

During kindergarten, Detra was diagnosed with Epilepsy. Being diagnosed and discovering how to treat the seizures was a very traumatic event in her life. She mostly remembers the bi-weekly blood work tests that were required to manage her medication. Detra still hates needles. Controlling epilepsy as a growing child was difficult for her and her family. Detra's teachers understood her needs and limitations, but fellow students did not understand or accept Detra because of her seizures; they sometimes tormented and ridiculed her, causing her to have low self esteem and depression. During High School Detra had fewer seizures, however she was unable to participate in extracurricular activities or stay out late. Detra became more depressed and stressed leading to cutting herself. After completing High School and other training, she held positions in certain fields of work but was later terminated due to Epilepsy. During the last few years, with the help of EFED and other programs, Detra now lives a peaceful, healthy and mostly seizure free life.