

Who's Who in
**Epilepsy
Education**
Ann Marie Bezuyen

Individuals with epilepsy struggle daily with seizures and side effects. For them, more than a bit of trouble can lurk around every corner almost all the time.

Ann Marie Bezuyen of Campbell Hall knows those troubles almost as well as those who experience them first-hand. After working for the Northeast Regional Epilepsy Group for the past three years as an epilepsy educator, she has just been named executive director of the newly formed Epilepsy Life Links program, which is offered free of charge and is entirely supported by the doctors of the practice.

“The doctors have heard for a long time about all the life issues,” Bezuyen says. The “Links” is a group of programs aimed at educating and

supporting. The programs try to help kids in school who feel isolated by the ever-present stigma. They try to help adult patients who have difficulties in college or with employment, or who've returned from war with traumatic brain injury.

One to 2 percent of the population has epilepsy – the disorder that causes neurons to misfire in the brain, leading to seizures of different types. In the region, some 15,000 people have epilepsy. On a

national scale, the number is 2.7 million.

It's been uplifting to help devise the program, says Bezuyen, because it works. People have gotten jobs, kids have gotten services they need in school, some people have gotten camp or college scholarships through the program. “Not to sound corny,” says Bezuyen, who has been in the field for 15 years, “but I think we're making a difference.”

