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## **EPIC Long Island to Host 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner Gala**

**EAST MEADOW, NEW YORK, January 14th, 2015** – More than 200 guests are expected to attend EPIC Long Island’s Annual Dinner Gala at Carlyle on the Green in Farmingdale, New York on January 28, 2016. This year’s theme is “Celebrate the Moment,” marking the agency’s official merger with its affiliate, South Shore Child Guidance Center. Proceeds from the gala will help to enhance vital programs and services for individuals with epilepsy, developmental disabilities and mental health challenges. Event sponsors include Stony Brook Medicine, Columbia Care, Don and Grace Luneburg, Gibbons P.C., Bob and Lynn Karson, Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP and TD Bank.

Festivities kick off with a lively cocktail hour at 6:00 p.m., followed by an evening reception honoring the achievements of individuals making a difference in epilepsy education and treatment.

[Rebecca Spiegel, MD MA](#), Associate Professor of Neurology and Director of EEG/Epilepsy at The Long Island Comprehensive Epilepsy Center at Stony Brook Medicine, will be presented with EPIC Long Island’s Professional Leadership Award. Dr. Spiegel will be recognized for her work to implement a state-of-the-art epilepsy surgical program at Stony Brook, as well as the creation of an epilepsy clinical trials division at the hospital.

[The Long Island Comprehensive Epilepsy Center at Stony Brook Medicine](#) will receive EPIC Long Island’s Corporate Leadership Award for its efforts to continually improve the quality of life of patients with epilepsy. The Center’s highly trained, award-winning physicians have been named among the Best Doctors in America; many have participated in EPIC Long Island’s Annual Walk for Epilepsy, helping the agency raise awareness about epilepsy and the thousands of lives that are impacted by this condition.

The Naomi and Barney Silverman Family of the Year Award will be presented to the [Messina Family](#) for inspiring the epilepsy community with their strength and courage while overcoming challenges of living with epilepsy. In 2014, John Anthony Messina represented EPIC Long Island at a conference in Washington, D.C. where he advocated for more research and education to treat the condition. He was also Grand Marshal of the agency’s 2014 Walk for Epilepsy, and currently serves on the Youth Council at EPIC Long Island.

“As a parent of a child with epilepsy, I’m grateful there’s a resource like EPIC Long Island to guide families through the struggles of epilepsy while offering education and support,” said John Messina, Sr. “We’re honored to receive the Family of the Year Award and hope that our story provides encouragement to other families living with epilepsy.”

During the gala, EPIC Long Island will also pay tribute to former Board member, Fred Abrams, who passed away this year after serving on the Board for nearly 50 years. Abrams cherished his involvement with the agency, stating in a recent newsletter article, “The reward of knowing you have helped someone else is immeasurable.”

Commenting on EPIC Long Island’s 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner Gala, Tom Hopkins, President and CEO, said, “We’re thrilled to honor the work of individuals who have long supported our mission while enhancing epilepsy knowledge and care. Many thanks to our sponsors and gala committee for helping to make this event possible.”

To purchase tickets for the gala or to make a donation to EPIC Long Island, contact Eileen Coletti at 516-739-7733 x 626, or visit the event [website](#). Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

#### [ABOUT EPIC LONG ISLAND](#)

EPIC Long Island began in 1953 with a small group of parents whose mission was to help children with epilepsy lead productive lives. Over sixty years later, the organization has fulfilled that promise with 17 residences, two clinics, a wide range of programs that serve over 10,000 individuals annually. EPIC Long Island has broadened its mission to offer more social and health services across Long Island and has grown to serve not only individuals with epilepsy, but also those with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges. While epilepsy is at its core, the organization offers a spectrum of superior services for individuals and families with different needs. EPIC Long Island’s mission is to enrich the lives of those they serve through quality care, a broad range of services and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

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