

Our daughter Jaime was diagnosed with epilepsy when she was about 11 years old. We first learned about her condition from the school principal after she was found staring at her locker and not responding. This prompted us to visit a neurologist, where she received her official diagnosis of epilepsy.

Our neurologist introduced us to the Epilepsy Foundation of PA, where we learned more about epilepsy and connected with other families facing similar challenges. We attended conferences hosted by the foundation and even traveled to Harrisburg to meet with legislators, sharing our story and advocating for epilepsy funding in the state budget.

During the summers, Jaime attended an Epilepsy Foundation camp and later became a counselor there. She eventually invited me to join her at camp, where I volunteered as a registered nurse. It was inspiring to see children and young adults with seizure diagnoses swimming, climbing rock walls, playing games and sports, and learning how to help each other during a seizure. Even though it was a tiring week, I felt really enriched by it!

As Jaime has grown and matured, we have faced numerous challenges together. The school nurse had my phone number on speed dial. There was one incident when the local police were called because a neighbor saw Jaime and thought she looked "out of it." I quickly learned about tracking apps, which we implemented right away. Now that Jaime is working, she must manage her commute while also worrying about the possibility of having a seizure at work. By connecting with others whose children or spouses have epilepsy, I have learned that we are not alone, and we will continue to persevere through this.

I'm so excited to be living in Delaware and getting involved with the Epilepsy Foundation! Volunteering has already opened some wonderful opportunities for me to meet amazing people who are navigating their own journeys with epilepsy. It's truly been a privilege to hear the unique stories of these inspiring individuals, each showcasing incredible strength and resilience. I look forward to dedicating more time to this cause and collaborating with others to make a positive impact in the lives of those affected by epilepsy!