



# TorchLight



Winter 2016

THE EPILEPSY CENTER  
OF NORTHWEST OHIO

We have been serving the needs of people affected by epilepsy  
and developmental disabilities since 1977.

Newsletter of the Epilepsy Center of Northwest Ohio addressing issues of Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders/Developmental Disabilities

## Tailgate Bash 2015

The annual Tailgate Bash was held on November 19th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg. We are always excited to pull this event together as it's a crowd favorite. As always, we want to thank our many sponsors for, without them, this event would not be possible.

For this year's event, we rolled out a few new ideas and were pleased with how they were received. First, we decided to have a live band. Local group, Nine Lives, knocked it out of the park with a wide range of favorite hits and helped us keep the event moving with announcements for the silent auction and corn hole tournament. Second, we added a Wine Pull. Patrons buy a numbered cork for \$20 which corresponds to a wrapped bottle of wine. The wine is valued between \$10 and \$30 each. For our first time offering this event, it seemed to be quite a hit. Speaking of the corn hole tournament, last year's winners came back to sweep the games again. Felix Melchor and Ben Falknor walked away with the coveted Flame Award. Finally, our silent auction had a lot of terrific items for people to bid on. Each year we are so grateful for the donations made to this part of the event.

There were two employee anniversaries, Ida Taylor and Tamioka Reynolds have both worked for the Center for 10 years. We also celebrated Tiffany Dunlap as the Torchbearer of the Year for outstanding service to the Center and our clients.

This year guests enjoyed more typical tailgating food like nachos, chicken wings, and sliders. As we tuck away another successful event, we look ahead to the 2016 PGT in May when we hope to see everyone in golf shirts!



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## Letter from the Executive Director



**Roy Cherry**

Winter is here and a new year is upon us. As with the changes of the seasons, so do the changes in the services needed for individuals with Developmental Disabilities (DD). Centers of Medicaid and Medicare determined that providers of services cannot also do case management for individuals with DD to avoid conflict of interest issues. What this means is that the County Boards of DD will no longer be able to provide direct services to those individuals. These services include residential care, day services, and non-medical transportation. This provides an incredible opportunity for private providers but also a great challenge to the individuals that will need new providers to perform those services. This transition is to take several years to complete and is targeted for completion by 2024. Careful transition for the individuals is critical and the Epilepsy Center will be working closely with the Lucas County Board of DD to help facilitate these changes.

The ultimate goal for all parties involved is to make sure that the individuals with developmental disabilities are offered the services and transportation they desire and want. Crucial is that these services are safely provided with care and compassion to the highest standard.

The Epilepsy Center of Northwest Ohio will continue to meet these high standards and do our best to help with the transition of the many individuals with developmental disabilities to find their desired services.

Thank you and stay warm!

Roy J. Cherry, CMA  
Executive Director

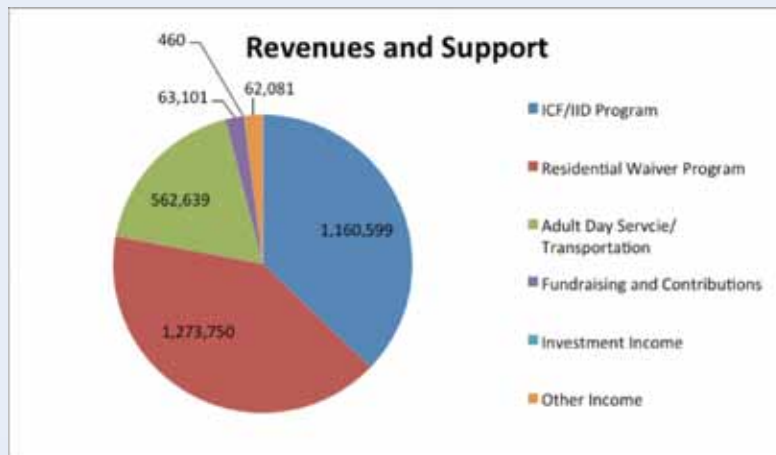
## The Epilepsy Center's Annual Report Fiscal 2015:

It was a successful year once again for the Epilepsy Center of Northwest Ohio, as we continue to fulfill our mission to improve the lives of those affected by epilepsy and those with developmental disabilities.

Family Camp, Kids on the Block and numerous educational seminars about epilepsy helped us achieve the mission of those affected by epilepsy.

Our residential programs, day services, transportation, outings and work program, helping people with developmental disabilities gain the skills to be in the work force, helped us achieve the mission of those with developmental disabilities.

The brand new lease of 3 busses further emphasized our commitment to providing safe and reliable transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities.



**Total Revenues and Support: \$3,114,260**

## Frances Clinton

It was with great sadness that we said "goodbye" to one of our long time Community Peer Support Group members. On December 31st, Frances passed away as a result of staphylococcus.

Frances was a very sweet and giving person, despite all of her struggles. She gave back to her community by volunteering every day at UPMC in Patient Information and working our PGT every year. She had a smile for everyone and was an inspiration to all who knew her. We will miss her.



**Frances Clinton**



**Total Expenses: \$3,074,693**

## New Busses

If you think you're seeing double or triple, you might just be right. The Epilepsy Center has recently added three new busses. As we expand our services, offering safe and reliable transportation to our clients is a must.

The Center shuttles our residential clients to and from their homes to jobs, workshops, appointments and to our Adult Day Services Center. Increasing the security and safety of our clients, the Center always has an aide on each bus, as well.

We hope to see you around town!





## Holiday Party

Wrapping up 2015, we held our annual Holiday Party for our clients, their families and guardians, staff, direct support staff and families. Held in the lobby of the Stranahan Theater this year, we were able to spread our wings and enjoy the beautiful holiday decorations. Our DJ, Mitch Kahl, always provides us with fun holiday music and sing-alongs. Everyone enjoyed some good food and patiently waited for the man in red to make his appearance. In good form, Santa showed up to hear the Christmas wishes of everyone whether they were naughty or nice.

We were so happy to have the help of Cub Scout Pack 149 from Central Trail Elementary School as our helpers this year. The boys did an outstanding job of setting up, serving food and drinks, lending Santa a hand, helping our clients and cleaning up. The event was a great way to head into the end of the year and Christmas holidays.

## The Happiest Place on Earth!

Our client, Marjorie Ripple, went on the vacation of a lifetime this year. With one of our Direct Support Professionals, Laura Ramsey, the two ladies enjoyed all of the Disney theme parks and everything they had to offer.

There were train rides, plenty of parades, movies and comedy shows. They went on boat rides and safaris and found time to do some shopping in the Disney stores. Marjorie loved seeing the plays 'Beauty and the Beast' and 'Festival of the Lion King'. Each day brought a different park chock full of excitement and fun.

The pinnacle of the trip for Marjorie was meeting, getting an autograph from and having her picture taken with Mickey and Minnie Mouse. It's easy to see how wonderful this vacation was and we are so happy for Marjorie.





## New Employees

Melissa Brinkman  
 Shirley Garand  
 Shalonda Smith  
 Rachel Walters  
 Dominique Awls  
 Cheryl Bivens  
 Tara Karl  
 Brittany Ladderach  
 Jasmin Moorer  
 Donnesha Smith  
 Shamarah Helm  
 La Shawn Jemison  
 Astrid Kotulski  
 Mariah Kyles  
 Carlina McLane  
 Tiffany Moorer

# Save The Date



The Clock Tower at  
 Levis Commons

Info: [www.epilepsycenter.org](http://www.epilepsycenter.org) and click on the PGT logo  
 or call 419-867-5950

## Contributors

The following contributions have been made between July 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. If your name is not listed and you have made a contribution during this time, we apologize for the oversight. Please contact Betty Hartman at 419.867.5950 and we will acknowledge your gift in the next issue of the *TorchLight*.

### Tailgate Bash 2015

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## Award-Winning Publication

*The Epilepsy Center, an independent organization serving Northwestern Ohio, is a member of the United Way of Greater Toledo, Defiance, Fulton, and Paulding Counties*

## Our Mission:

The mission of the Epilepsy Center of Northwest Ohio is to improve the lives of people affected by epilepsy and those with developmental disabilities.

## Our Vision:

People with epilepsy and those with developmental disabilities will attain the highest quality of life and gain full acceptance and understanding from the community.

### The Epilepsy Center of NW Ohio Board of Trustees

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Mary Jo Zeisloft

## Upcoming Events



**Practically a Golf Tournament (PGT)**  
Clock Tower at Levis Commons • Perrysburg, OH  
Friday, May 20, 2016

For more information please call The Epilepsy Center office at 419.867.5950.