



## "Matty Matters"

Matthew Siravo Epilepsy Resource Center

Helping Others with Epilepsy

[www.MattyFund.org](http://www.MattyFund.org)

December, 2010

*It's hard to believe that another year is coming to end, and we are very busy getting ready for the Snow Angel Ball which will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick on January 29<sup>th</sup>. This event is our largest fundraiser, and all proceeds support Matty Fund programs for children and families throughout the year; as well as, the Epilepsy Resource Center. This has been a very exciting year highlighted by new programs and activities including the Epilepsy Transition Conference for Parents and Caregivers at Hasbro Children's Hospital, Matty's Easter Egg Hunt and the Young Women's Support Group. Over the course of the year, we've enjoyed meeting many new families who have participated in Matty Fund events and hope that we all have made their year a little brighter! On behalf of all of us at the Epilepsy Resource Center, we wish all of our families a happy and healthy holiday season.*

*- Richard and Debra Siravo*

**TOPIC: Resources & Assistive Technology**



Save the Date!  
2011  
Snow Angel Ball



**When:** 1/29/10  
**Where:** Crowne Plaza  
Warwick, RI

**Dinner, Dancing,  
Silent & Live  
Auctions**

Contact the Matty Fund if you would like to donate an auction item to raise funds to support Matty Fund programs and services

789-7330

### Assistive Technology Overview

Assistive technology can be an important resource for children and adults living with disabilities including epilepsy. Parents and caregivers are often familiar with the assistive technology needs that have been identified through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process to help their child succeed in school.

Assistive technology can also be an important resource for children and parents at home, from both a safety and daily living perspective. For example, seizure bed monitors, and epilepsy support alarms can help detect movements associated with seizures while the child is sleeping and send a notification to the caregiver. Flicker free monitors, monitor glare guards, picture exchange communications systems, and eye trackers are other examples of technology that may be helpful with various types of epilepsy. New technologies are always on the horizon. EpilepsyUSA recently highlighted a product which is currently in clinical trials, a wristwatch-style device called "Smartwatch" that "detects certain kinds of abnormal movement, then signals a smart phone, cell phone, email, or other device. It can notify a caregiver within seconds that a seizure has occurred." According to Donald Olson, M.D., a Stanford University Pediatric Neurology Professor, "it can produce a complete archived record of all seizure activity – when and how often seizures occur and how long they last."

### Financial resources for Assistive Technology Needs

Parents and caregivers of children with epilepsy face a number of challenges, and this economy has added financial burdens to the list for many families- making assistive technology for their children an impossibility. The Matty Fund Epilepsy Resource Center can submit funding proposals to the Andre D'Auteuil Family Foundation who accepts proposals from non-profit organizations to provide medical and adaptive equipment for people with neurological disorders. They only interact with non-profits, like the Matty Fund, to determine an individual's eligibility based on the following:

- Must reside in Connecticut or Rhode Island
- Exhibit financial need
- Have a neurological disorder

If determined eligible, the funding goes to the Matty Fund for the express purpose of the individual who is in need of medical or adaptive equipment.

**Gifts to the Matty Fund allow us to expand programs to help more families**

To make a donation visit [www.MattyFund.org](http://www.MattyFund.org) or mail your donation to P.O. Box 5300, Wakefield, RI 02880