

2014

ANNUAL REPORT

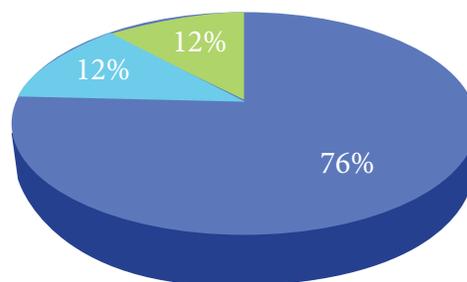
The Matty Fund[®]
for Epilepsy



The Matty Fund's® Epilepsy Resource Center for Children and Families, the first of its kind in Rhode Island, offers support and outreach to families affected by epilepsy throughout Rhode Island and beyond.

The Financial Picture 2014

The Matty Fund Expenses

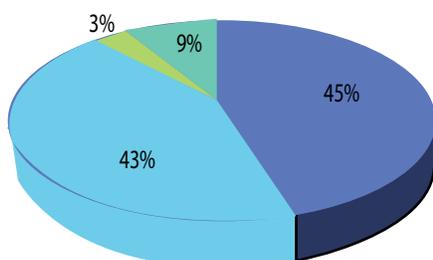


■ Program Service Expenses ■ Fundraising ■ Management & General

EXPENSES	2014
Program:	
Epilepsy Awareness & Education	\$151,122
Children and Family Support	111,512
Research Initiatives	19,100
Total Program Expenses	281,734
Supporting Services:	
Management and General	43,880
Fundraising	45,290
Total Supporting Service Expenses	89,170
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$370,904

*The 2014 audited financial statements are available at www.mattyfund.org

The Matty Fund Support & Revenue



■ Fundraising Events ■ Program Service Revenue
■ Interest & Investment Income ■ Contribution & Grants

SUPPORT & REVENUES	2014
Fundraising Events, Net of Direct Expenses Of \$59,984	\$163,150
Contributions and Grants	154,764
Interest & Investment Income	11,417
Program Service Revenue	31,977
Total Support and Revenues	\$361,308

*The 2014 audited financial statements are available at www.mattyfund.org

From the Executive Director

The support The Matty Fund has received for the past 12 years is immeasurable. It was the local community that embraced the Siravo family during their tragedy and encouraged the first Matty's Memorial 5K in 2003. This initial support led to the building of Matty's Place, a handicap accessible playground at the Hazard School in Wakefield, and a \$50,000 donation to Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE), the leading nongovernmental agency fully committed to funding research in epilepsy. The rest is history. The generous support of contributors, corporations, grantors and our valuable volunteers have allowed The Matty Fund to become Rhode Island's leading resource for children and families living with epilepsy. Some of our foundation's additional accomplishments include:

- Investing more than \$100,000 in epilepsy research
- Awarding \$25,000 in college scholarships
- Educating 7,000 pre-school and elementary students about epilepsy per year
- Creating an epilepsy awareness campaign at URI reaching close to 15,000 college students annually
- Being selected as the best Rhode Island Non-Profit in 2011 by RI Monthly and recognized nationally in WebMD and FamilyCircle
- Holding Camp Matty therapeutic horseback riding camps twice per year
- Facilitating monthly support group meetings and quarterly workshops for caregivers and parents
- Establishing the only Epilepsy Resource Center in RI

This year, we were particularly proud of having been selected by The Rite Aid Foundation as one of the newest KidCents charities. This program allows its Wellness+ customers to round their purchase up to the nearest dollar amount and donate the change to a non-profit organization of their choice. We expanded our research initiatives to the veterans community through the "Treating Veterans with Seizures and Trauma" study at the Providence VA Hospital. We were honored to announce actor John O'Hurley, who lost his sister to epilepsy, as an honorary board member.

Year 2015 looks bright and full of opportunities for The Matty Fund! Our programs and services have been strengthened with your support and commitment. For this we are grateful!

Thank you,



Marisol Garcia
Executive Director



Mission:

The Matty Fund will provide family resources, raise epilepsy awareness, promote patient safety and improve the quality of life for children and families living with epilepsy.

2014 Board of Directors

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Alison Bologna (*Honorary*)

Anthony Bruno (*Honorary*)

Brenda Snow (*Honorary*)

The Matty Fund®

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Epilepsy is a Neurological Disorder that produces sudden brief surges of electrical energy in the brain. These episodes called seizures, may alter a persons awareness, movements, or actions for a few seconds or minutes.



Children & Families

We believe it is important that The Matty Fund events and activities connect parents and caregivers to the support services offered through our Epilepsy Resource Center. Family events are an extension of the resource center which are organized in a safe, secure and fun environment for the entire family. The events are a great way for kids to interact with one another and to not be distracted by the fear of a seizure. We structure the outings for parents and caregivers to meet others who are experiencing similar challenges. The realization that they are not alone in their struggle, bonds them to each other and to The Matty Fund. A grant to support Discovering My Epilepsy programs was recieved in 2014 from The John E. Fogarty Foundation for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Matty's Egg Hunt

All you could see was the colorful eggs spread across the field at Matty's Place and children's excited faces ready for the egg hunt in April. It was a great day!



Matty's Night at the Aquarium

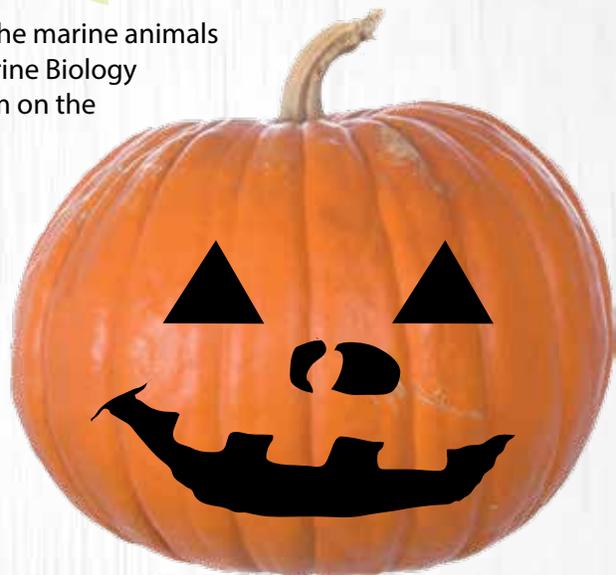
Children participated in a hands-on marine experience and learned about the marine animals of Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean at a private night at Biomes Marine Biology Center held in June. Over 50 attendees enjoyed the serenity of the aquarium on the warm summer evening.

Matty's Pumpkin Festival

Matty's Pumpkin Festival in October has become a tradition for our families. This year, we held two pumpkin festivals; one in South Kingstown and one in Cumberland. Families and children painted pumpkins, found their way around the corn mazes, and participated in group hayrides.

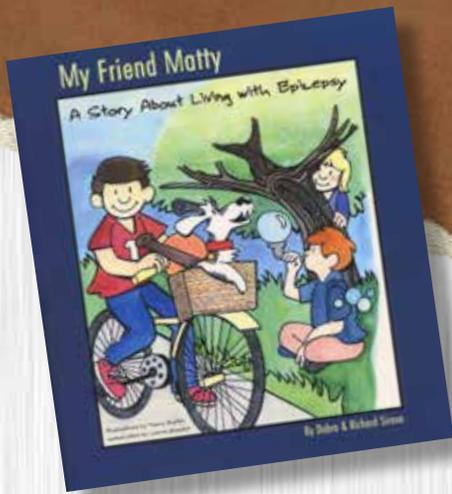
Camp Matty

In 2014, Camp Matty was held in April and in July at Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center. Camp was full of excitement! Campers enjoyed horseback riding, played a good game of kickball with volunteers from Kohl's, Collette, Hasbro and other organizations and participated in other focused group activities. Camp Matty also has tremendous impact on the parents and caregivers who accompany their children. They appreciate their children having fun in a safe and accessible environment while being able to connect to other families who share similar struggles. Thanks to the generous support of the We Promise Foundation and other donors, Matty Fund families enjoyed two memorable weeks of camp!



Discovering My Epilepsy

Support groups were offered monthly in Wakefield, Warwick, Newport County and Lincoln. The regional meetings and the Discovering My Epilepsy FaceBook group continue to connect new families to The Matty Fund and allow all of our resource center families to support one another.



More than 2.8 million Americans currently live with epilepsy. One in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime.

Awareness

Matty Hatty

Thanks in part to the generosity of CVS Caremark, thousands of children across Rhode Island celebrated Matty's birthday by participating in this annual epilepsy awareness program. Matty Hatty was created by a group of educators in the Town of South Kingstown as well as by parents/caregivers of children living with epilepsy to address the concern that despite its prevalence, epilepsy is a condition which is widely misunderstood and not commonly spoken about. The program's primary goal is to educate young children about epilepsy, teach them what to do if they see someone having a seizure, and hopefully eliminate the stigma, fear and bullying that children with epilepsy may face. Over the past 10 years, Matty Hatty has touched over 50 schools, educated close to 70,000 pre-school, kindergarten and elementary students throughout the state and beyond.

URI – Epilepsy Awareness

The University of Rhode Island College of Business and the Feinstein Experience held their annual epilepsy awareness program for freshmen business students in the fall. More than 500 business students were introduced to epilepsy and The Matty Fund as part of the curriculum. Each student was challenged to sell t-shirts to benefit The Matty Fund. The two-week program culminated at a URI vs. West Chester University "purple out" hockey game at the Boss Arena during November; epilepsy awareness month. Planning this event allows students to develop marketing skills and learn the benefits of social responsibility. Over \$20,000 was raised from t-shirt and ticket sales. CollegeBoundfund joined us as a major sponsor of the program.

November Epilepsy Awareness Month

Thanks to the request of The Matty Fund, Governor Lincoln Chafee declared November as Epilepsy Awareness Month in Rhode Island. The declaration was the latest in a series of special events planned by The Matty Fund to raise awareness for the estimated 2.8 million Americans living with epilepsy; and the close to 10,000 in Rhode Island alone.

Educating our Elected Officials

The Matty Fund founders, Richard and Debra Siravo, reached out to the RI Congressional delegation and other elected officials. The Matty Fund educated these officials by providing them with insight into our programs and services that they can share with their constituents. As a sign of their solidarity, they wore a purple ribbon pin.

Spreading Awareness Throughout the State

The Matty Fund was promoted by 16 different media outlets; one of which included a Providence Journal Commentary "Helping RI Families Deal with Epilepsy" written by Marisol Garcia, executive director of The Matty Fund and Dr. Preeti Gupta, assistant professor at the Alpert Medical School at Brown University and an epileptologist at Rhode Island Hospital's Comprehensive Epilepsy Program. The three major RI TV stations covered our events, promoting epilepsy awareness throughout the region.



Hippocrates wrote the first book on epilepsy, "On the Sacred Disease", around 400 BC, recognizing that it was a brain disorder and claiming that people with epilepsy did not have the power of prophecy.

Workshops, Lectures & Support Groups

Epilepsy, Brain Injury and Autism: Understanding their Relationship

For the first time, The Matty Fund partnered with the Autism Project and the Brain Injury Association of RI to reach more families dealing with both epilepsy and concurrent medical conditions. Esteemed neurologists Dr. John Gaitanis and Dr. Andrew S. Blum presented the two separate workshops. The Matty Fund also joined with the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute for a workshop on epilepsy at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School. The events were part of The Matty Fund's quarterly educational workshop series sponsored by our pharmaceutical supporters Lundbeck, Cyberonics, UCB Inc. and Sunovian. Over 80 families participated in these workshops.

Matthew Siravo Memorial Lecture

The 10th Annual Memorial Lecture featured Dr. Tallie Baram, professor of pediatrics, anatomy and neurobiology and neurology at the University of California Irvine. Her presentation "The Child's Brain in Four Dimensions" drew more than 100 physicians for this presentation on pediatric neurology.

Volunteers & Interns

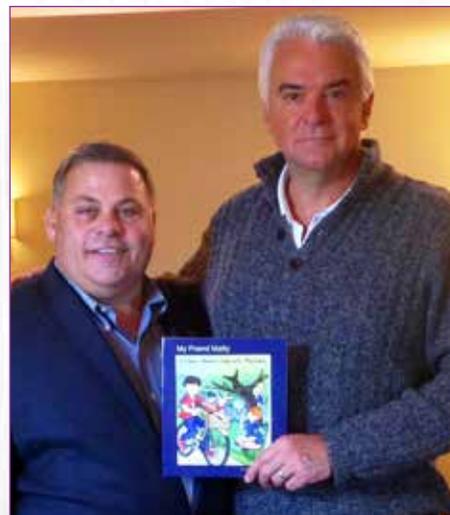
The Matty Fund would like to thank volunteers and interns for all of the help throughout this past year; we could not operate without you. We are grateful for your time, energy and talents that you have donated to make The Matty Fund even more successful.

In 2014, The Matty Fund was fortunate to engage interns from The University of Rhode Island. Both our marketing and business interns helped us to stay visible in social media, produce mailings and research topics related to epilepsy. Our pharmacy interns helped to keep The Matty Fund up to date on current new treatments and medicines using their skills and education. Thank you all!

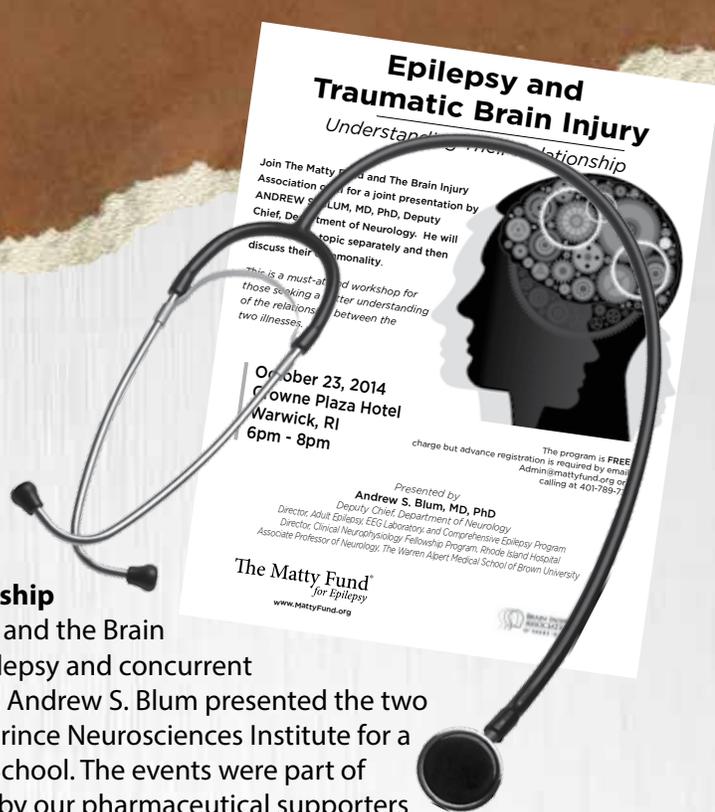


Matthew Siravo

*"Only in the darkness
can you see the stars."
— Martin Luther King Jr.*



Richard Siravo and John O'Hurley



Only in about 30% of cases is the cause of epilepsy determined. The other 70% remain unanswered, in what is referred to as idiopathic epilepsy.



Research

Each year, The Matty Fund works with The Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University to identify undergraduate students interested in pursuing scientific research related to seizures and epilepsy. Students are selected based on their research and are recommended by senior scientists who oversee their studies. To pursue their research in seizures and epilepsy, each student receives the Matthew Siravo Memorial Undergraduate Research Award.

2014 Brown University Grant Recipient

Hallee Foster

Class of 2015

Hallee Foster studied the physiological properties of neurons in the mammalian cerebral cortex in hopes of better understanding the circuits of the human brain, many of which may contribute to the pathology underlying epilepsy.



Hallee Foster

Providence VA Medical Center Receives A Matty Fund Grant

The Matty Fund was proud to award a \$10,000 grant to the Providence VA Medical Center for a research project investigating the psychological and social challenges experienced by Veterans with epileptic seizures. Veterans present unique challenges because their seizure-related psychosocial difficulties are often amplified by posttraumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injury. The "Treating Veterans with Seizures and Trauma" research will assess the feasibility of providing seizure therapy for 10 veterans diagnosed with epilepsy. Participants in the study come from the Providence VAMC epilepsy population.

Meet Our 2014 Matty Fund Scholarship Recipients

The Matty Fund awarded two scholarships to graduating high school seniors going on to higher education in 2014. In total, \$25,000 has been awarded in scholarships.



**Alisha Goudreau (L) – Ponaganset High School.
Stephanie Greenberg (R) – William E. Tolman High School**



Epilepsy is the fourth common neurological disorder and twenty percent of epilepsy cases develop before the age of five. Fifty percent develop before the age of 25.



Events

Snow Angel Ball

The 2014 Snow Angel Ball was held on Saturday January 25 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The black-tie event had over 400 attendees in support of the evening. In addition to the silent auction with over 100 items and a live auction the event surpassed The Matty Fund's budgeted goal.

The 12th Annual Matthew Siravo Memorial 5k Run/Walk for Epilepsy & Matty's Mighty Dash

A record crowd of close to 700 participants took part in 5K race held on May 26 in Wakefield. BankRI was the major sponsor for the race.

12th Annual Matty's Golf Tournament for Epilepsy

Richmond Country Club had a full field of golfers supporting The Matty Fund on September 20 . The day which included raffles and golfing contests culminated with a delightful dinner attended by more than 150 guests.

Rock-N-Jock Charities

Rock-N-Jock is a charity concert and a golf tournament that chooses an organization to support each year. Again, Rock-N-Jock Charities chose to support The Matty Fund as one of its beneficiaries.

Tarbox Toyota 2014 Year Long Supporter



Rite Aid KidCents Program

The Matty Fund is one of only two Rhode Island charities to be selected for the prestigious KidCents program, and one of only 204 organizations in the nation to earn the honor. The KidCents program sponsored by Rite Aid allows its Wellness+ customers to round their purchase up to the nearest dollar amount and donate the change to a non-profit organization of their choice.