

# hotline

## Beyond Standard Seizure Treatment

Other Treatment Options Available When Meds Fail to Control Epilepsy

Many people get good to excellent results from regular use of seizure-preventing medication. Others, unfortunately, don't.

At least half of all people with epilepsy continue to have some seizures. Some of them have seizures so often that it is difficult to live a normal life.

Quality of life for people who are still having seizures is reduced in many ways. One recent survey showed people with continuing seizures are 3 times more likely to be unemployed as other people, and up to half reported feeling depressed at least some of the time. Career goals are changed; inability to drive is limiting.

People in this position often feel that there's not much they can do about it. They're unaware of other treatment options and assume they have to accept that their seizures fall into the category of "difficult to treat." But that's not necessarily true.

When seizures are hard to control with the standard medications, there are other kinds of treatment that may help, if only patients knew about them and pursued them with their doctors.

In most cases, these are add on treatments - that is, they are used in addition to the epilepsy drugs. If they are successful, however, it may be possible to reduce the amount of medication that's necessary to control or reduce seizures.

Exploring new treatment options begins with a discussion with the treating physician.

You should explore other options like surgery, ketogenic diet and/or vagus nerve stimulation.

Don't feel that having lots of seizures, or experiencing a lot of side effects, are your only options in managing your epilepsy.

—EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

## Family Camp Day Hosts 47

Families Affected by Seizures Enjoy Meeting Others

ERC Family Camp Day welcomed 47 people, including 23 children, to Camp Hiawatha, on north 51st Street in Wichita, for an afternoon of activities on August 7th.

Kore Liow, MD, of the Via-Christi Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, graciously attended to help answer epilepsy questions that families had. He even asked a few questions of the audience and awarded some prizes! Thank you, Dr. Liow.

Children enjoyed Doc the Clown, Horse riding, playing in the moonwalk and crafting their own pair of flip flops, friendship bracelets and God's Eyes. A BBQ dinner concluded the day.

Camp provides families affected by seizure disorders the opportunity to meet and network with others in a safe and accepting environment.



The Southeast Optimist Club sponsored this year's camp with crucial funding. The Optimists have contributed to our camp for the past several years. Thank you SE Optimist Club members for your continued support!

The combined efforts of many volunteers and staff made Camp Day possible. We appreciate Lucy Shifton for her help in the kitchen and elsewhere, Helen Jones for running our craft tables, Marty Rothwell for cooking and coordination of the camp, and Nancy, Bob and Andy Templin for giving rides on Lucy and Nugget—their Burning Sage Ranch horses.



Cyberonics® & **erc** present a [free Patient Education Program](#):

**Treatment Options if Drugs  
Don't Work For Your Seizures**

**September 14, 2005 • 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

**Club House Inn & Suites**

515 S. Webb Road • Wichita, KS (Kellogg & Webb Road)

# November is Epilepsy Awareness Month

## Your Story Is The Key To Destroying Misperceptions

Held during November, Epilepsy Awareness Month attempts to increase the public's awareness about epilepsy. ERC's participation includes hosting an awareness concert featuring David M. Bailey, and requesting churches and other houses of worship to include our church bulletin inserts on "Seizures & Spirituality Sunday" — November 7, 2005.

Together, these events will increase awareness. But we need your help to make a greater impact in our communities.

**Share With Others...** "Spirituality & Seizures Sunday" will acquaint the general public with the needs of people with epilepsy and their families living in the community. We ask congregations to focus some part of their November 7th religious service on people affected by epilepsy. Church bulletin inserts will be available to assist in this effort. Please call 943-2453, to include the insert in your bulletins.

**Speak Out...** Everyone with epilepsy can easily participate in building awareness of epilepsy just by sharing his or her story. Tell someone in your school, workplace, or house of worship that you have epilepsy and share something about epilepsy that is unique to you. The general public overestimates the impact epilepsy has on lifestyle. By sharing your story you can open the mind of one person and spread the reality of epilepsy by word of mouth. Watch those misconceptions fall like dominos!

## Wear It! ERC Lavender Ribbon Campaign

The lavender flower is traditionally associated with solitude, symbolizing the feelings of isolation and seclusion that people living with epilepsy and seizure disorders often experience.

By wearing a lavender ribbon you will communicate the message about what epilepsy is and how it affects people's lives. People generally ask, "Why are you wearing a lavender ribbon," creating an awareness opportunity and tah-dah!... misconceptions are erased. ERC will have ribbons to wear available. Each concert attendee will also get a ribbon!



### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO CUT RIBBONS!

If you can help us by cutting and pinning ribbons, please call 943-2453.

## Adult Epilepsy Support Group

Meets Second Tuesday of Month at 6:30 PM  
2919 W. 2nd Street, Wichita (more info: 943-2453)

SEPT 13: SEIZURES & THE FAMILY  
OCT 11: DIET & SEIZURES

NOV 8: AWARENESS  
DEC 13: TBD

The ARC of Sedgwick County  
2919 W. 2nd St  
Wichita, KS 67203

Phone: 316-943-2453  
Fax: 316-943-3292

E-mail: [ERC@arc-sedgwickcounty.org](mailto:ERC@arc-sedgwickcounty.org)

Web: [www.arc-sedgwickcounty.org/erc.html](http://www.arc-sedgwickcounty.org/erc.html)



## share hope!

*an epilepsy awareness concert*

## david m. bailey

in concert

Friday, November 11, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Westside Christian Church  
1819 W. Douglas ■ Wichita

Epilepsy Resource Connection and Cyberonics, Inc., proudly present a free epilepsy awareness concert with David M. Bailey — an award winning, best-selling folk singer, and prophet with a guitar. . .

. . . helping shatter the darkness for  
the 2.7 million people with epilepsy.

Open to the public, come early for best seating.

For more information call 316-943-2453.



Supported by an educational grant from:

VAGUS NERVE STIMULATION



## erc's OctoberFest Saturday, October 29, 2005



★ Games ★ Crafts ★ Food ★ Fun ★

at Camp Hiawatha 1:00 - 7:00 PM

1605 W. 51st St N., Wichita



Join other families affected by epilepsy for  
an afternoon of entertainment and camaraderie.

Horseback Riding ■ Learn to Tie Balloon Animals ■ Games & Prizes  
Apple Bobbing ■ Craft Your Own Christmas Bulbs ■ Moonwalks  
"Seize the medallion" contest ■ bon-fire dinner ■ Pumpkin Carving

**\$2/person or \$5/family To Register, call 316-943-2453**

LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS OR A RIDE

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