



Chelsea's Story

The Foundation was created in memory of 16-year-old Chelsea Alice Hutchison who lost her life to a seizure in 2009. Chelsea was a happy, energetic, and engaging young girl who touched many lives during her short time here and through the Foundation continues to thrive. Her family was never told about SUDEP or the possibility of death resulting from a seizure and they are determined to do what they can to ensure another family does not suffer the same loss they did.

What You Can Do

You can help The Chelsea Hutchison Foundation (CHF) by spreading awareness: "like" us on Facebook, visit our website to learn more about the services we provide and events we sponsor, and then tell your friends about us!

Attend Fundraisers

Gala

Every spring, CHF holds an annual gala that includes informational speakers, dinner, entertainment, and live and silent auctions.



STOMP 5K

Our annual STOMP Out Epilepsy and SUDEP walk/run is held in the Fall. STOMP was first held in Colorado in 2010 and multiple states now participate in the 5K to further educate and bring awareness of Epilepsy and SUDEP to the public.

BINGO

Join us every Thursday and Sunday evenings for Bingo! Large jackpots and lots of fun – for more information see our website or Facebook page.



Donate

The Chelsea Hutchison Foundation is a 501©3 non profit organization granting comfort and hope to those individuals and families living with Epilepsy. Your donation in any amount could help change someone's life or possibly save it.

Chelseahutchisonfoundation.org
Chelseahutchisonfoundation.org/donate

To find out how you can volunteer, please contact CHF at info@chelseahutchisonfoundation.org



The Foundation is based in Colorado and is a non-profit organization. The purpose of the Foundation is to assist and support those living with Epilepsy. Funds raised by CHF provide grants for seizure response service dogs, monitors, wish trips, as well as educate the public about SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) and support those who care for a loved one living with Epilepsy.

What is Epilepsy?

Epilepsy is a condition of the nervous system that causes seizures. It affects over 3.4 million people in the United States and 65 million people worldwide. This is more than multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and Parkinson's disease combined.

1 in 26 Americans will be diagnosed with epilepsy at some point in their lives.

What is SUDEP?

SUDEP is defined as the sudden and unexpected, non-traumatic and non-drowning death of a person with Epilepsy. The cause of SUDEP is not known but it is the leading cause of death in people with uncontrolled seizures. SUDEP usually (but not always) occurs during a seizure. 1 in 1,000 people living with epilepsy die every year from SUDEP (up to 1 in 100 if seizures are uncontrolled) and 1/3 of those are children. In addition to grants for seizure response service dogs, CHF provides equipment to assist in the prevention of SUDEP with the use of monitors which alert the individual and their caregivers of the onset of a seizure.

Seizure Response Dogs

The Chelsea Hutchison Foundation provides grants for seizure response service dogs for people living with Epilepsy. Seizure response dogs are trained service dogs that are able to recognize and respond to seizures and provide assistance during the seizure. They can be trained to alert a family member, a friend or a teacher when there is the onset of a seizure or to lie down on top of the person having the seizure to prevent injury. They can be trained to the needs of the handler. As service dogs they carry vital health information and medicine in their packs when they are out of the home with the person living with Epilepsy. Their alerts allow caregivers to quickly respond to potentially life-threatening situations. CHF was the first SUDEP awareness organization to provide seizure response service dogs.

Monitors

In addition to grants for service dogs, the Foundation raises money to provide monitors for children and adults with Epilepsy. The monitors alert the families and caretakers if a seizure occurs so they may provide life-saving measures if necessary. Additionally, the monitors provide them with the comfort of knowing their loved one will be monitored and the risk of SUDEP could potentially be reduced.

CHF receives 10-15 requests a week from families who are seeking help and support for their loved ones who are living with Epilepsy.



Chelsea loved Disneyland®. In honor of her love of "the happiest place on earth", every year in November, CHF awards selected families a trip to Epilepsy Awareness Day (EADDL). Sofie's Journey sponsors the event and in addition to the families enjoying the wonder of the Park, there is also an Educational Expo that provides the most up-to-date information on Epilepsy and SUDEP.

This trip is often life-changing for these families who are emotionally and financially drained from dealing with the stress and worry of their child living with Epilepsy.

Many are single parent or one income families and could never afford a trip to Disneyland®. They spend 4-5 days with other families who are living similar lives and often walk away with new life-long friends and the knowledge they are not alone in the fight against Epilepsy.

