



The Matty Fund®  
Epilepsy Resource Center  
Helping Others with Epilepsy  
[www.MattyFund.org](http://www.MattyFund.org)



October, 2011

It's hard to believe that another summer has gone by and for the first time in our lives we are officially "empty nesters"! August and September have been especially hectic months for The Matty Fund. It was another great year for our partnership with Rock'n'Jock Charities. The concert featuring The Temptations was fabulous, but more importantly, funds raised at the August concert and golf tournament will support Matty Fund programs and services throughout the year. This year, we were honored by one of Rock'n'Jock's sponsors, Chartway Bank's "The We Promise Foundation", who surprised us with a \$10,000 grant to support programs for children and families living with epilepsy. We are so grateful to all of our donors who make it possible for us to coordinate and deliver quality programs like the evening workshop held in September, "Childhood Epilepsy-A Hopeful Perspective" with Linda Lynch and Dr. John Gaitanis. This was an opportunity for parents and caregivers to hear about the hopeful journey of the Lynch family and the latest news about alternative therapies from Dr. Gaitanis. Andrew and Tiffany Hagerty shared their success with the Vagus Nerve Stimulation treatment for their child's epilepsy. Once again, The Matty Fund Golf Tournament was a great success and a lot of fun too – many thanks to the volunteers and donors who made it possible! Finally, to add to all of this excitement, we launched our new web site featuring a video carousel, informative FAQ's, event pictures and website links to many local and national resources. This edition of Matty Matters will highlight some resources available through our website, [www.MattyFund.org](http://www.MattyFund.org), we hope you find our new look helpful and easy to navigate!

- Richard and Debra Siravo

**Topic: A new look for The Matty Fund website!**



### Discovering My Epilepsy Support Group

10/11/11  
6PM-8PM

Peacdale Elementary School

### Pumpkin Festival



10/22/11  
11AM-2PM

### Farmer's Daughter

Moosefield Rd., So. Kingstown

### Matty's Lectureship for Medical Professionals

11/2/11

Hasbro Children's Hospital

### Rhody's Got Talent

11/3/11

University of Rhode Island

While our new website sports a new look, we also hope that you will find it informative and easy to connect to resources that will help you through the different stages of raising a child with epilepsy. For new families, we always suggest connecting with other parents who understand and share similar experiences raising a child with epilepsy. The Resource tab will take you to the "Discovering My Epilepsy Support Group" link where you can fill out a family intake form online. You can also connect to the Support Group through Facebook by searching for "Discovering My Epilepsy." Here are just a few new links that have been added to the website.

A new "FAQ" link appears under the "What is Epilepsy" tab and we have expanded the number of sites available through "Helpful Links" under the Resources tab. There are links to many national sites, but we have included links to local and state resources too. We tried to provide general information in response to commonly asked questions that we receive at The Matty Fund Epilepsy Resource Center. For example, as the school year gets underway, many parents have questions about Individualized Educational Plan's (IEP's). The web site provides a link to the RI Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education's "IEP Process and Frequently Asked Questions" along with information about The Extended School Year. There are links to local and state organizations that provide services and resources to youth with disabilities who are in transition to adulthood and independence including the RI Dept. of Health (Special Health Care Needs), the RI Parent Information Network and the Sherlock Center on Disabilities. The RI Disability Law Center is another great resource that provides free legal assistance to people with disabilities. A link to the "The Assistive Technology Exchange of New England" is a free "classified ad" type resource designed to help people find, buy, sell or give away used AT equipment.

### Raise Epilepsy Awareness in School!

The Matty Hatty Dance-A-Thon is a statewide epilepsy awareness program created by the Matty Fund for elementary and preschools. The goal of Matty Hatty is to eliminate the social stigma associated with this disease and teach seizure protocols to children at an early age.

### Does your child's school participate?

Check with your school

See [www.MattyFund.org](http://www.MattyFund.org) for pictures and videos

Contact The Matty Fund® for more details

**Gifts to the Matty Fund support quality programs at no cost to 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