

Dear Local Partner:

Did you know that epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological disorder after migraine, stroke and Alzheimer's disease? **In fact, one in 26 people will be diagnosed with epilepsy at some point in their lifetime.** Epilepsy can affect anyone, at any point, with no regards to age, gender, ethnicity or race.

A lot of people think 'seizures' when they hear the word 'epilepsy.' While epilepsy is defined as recurrent, unprovoked seizures, what most people do not know is everything else that accompanies a diagnosis: depression, anxiety, stigma, social exclusion, isolation, lack of understanding and acceptance are just a few of the obstacles that many living with epilepsy face on a daily basis.

For forty-eight years, the Epilepsy Foundation Eastern PA (EFEPA) has led the fight in our region to end epilepsy and overcome the challenges created by seizures. We offer a wide range of free programs, resources and support services to empower and improve the lives of the estimated 110,000 people living with epilepsy in eastern PA.

The EFEPA wants to expand our programs that demonstrate and celebrate the strength of our local epilepsy community. We are working to establish an epilepsy community space right here in Northeast PA where we can **gather, meet, connect and volunteer.**

Everyone deserves to feel worthy and included. Everyone deserves a sense of community and support. **Everyone deserves a safe space.**

We envision a place that is accessible, inclusive and supportive; a place where staff and volunteers can meet for support groups, workshops, classes and conferences; a designated location for seizure recognition and first aid trainings; a place to grow, gain independence, support each other and exchange resources; **a place to call our own.**

To turn this vision into reality, the EFEPA is proud to launch NEPA Next, a campaign for the Epilepsy Community Space driven by local community efforts.

You can play a critical role by supporting the NEPA Next Campaign! Together, we can lay the ground work for our community center. Together, we can build the next chapter in Northeast PA.

Be part of the vision. Consider making a contribution to the NEPA Next Campaign at www.NEPAEpilepsyCommunity.org. Your support will help us turn dreams into reality with the new NEPA Epilepsy Community Space!

Gratefully,



Missy Dolaway
President & CEO



NEPA
next

Campaign for the NEPA
Epilepsy Community Space