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## Epilepsy Association Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2013

**Epilepsy Association of Oklahoma**  
**711 Stanton L. Young Blvd. Suite 550**  
**OKC, OK. 73104**  
**Phone: 405-271-3232**  
**Fax: 405-271-3366**  
**Email: [epilepsy-ok@prodigy.net](mailto:epilepsy-ok@prodigy.net)**  
**Website: [www.okepilepsy.org](http://www.okepilepsy.org)**

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### DOGS AND EPILEPSY

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I have been receiving a lot of questions lately that i wasn't sure how to answer. All of the questions centered around service dogs. For those who don't know much about service dogs they are dogs specifically trained to help people within a wide range of disabilities. The problem that can come up for most people, myself included, is that they are expensive. There are a few websites that help cater to Oklahoman needs when it comes to service dogs. They all can be found on our website at the bottom of the page. It means training a dog for each unique child. There are two types of dogs trained to help with seizure disorders. Seizure Response Dogs and Seizure Alert Dogs. Seizure response dogs are a

disorder. Tasks for seizure dogs may include, but are not limited to summoning help, either by finding another person or activating a medical alert or pre-programmed phone, pulling potentially dangerous objects away from the person's body, "blocking" to keep individuals with absence seizures and complex partial seizures from walking into obstacles, streets, and other dangerous areas that can result in bodily injury, attempting to rouse the unconscious handler during or after a seizure, providing physical support (and the secondary benefit of emotional support). Additionally, some dogs may develop the ability to sense an impending seizure. This behavior is usually reported to have arisen spontaneously and developed over a period of time. With seizure alert dogs upon sensing an oncoming seizure, the dog may respond in a variety of ways such as whining, pawing, and/or remaining close to the owner. This distinctive behavior can alert and warn the person or their family that a seizure may soon occur. This behavior has been reported in a number of different breeds. It is possible that dogs can detect some change (for instance, an odor or tone of the voice) that warns them of an approaching seizure, similar to the way that certain symptoms warn some patients. For most of the places that are Oklahoma affiliated the number one question was how much do I need to pay. Different needs means different equipment needed for the dog (ie a mobility harness vs a seeing eye dog harness etc...). The average is between fluctuates between each business depending on time and effort and equipment needed. Some places are free but have a wait list that means you will be waiting a fairly long time. That seems like a mouth full to swallow however, with all the dog can help with it might just be worth it. They have a lot of fundraising options for the majority of the places. Some even attempt to get your insurance involved for you, which could potentially be extremely helpful. These people want to help all Oklahomans with all types of disabilities. Even if a disability dog isn't for you, you can still donate money or time to help with these sweet dogs.

For more information:

<http://www.okepilepsy.org/resources.htm>

## SIBSHOPS

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Sibshops are structured support groups and systems for siblings of the disabled. They are all about acknowledging that being the brother or sister of a person with special needs is for some a good thing, others a not-so-good thing, and for many, somewhere in-between. They reflect a belief that brothers and sisters have much to offer one another — if they are given a chance. Sibshops are a spirited mix of new games (designed to be unique, off-beat, and appealing to a wide ability range), new friends, and discussion activities. They believe that disabilities, illness, and mental health issues affect the lives of all family members. Consequently, they want to increase the peer support and information opportunities for brothers and sisters of people with special needs and to increase parents' and providers' understanding of sibling issues. They start by training local service providers on how to create community-based peer support programs for young siblings: hosting workshops, listservs, and websites

lifelong, and ever-changing concerns through workshops, websites, and written materials. SibParent is a yahoo group where parents of kids with special health and developmental needs can talk about their "other" kids. It is a great bunch and is hosted by a mom of children with and without special needs. (If you don't want to join SibParent, consider subscribing to the Sibling Support Project e-newsletter for occasional mailings on sibling-related issues and programs.) The best thing to start the process is to read books about sibling issues. There have been an explosion of books by and about sibs in the past few years. On their website you'll find a list of their favorite books for young siblings, adult siblings, parents, and anyone else interested in families of kids with special needs. They are always in need of funding to support brothers and sisters. There are 17 registered sibshops in Oklahoma!

Take a look around and see if it is right for you:

<http://www.siblingsupport.org/>

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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Lawton OK-- contact: Christy Parker 580-351-0711 for more information

Norman OK--contact: EAO office 405-271-3232 for more information  
Located at Norman Hospital on the 3rd Thursday of each Month

Edmond/NW OKC--contact: Olivia Kavanaugh 405-919-4968 for more information

Tulsa OK--contact: Paul Elliot 480-321-5106 for more information

Ponca City OK--contact: Shirley Bracken 580-765-0003 for more information

Stigler OK-- contact: Kim Harvey 918-967-3902

For more information

<http://www.okepilepsy.org/supportgroups.htm>

## UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

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### **ANNUAL MUSIC FUNDRAISER**

Annual Music Fundraiser for The Epilepsy Association of Oklahoma

If you would like dinner and a show this is your event!

Friday Sept. 27, 2013 6:00pm- 9:00pm

For more information visit: [http:// http://okepilepsy.org/fundraisers.htm](http://http://okepilepsy.org/fundraisers.htm)

## EPILEPSY WALK

First ever Epilepsy walk in Oklahoma! The first 300 people will receive a goody bag!

Come out and see it is going to be a great event!

Saturday Nov. 2, 2013 10:00am- 1:00pm

Bluff Creek Park, just north of Lake Hefner at Hefner Rd & Meridian

[http://www.okepilepsy.org/pdf/EAO\\_Charity\\_Walk\\_2013\\_Letter.pdf](http://www.okepilepsy.org/pdf/EAO_Charity_Walk_2013_Letter.pdf)

## ScanMed QR

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Please visit our website at [www.okepilepsy.org](http://www.okepilepsy.org) for the latest technology and all the info. It's about SPEED, LIVES, and TIME for all ages. By going through our website and using our promo code your cost will be \$19.99. Pre-orders are going on now and shipments start second week of July. Promo Code is "EPILEPSYOK" don't forget to add it at checkout. For each profile made a donation will be given to Epilepsy Association of Oklahoma. Thank you for your support and Thank You Scan Med QR!

"REMEMBER CODE AT CHECK OUT"

"EPILEPSYOK"

It will save you \$10!

## SUGGESTIONS

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If there is something you would like to see added to the monthly newsletter, email Olivia Kavanaugh at [oliviakavanaugh@yahoo.com](mailto:oliviakavanaugh@yahoo.com).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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opportunity to volunteer their time and services. You will be among a great group of people all working toward a great cause!

If you are interested, contact Jenniafer Walters by phone at (405) 271-3232 or by email: [epilepsy-ok@prodigy.net](mailto:epilepsy-ok@prodigy.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Save the Date:

September 16:

6:30pm Epilepsy Support Group for Parents and Family Members  
Located at Integris Baptist Medical Center Conference Rooms F & G

September 27:

6:00pm Music Fundraiser

And for More Information Visit Our Website/Events Calendar

<http://www.okepilepsy.org/events.htm>

## Newsletter Contributors

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Olivia Kavanaugh

Jenniafer Walters, President - Epilepsy Association of Oklahoma

Thank you Kevin Hill!

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**Our mailing address is:**

Epilepsy Association of Oklahoma  
711 Stanton L Young Blvd.  
Suite 550  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

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