



The Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Resource Centre Of
Southeastern Ontario

2012 Annual Report



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

Message from the President

The past year has been a watershed year for the Epilepsy & Seizure Disorder Resource Centre. At this time last year we were at the stage of determining whether or not we would be able to keep the organization afloat for the year, and meet our funder's requirements. At about the same time, we began to recognize that we had serious financial difficulties. We had a small board with wonderful intentions but limited capacity. I must applaud the board members that stuck with us through this time as it was a difficult time for the organization and some of the difficulties threatened to include personal risk for the board members. Recognizing all of this, it is now important to acknowledge a number of key accomplishments achieved in the last year.

- Our board has grown to nine members, including four new board members
- We have brought the organization from the brink of bankruptcy in the past year to the point that we are looking at being able to generate a surplus by the end of this fiscal year.
- We have embarked on a number of fundraising activities, all of which are projected to result in further solidifying the organization's financial position.
- We have appointed a new Executive Director who has represented the organization admirably and has played a strong leadership role in enabling us to recover.
- We have regained the trust of our two principal funders to the degree that ongoing funding is not threatened.
- We have renewed important relationships within the Medical community.
- We have begun to build community support demonstrated by new and committed volunteers.

In the past six months it has been a pleasure to attend Board meetings in which we have been able to look to the future without having to worry about the very question of our existence. We can now focus on where we want to go and how we can achieve this. In particular, we can approach and attract new board members with a sense of optimism and invite them to come aboard a ship that is building up a head of steam and is not navigating ice fields. All of this can be attributed to the combined efforts of our staff and our board.

I would like to give special thanks and recognition to our two long-term board members, Kim McFarlane and Jason Field, for their contribution over the years. We appreciate their commitment and resiliency.

In closing I would like to start the next year off with an optimistic message by quoting St. Francis of Assisi:

“Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

We have done what was necessary and are now doing what is possible. Just imagine what we can do in the future.

Jim Docherty

Board Chair

Message from the Executive Director

The past year has been one of transition for the Epilepsy & Seizure Disorder Resource Centre. We have faced considerable challenges, and have undergone significant change, including a complete change in staff. I joined the organization in the spring of 2011 as the Client Services Coordinator, and became Executive Director in the summer of 2011, and have been busy working to rebuild and renew the organization administratively, financially, and in program development.

While much of our time in 2011 focused on addressing administrative and financial challenges, significant progress has now been made in laying the groundwork to provide renewed services for our clients. We have reassessed all of our programs, and our focus remains on providing our three core services to support those affected by epilepsy: individual support, epilepsy education workshops, and community displays. It has also been a priority to reconnect with former clients, and engage with new ones in all areas that we serve: Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, and Leeds and Grenville counties.

Unfortunately, as a result of the significant financial difficulties the organization has faced, in August 2011 we reached the difficult decision to close our Quinte outreach office in Belleville. Additionally, we no longer have a physical office in Brockville, but we continue to serve all of Leeds & Grenville, based out of our Kingston office.

This year we are already seeing an increase in individuals accessing our services, and we are increasingly out in the community providing education presentations and community displays to improve understanding of epilepsy, as well as to raise the profile of the organization. Other successes in the past year include:

- A new engaging and informative website has been launched
- We had a very successful Glad Days fundraiser in 2011, during which we raised almost \$4000, while also increasing community awareness of epilepsy. Other valuable fundraising events were held at Boston Pizza and Domino Theatre.
- In March, we celebrated Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness in style by offering free purple manicures at the Cataraqui Mall. Three local schools also held Purple Day events, resulting in a sea of purple clad students. A very dedicated group of volunteers enabled these events to be a great success.

I am very grateful to both the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington United Way and the Leeds Grenville United Way for their continued support, particularly over the past year as we have worked to stabilize the organization. I also thank the Board of Directors for their support in my first year as Executive Director. The time and efforts of our amazing volunteers have been invaluable. I would also like to thank Hanna Kitchingman, who has worked tirelessly to resolve many of our administrative challenges.

The inspiration provided by working with our clients who live every day with epilepsy highlights the importance of the services our agency provides. Although this year has been challenging both for the organization, and myself as the new Executive Director, I am thrilled with the progress we have made. The future is bright for the Epilepsy Resource Centre, as we move forward with a stronger foundation that will enable us to improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy in our community.

Susan Harrison

Executive Director

Board of Directors

President:

James Docherty

Vice-President:

Jason Fields

Secretary:

Kim McFarlane

Directors:

Frances Berry

Saozinha Connor

Peggy Davidson

Jessica Gies

Karen Labbett

Dr. E. Athen MacDonald

Epilepsy Resource Centre Staff

Executive Director

Susan Harrison

Youth and Administrative Coordinator

Hanna Kitchingman

2011 Special Events Coordinator

Victoria Freeman

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
Service Canada - Canada Summer Jobs
KEYS Job Centre - KEYS Summer Jobs for Youth
Community Spirit Bingo Association



Glad Days:

Empire Life Financial
Food Basics on Barrack St.
Foodland in Amherstview
Hotel Dieu Hospital
The Kingston Antiques Market
The Ostermans for coordinating sales in Amherstview
St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital
Klaas Van Der Meer– Green Acres Greenhouse
Graham Weatherby of the Royal Kingston Curling Club



Purple Day:

Jordan Bell
Catarauqui Town Centre
Front of Yonge Public School
Kingston Community Credit Union
Knapp Appliances
KCVI
St. Lawrence College Esthetician Program Staff and Students
Shopper's Drug Mart (Princess/Bagot Street location)
Sydenham High School



Additional Thank You to:

Boston Pizza
Kelvin Chan
Domino Theatre
Brenda Fox
King Cole Homes
Scott Runte

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.