston and Brockville. Guest speakers presented on topics ranging from strategies for living well with epilepsy, to epilepsy and children, to surgery as a treatment option for epilepsy.



## Purple Day for Epilepsy 2014

We had great success with our 2014 Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness campaign. We once again hosted two delicious Purple Pancake breakfasts, and introduced a new event, Purple Pucks for Epilepsy, in partnership with the Kingston Frontenacs. In addition, we focussed on supporting local elementary schools in increasing their participation in Purple Day. Students at many schools wore purple to show their support, and several schools also hosted a school presentation to inform their students about Purple Day and epilepsy. Over 4000 students were exposed to Purple Day in their schools this year in our area.



We were thrilled to be selected as the community partner of 99.9 myFM radio in Gananoque for the month of March. The station provided extensive promotion of our Purple Day events, while also raising general awareness of epilepsy and the support services available in our community.

### 1st Annual *Pull Together for Epilepsy* Fire Truck Pull

2013 was the first year of our new summer fundraiser, the *Pull Together for Epilepsy* Fire Truck Pull. The event was a huge success and a fun day for the entire community. Nine teams of eight participants came out to compete in four different competitions. We are extremely grateful to the many wonderful people who took the time to be a part of this event, including Kingston Fire and Rescue, the many teams that pulled together, our amazing volunteers, and the crowd of spectators who participated by supporting the event and the participants involved. A very strong foundation has been laid for this event to become an important and fun-filled annual fundraiser for the organization.

## The Epilepsy Resource Centre by the numbers!

- Number of people living with epilepsy in our area (approx.): 3000
- Number of clients who received supportive counselling: 95
- Number of education presentations: 25
- Number of people who learned about epilepsy at our presentations: 619
- Number of Speaker Nights: 5
- Number of community displays: 13
- Number of people who attended our displays and learned about epilepsy: 562
- Number of booklets stickered: 3500
- Number of purple ribbons pinned: 750
- Number of amazing volunteers: 34
- Number of staff: 7 (2 Permanent, 5 Contract)
- Number of placement students: 1
- Number of purple pancakes cooked: 250

(June 2013 to 2014)

# Board of Directors and Staff 2013 - 2014

**President:**  
James N. Docherty

**Vice-President:**  
Kim McFarlane

**Treasurer:**  
Valerie Robb

**Secretary:**  
Alix Blake

**Directors:**  
Tracey Augustyn  
Jessica Gies  
Tariq Hassanein  
Karen Labbett  
Dr. Athen MacDonald

**Executive Director**  
Susan Harrison

**Youth and Administrative Coordinator**  
Hanna Kitchingman

**2013 Special Events Coordinator**  
Laura Casselman

**2014 Special Events Coordinator**  
Kaitlin Juraschka

**Development & Events Coordinator**  
Farwah Iqbal

**Program Assistant**  
Aliene Abcede

**Social Media Administrator**  
Kelvin Chan

Our volunteers are the heart of this agency. We thank you for everything you do to assist in bringing epilepsy out of the shadows.



# Our Thanks To You!

The Epilepsy Resource Centre gratefully acknowledges its donors and supporters for their generous assistance in the past year. It is thanks to their generosity that the Epilepsy Resource Centre is able to continue to deliver and provide support to the thousands in our community affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders.

## A Special Thank You to

United Way of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington  
United Way of Leeds & Grenville  
UCB - The Epilepsy Company  
EISAI  
Service Canada - Canada Summer Jobs  
Community Spirit Bingo Association  
Angie Allen  
Kelvin Chan  
Joanna Cuttini

## Pull Together for Epilepsy: Fire Truck Pull

- 105.7 K-Rock
- 102.7 Kiss FM
- 93.5 Country FM
- Sadie Augustyn
- Centennial Engravers & Trophies, Kingston
- City of Kingston
- Downtown Kingston Street Vendors
- Farm Boy, Kingston
- John Gerretsen, MPP
- Ted Hsu, MP
- Investors Group, Kingston
- Kingston Community Credit Union
- Kingston Fire and Rescue
- Knapp Appliances
- Shoppers Drug Mart, Kingston
- SNAP Kingston
- Bill Welycheka

## Purple Day 2014

- Baldree's No Frills, Gananoque
- Costco, Kingston
- DuPont, Kingston
- Gord and Kim's No Frills, Kingston
- Loblaws Princess Street Market, Kingston
- Mega Dollar, Gananoque
- Metro, Gananoque
- Metro, Gardiners Road, Kingston
- MyFM 99.9 Gananoque
- St. Lawrence EMC
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Gananoque
- Tim Hortons, Gananoque
- Bayridge Public School, Kingston
- J.L Jordan Catholic School, Brockville
- St. Joseph Catholic School, Belleville
- Sydenham Public School, Kingston
- Vanier Public School, Brockville
- Welborne Public School, Kingston

The Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Resource Centre is a proud member of the Canadian Epilepsy Alliance and is pleased to be an affiliate agency of Epilepsy Ontario.

