



## 2015 Annual Report

EPIC Long Island's mission is to enrich the lives of those we serve through quality care, a broad range of services and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Every year, we work to expand our role as a Center of Excellence for providing premier treatment, care, education and support to those with epilepsy and to adults with developmental disabilities, as well as adults and more recently, children, with mental health challenges. This 2015 Annual Report will outline both our goals for the past two years, as well as our actions ensure that we thrive as a provider of services for all Long Islanders.

Specifically, our goals are to over the past two years have been to:

1. Provide the highest quality care to the individuals and families we serve through our: support and education programs, residential and day programs, community and in-home services, and clinic treatment and mental health services;
2. Develop alliances with other organizations to create operational efficiencies and strengthen services;
3. Expand our program offerings to meet the changing needs of our service population;
4. Eliminate the stigma of epilepsy in schools, the workplace and the broader community;
5. Own a permanent building to house our administrative offices, clinic services and on-site program facilities.

### Accomplishments and Future Plans

For more than 60 years, our agency has operated as the Epilepsy Foundation of Long Island. Families engaged with our services understood that the agency's mission had evolved since our founding and our services were broader than our name indicated. In the new landscape of healthcare and services for people with varied needs, this was no longer enough. The Epilepsy Foundation was a name that no longer described the full breadth of our work as a significant provider of services to individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges in addition to epilepsy.

Recognizing that the agency's name was important in conveying the full extent of our services, leadership began the process of identifying a new, more encompassing name. In 2013, we rebranded as EPIC Long Island. Our new name is derived from our roots as the Epilepsy Center, but more descriptive of our current role. As EPIC Long Island, we remain a primary resource for support and information for Long Islanders living with epilepsy, as well as a provider of services for hundreds of adults with developmental disabilities and children and adults with mental health challenges.

Although our new name is a broader description of our work, the dynamic Board and staff realized that the changing financial landscape for service providers in our field has come to require more than rebranding. The leadership of EPIC Long Island has created a business plan to support high quality services and ensure the agency's future. The first priority of the plan was to purchase a building that could house the administration and programs. With this in mind, the agency purchased a property – our new headquarters – and moved our operations to 1500 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, in 2014. No longer renting, we now have a significant financial asset.

Additionally, EPIC Long Island has also looked for opportunities to work more closely with other nonprofits. Understanding that collaborations and strategic partnerships are the future of the nonprofit sector, we began actively seeking like-minded organizations looking for efficiencies in their operations. More than a year in its development, EPIC Long Island and South Shore Child Guidance Center, a Freeport-based outpatient mental health agency, have signed a

Management Agreement effectively combing administrative functions in both agencies, and preserving critical services for hundreds of families. A formal merging of the two organizations will occur in January 2016.

## **Overview of Programs and Services**

Although business plans and administrative functions are critical to our operations, programs and services form the core of our mission and have been the focus of our efforts. EPIC Long Island's goal is to provide the highest quality services to thousands of Long Islanders and their families each year. Through our group residences and day programs, adults with developmental disabilities receive care and enriching programs, enabling each to fulfill his or her potential. Community and in-home services ensure that adults with developmental disabilities can live with their families or independently while learning critical skills and being part of the community in a way that is adapted to their needs. Epilepsy related services touch thousands of children and adults each year, through training, education and support. We are pleased to report on our specific program accomplishments for 2014, as outlined below.

### ***Day Habilitation***

In the Day Habilitation Program we established an Autism Room to accommodate an increasing number of individuals with autism who are enrolled in our program. Program staff in this room is specially trained in communicating and working with men and women on the autism spectrum. The activities in the room reflect the needs and interests of these program participants, including the development of social skills and group activities.

Also in Day Habilitation, we have expanded the number of participants in the Program Without Walls to 15 individuals. This program creates supervised opportunities for participants to spend time in the community engaged in activities such as: stocking food in food pantries; delivering meals to homebound seniors; working at CVS and Modells and going on educational field trips. The goal of this program is to build a sense of connection with the local community, as well as a sense of accomplishment.

Over the year, we opened a storefront within the Day Habilitation program area, EPIC Treats, where participants operate a small snack bar that serves staff and guests every day from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Through this initiative, participants have a real-world type of experience working in retail while expanding their socialization skills. EPIC Treats helps participants learn to identify the cost of items, dispense change and interact with customers.

Through these initiatives and others, our Day Habilitation Program works with 120 developmentally disabled adults with varied aptitudes and interests, to help them achieve personal goals and a sense of fulfillment.

### ***Residential Program***

The Residential Program, which operates group homes for 140 with developmental disabilities, opened two new group homes over the past year, bringing our residential program to a total of 17 homes. This is especially significant because New York State's Office for People With Developmental Disabilities is limiting new funds for residential programs. EPIC Long Island's award of additional homes is based on our reputation for effectively serving individuals with more extensive behavioral challenges, as well as for children aging out of residential settings. We have recently purchased our 18th residence which will open next year.

### ***Mental Health Services***

Our flexible and responsive approach to treatment led to the establishment of a mental health clinic that we added to our service repertoire in 2009. Within our Mental Health Clinic services, we have provided clinical treatment for people with developmental disabilities, as well as for any adult in need of clinical care ranging from short-term treatment to the management of a significant psychiatric disorder. Over the past year, our clinic has treated over 200 patients during 5,000 visits.

Mental Health Services continue to grow at EPIC Long Island, although other outpatient mental health clinics on Long Island have been struggling to survive the recent changes in reimbursement rates and healthcare provider contracts. As

recently as April of this year, *Newsday Long Island* reported on the increasing number of mental health clinics closing or being taken over by other agencies (*Newsday*, April 11, 2015).

This industry trend was the driving force behind our effort in 2013 to create a strategic alliance with a small mental health agency serving children in Freeport, South Shore Child Guidance Center (SSCGC). EPIC Long Island recently received approval from the necessary New York State agencies: the Office of Mental Health, the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to move ahead with our plans for a merger with South Shore Child Guidance Center that will be formalized in January 16.

The lack of access to community mental health clinics – especially for children whose options were already very limited – has become a critical problem for our community. EPIC Long Island plans to help fill that void by expanding our current mental health clinic services to include children as well. This expansion of EPIC's mental health clinic services at our location in East Meadow will improve access and equity in mental health services in our community. We have received approval from the New York State Office of Mental Health to expand our license to include children and will begin services in October 2015.

### ***Community Education and Outreach Program***

This program is a unique resource for Long Island that provides education, training, support and advocacy related to epilepsy throughout Nassau and Suffolk. The goal is to help our community understand what epilepsy is, and what it is not, as well as how to manage seizures when they occur. Additionally the program provides enriching, supportive and therapeutic opportunities for people with epilepsy. The following is a summary of the specific area of service and the number of Long Islanders engaged in the program in 2014.

**Staff In-Services:** Conducted by program staff, in-services provide training in identification of seizures, the administration of first-aid and other related issues for people with epilepsy and/or individuals experiencing a seizure.

- Nursing homes/Senior Care/ Agencies – 19 sites with 364 staff trained;
- School training/presentations – 30 schools with 1437 school personnel trained;
- School Nurse Workshops – 1 workshop and 13 nurses trained.

**Student Education Programs:** For young school children, the Community Educator works with our cadre of volunteers to present a puppet show, *Kids on the Block*, that uses puppets and engaging dialogue to convey important messages, such as: acceptance and tolerance of people with differences; children with epilepsy are the same as they are; and that epilepsy cannot be caught like a cold or a virus. Another program for school-aged children with a similar message is *Seizure Man*. The secondary school program, entitled *Take Charge of the Facts* brings epilepsy education and similar messages to middle and high school classes.

- Kids on the Block (Third/Fourth Grade) – 10 schools and 972 students;
- Take Charge of the Facts (Middle/High School) – 14 schools with 1,553 teens;

**Community Education Lecture Series:** EPIC Long Island is a resource for the general public for information on epilepsy and hosts a number of workshops throughout the year on issues related to epilepsy and behavioral health topics free of charge. 2014 workshops include:

- May 15, 2014 – Dr. Shefali Karkare: *Common Co-Existing Conditions in Pediatric Epilepsy*
- June 25, 2014 – Dr. James Bruno: *Sleep and Epilepsy*

**Youth Council:** In 2014, the program began a new initiative for young adults with epilepsy to encourage self-advocacy, foster independence and build leadership skills. Called the Youth Council, the program has become very important to the core group of 10 participants and has helped each young adult individually, as well as created opportunities to educate the broader community about epilepsy.

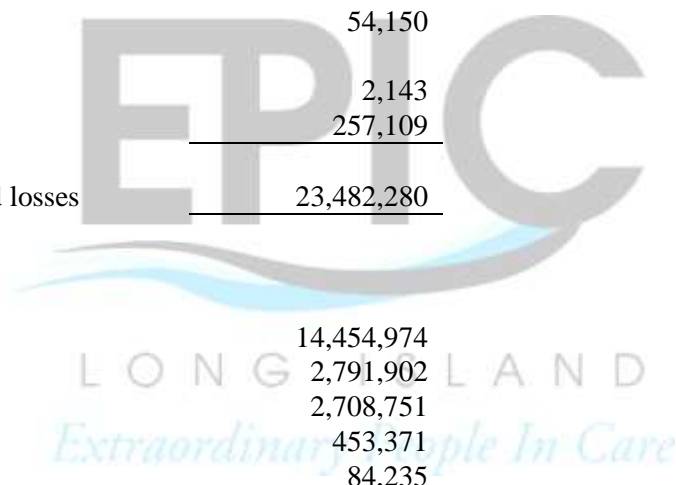
## Conclusion

As a provider of services for individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health challenges and epilepsy, EPIC Long Island operates in a dynamic environment. Agency leadership is constantly seeking opportunities to be forward-looking while ensuring high quality and compassionate care. With the healthcare climate rapidly changing and our service areas transformed by new regulations and legislation, EPIC Long Island has set and attained critical goals over the past two years to support our lasting commitment to providing quality care and services.



**EPIC LONG ISLAND, INC.  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND  
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Revenues and losses	
Contributions	112,965
Contributions - capital campaign	168,526
Allocations from federated fundraising organizations	8,865
Special events	277,052
Less cost of direct benefits of special events	(149,700)
Residential programs	15,437,222
Day programs	4,429,734
Clinic programs	2,443,078
Community services	441,136
Community education	54,150
Interest and dividends	2,143
Miscellaneous	257,109
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Total revenues and losses	23,482,280
Expenses	
Program services	
Residential programs	14,454,974
Day programs	2,791,902
Clinic programs	2,708,751
Community services	453,371
Community education	84,235
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Total program services	20,493,233
Supporting services	
Management and general	2,615,297
Fund raising	297,461
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Total supporting services	2,912,758
Total expenses	<hr/> 23,405,991
Change in net assets before loss on swap agreement	76,289
Loss on swap agreement	<hr/> (80,202)
Change in net assets	(3,913)



Net assets - beginning of year	<u>4,799,579</u>
Net assets - end of year	<u>4,795,666</u>



**EPIC Long Island  
Board of Directors**

<b>Jeffrey L. Nagel Chairman</b>	Partner Gibbons P.C.
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<b>Larry Slatky</b>	Administrator of Record Albany County Nursing Home
<b>Raymond Tamayo</b>	Chief Information Officer Options Clearing Corporation
<b>Carol Chen</b>	Managing Director PB Capital Corporation
<b>David S. Greenhaus</b>	Attorney at Law Jackson Lewis LLP
<b>Peter O'Sullivan</b>	Partner/Portfolio Manager Premiere Holdings LLC

# EPIC Long Island Senior Leadership

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V.P. of Operations

Lawrence Boord  
Chief Financial Officer

Gladys Brown  
Director of Intake Coordination

Jennifer Colbert  
Director of Clinical Services

Eileen Colletti  
Director of Development

Shari Lurie  
Director of Mental Health Clinic

Linnette Nappi  
Director of Quality Improvement

Irene Rodgers  
Director of Community Services

Allen Siegel  
Director of Day Services

Sheryl Taylor  
Sr. Director of Human Resources

Maria Rogowski  
Controller

Amy Walsleben  
Director of Residential Services