

For more epilepsy information, call toll free: (800) 336-5843 or contact our office in your area:

**North Jersey Office**  
322 Highway 46  
Parsippany, NJ 07054  
(973) 244-0850

**Central Jersey Office**  
2516 Highway 35  
Menasquan, NJ 08736  
(800) 336-5843

**Heads Up for Safety**  
25 Beaverson Blvd.  
Building 11  
Brick, NJ 08723  
(888) 376-0376

**South Jersey Office**  
216 Haddon Avenue  
Westmont, NJ 08108  
(856) 858-5900

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## Everyday Kids Lend Their Voices to Affect Policy and Raise Awareness About Epilepsy

Directly on the heels of the inspiring and historic National Walk for Epilepsy, fifty-five kids with epilepsy and their families converged on Washington D.C., March 30–April 1, for the Epilepsy Foundation's signature advocacy event, Kids Speak Up! (KSU).

A far cry from typical Washington lobbyists, these kids are part of a grassroots initiative designed to put a face and a name on an often overlooked and misunderstood disorder. The kids crafted their own messages—documenting how epilepsy affects their lives—to help raise awareness about epilepsy and much-needed funds for a cure.

This year, Epilepsy Foundation staff Liza Gundell and Andrea Racioppi joined Morgan Earle, her mother Jean and her canine companion Tomba. Attendees learned about the Americans with Disabilities Restoration Act, which is scheduled to go to the floor of the House in the month of April. Kids Speak Up! is run in conjunction with a Public Policy Institute to educate parents, community leaders and volunteers on advocacy strategies.

On Tuesday morning, the New Jersey team visited Capitol Hill and the various Senate and House office buildings to tell their stories. Morgan and Jean shared their story with Fern Goodhart, Legislative Fellow for

U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, Christ Gaston, Legislative Assistant for Congressman Rush Holt, and Timothy Lynagh, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Congressman Christopher Smith.



In this photo: Andrea Racioppi, Morgan Earle, Tomba, Liza Gundell

## Thousands Gather on the National Mall to Raise Epilepsy Awareness

A brisk and vibrant morning greeted a crowd estimated at over 7,500 for the Second Annual National Walk for Epilepsy on the National Mall. Walkers came from all over the country in an effort to raise awareness and funds and to help find a cure for epilepsy. At first glance, over \$1.3 million had been raised. Walkers congregated on the Mall in front of the Capitol with smiles, raised spirits and extra layers of clothing underneath white and purple Walk shirts.

Speakers, including Greg Grunberg, chair of the Walk and star of NBC's hit series, *Heroes*; Alan Faneca of the

New York Jets; Geoffrey Pope of the New York Giants; master of ceremonies Bob Madigan (WTOP-Radio's "Man about Town"); former congressman, Tony Coelho, and many others, addressed the crowd. Epilepsy Foundation President and CEO Eric Hargis, told the crowd at the Pre-Walk rally, "You're going to make a difference in the lives of everyone who deals with epilepsy around this country."

The route took walkers past many of Washington's most beautiful and storied monuments. Walkers engaged in congenial conversations, sharing experiences and a common bond. It was a group of people

from cities across the country united for a specific purpose—to bring attention to an overlooked and misunderstood neurological disorder—epilepsy.



In this photo: Andrea Racioppi, EFNJ, Greg & Jake Grunberg, Andrea Infante, EFNJ, Steve Kiss



## **"Mighty Mike" Simmel's Bounce Out the Stigma Parent and Youth Sports Workshops**

These free workshops, courtesy of EFNJ are for boys and girls, ages 9-18 who want to challenge their basketball skill set under the instruction of the Harlem Wizards' "Mighty Mike" Simmel. Parents of the children will simultaneously learn about healthy lifestyles and childhood development through our guest speakers — doctors and experts in the fields of neurology, psychology and nutrition.

Mighty Mike's Bounce Out The Stigma Project provides education, athletics and fun in an environment that nourishes self-confidence for children who are affected by motor and learning deficiencies. Our unique experience uses basketball to empower children and enables every child to feel like a true champion. Our staff is unequalled in their care and relationship with each and every child.

**May 2 Bloomfield Middle School 6:30pm - 8:30pm**  
60 Huck Road, Bloomfield, NJ

**May 10 The Wilson School 11:00am- 2:00pm**  
271 Boulevard, Mountain Lakes, NJ

**May 18 In Conjunction with the Bergen Co. JCC**  
12 noon- 3:00pm  
605 Pascack Road, Washington Township, NJ

Those who attend a workshop will have preference to sign up for Mighty Mike's Full-Week Summer Basketball Camps, held during August '08 in Northern New Jersey.

## **Reminder! EFNJ Scholarships**

\$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to 3 college bound high school seniors with epilepsy!

Academic achievement, participation in activities, financial need and extent of students' disability(s) will be taken into account to determine the winners.

The deadline is coming up!  
**Applications and supporting documents are due May 16, 2008**, so please call (800) 336-5843 to receive an application or visit [www.efnj.com](http://www.efnj.com)

## **3 Statewide Epilepsy Sessions shorten the bridge between doctors and patients**

The first of three statewide Epilepsy Sessions was held on April 9<sup>th</sup> in Teaneck, New Jersey. Dr. Stephen Thompson, Dr. Arno Fried and Dr. Georges Ghacibeh from Hackensack University Medical Center presented to a full room on topics including Understanding Seizure Disorders, Epilepsy Surgery, and New Treatment on the Horizon. It included interesting information and video of brain surgery, and new treatments that have not been approved by the FDA. The attendees were able to discuss questions and concerns, and had one on one discussions with the speakers at the end of the session. We are looking forward to our second session in Lebanon on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9am-12noon

Courtyard Lebanon  
300 Corporate Drive  
Lebanon, NJ 08833  
Breakfast will be served.  
Contact Patti Reale at  
(973) 244-0850 to register.

### **Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**

6:30pm-9:30pm

Ramada Inn Vineland  
216 W Landis Avenue Route  
55  
(Exit 32A) Vineland, NJ, 08360  
Snacks will be served  
Contact Andrea Infante at  
(856)858-5900 to register.



In Picture: Dr. Stephen Thompson, Dr. Georges Ghacibeh, Dr Arno Fried.