



## 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 (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) is 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.

# How We Help Families

CHF receives 25-30 requests per week from families who are seeking help and support for their loved ones who are living with Epilepsy.

**We stand apart from traditional corporate non-profits. We focus on delivering direct tangible services to individuals in this battle, making an immediate impact in their lives. Moreover, our administrative fees are notably lower compared to other non-profits.**

## Seizure Response Dogs Chelsea's Wish

We provide grants for seizure response service dogs for people living with Epilepsy.

These trained service dogs recognize and provide assistance during the seizure. They can alert a family member, friend, or teacher to quickly respond to potentially life-threatening situations. Alert dogs can also lie down on top of the person having the seizure to prevent injury.

The dogs are trained to the needs of the handler, and as service dogs, carry vital health information and medicine in their packs.

Check our website for a list of organizations providing service dogs to epilepsy patients.



## Chelsea's Wish

In honor of Chelsea's love of anything Disney, CHF awards selected families with trips to Epilepsy Awareness Day at Disneyland® and Purple Day Around the World at Disney World. Families enjoy Educational Expos providing up-to-date information on Epilepsy and SUDEP, as well as a day or two in the parks.

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

Many are single parents or one-income families who couldn't otherwise afford a trip to Disneyland®. They spend 3-5 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.

## Monitors

CHF provides monitors for children and adults with Epilepsy to alert the families and caretakers if a seizure occurs so they may provide life-saving measures if necessary.

Additionally, the monitors provide comfort of knowing their loved one will be monitored, and the risk of SUDEP could be reduced.

Check our website for a list of resources to obtain monitors, and other helpful links.

## Need Help?

We know what you are going through. We've know how hard it is to care for a loved-one with epilepsy 24/7 and being afraid to sleep for fear they might miss a seizure, or worse yet, a fatal seizure.

The Chelsea Hutchison Foundation emphasizes empowering patients and their families. We support patients to become their own advocate through education, support, and resources. Informing and empowering people at the grassroots level can create immense change very quickly.

ALL in need will be served on a first-come first-served basis. Anyone who feels they need help – and may not qualify elsewhere – receives the help they need here.

We also create community. We educate epileptic patients, their families, and their societies in this common yet often preventable phenomenon. Teachers, friends, workers, medical practitioners, and other members all benefit from a life saved.

**We raise awareness and give comfort, hope, and positivity.**

**Please contact us if you need help.**