Walk on the wild side: Epilepsy Foundation of Florida hosts family event at the zoo

9:30 AM EDT, October 31, 2012

The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida (EFOF) will kick off November's Epilepsy Awareness Month in the Palm Beaches by hosting "Expedition Epilepsy," a family-friendly event at the Palm Beach Zoo on Nov. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Funds raised will support programs for local children who experience seizures.

The evening will include: music; dancing; hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and soft drinks for adults; finger foods and drinks for children; animal encounters; a takeaway art project for children; a guest speaker who will provide an update on medical advances in seizure control; and a silent auction and raffles.

"While living with epilepsy and seizure disorders is difficult in so many ways, it is often the stigma and misunderstandings surrounding epilepsy that most hinders our communities' efforts to recognize and come to grips with this widespread and devastating disorder," said EFOF CEO, Karen Basha Egozi. "Unfortunately, people die each year from epilepsy and, in many cases, these deaths could have been prevented," she said.

Epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological disorder in the U.S. after migraine, stroke and Alzheimer's disease.

Despite how common it is and major advances in diagnosis and treatment, epilepsy is considered to be among the least understood of major chronic medical conditions.

"People are uncomfortable with epilepsy or do not understand it and therefore epilepsy doesn't generate as much public discussion and support as other equally dangerous but less prevalent conditions," said past president of the EFOF Board of Directors, Patricia Dean.

Tickets are $50 per adult (includes one free child admission) and $10 for each additional child.

For more information, call 561-478-6515.

Sponsors include: Nordstrom; Kennedy Contractors Inc.; St. Mary's Hospital; 1st United Bank; Cyberonics; Lesser Lesser, Landy, and Smith, Attorneys at Law; and PW Wine Distributors.
Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. It is also called a seizure disorder.

When a person has two or more unprovoked seizures, they are considered to have epilepsy.

Seizures happen when clusters of nerve cells in the brain signal abnormally, which may briefly alter a person's consciousness, movements or actions.

For more information, visit http://www.EpilepsyFla.org.

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