



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota Celebrates 40th Anniversary of Camp Oz,
Generous Endowed Scholarship Support**

An anonymous \$5 million gift will provide support for youth attending the leading epilepsy camp experience in the country

Bloomington, Minnesota (May 10, 2023) – Today, the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN), announced a \$5 million gift that commemorates the 40th anniversary of Camp Oz, a nationally leading camp experience for young people living with epilepsy. This historic gift will endow a financial aid fund that ensures that every young person interested in Camp Oz is able to attend, regardless of their ability to pay.

“Camp Oz was transformational for Everett,” said his mom, Emily, an active member of the EFMN community. “His sense of independence, the connection with other kids who understand epilepsy, and the opportunity to experience a classic camp experience has been incredible.”

Founded in 1983, Camp Oz is a traditional summer camp that provides a safe and fun camp experience for youth ages 9-17 who are living with epilepsy. Since its founding, more than 4,000 children living with epilepsy or seizures have come together for a week of outdoor activities where their parents and caregivers can feel confident they will be safe. The camp was established as a way for young people living with epilepsy to meet other young people who were encountering and overcoming the same challenges, and have a classic outdoor camp experience run by counselors and support staff who were trained in epilepsy response. Held at Camp St. Croix in Hudson, WI, campers bunk together in cabins, eat together in a shared food hall, and enjoy activities like swimming, horseback riding, team-building exercises, and more.

“Camp Oz embodies our vision for building communities where no one journeys through epilepsy alone,” said Glen Lloyd, CEO/Executive Director of EFMN. “Camp Oz is about building community, empowering our incredible families, for every community across the state. And with this transformative gift, our focus on providing health equity is able to be more fully realized. No child should be denied the care or the community they deserve because of a lack of resources. Camp Oz is for every young person in Minnesota living with epilepsy, and always will be.”

Camp Oz runs from June 18th to June 23rd. Registration is still open. For more information, please go to: <https://efmncamps.campbrainregistration.com>.



EFMN offers services to all individuals and families impacted by epilepsy & seizures across Minnesota. For one-to-one support and more information about how you can get involved, visit efmn.org

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About Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota:

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) is a patient advocacy organization offering programs and services to support people impacted by epilepsy & seizures to help improve their quality of life. EFMN's programs work to educate, connect, and empower people with epilepsy, their family, and caregivers no matter where they are on their epilepsy journey. The foundation's vision is building communities where no one journeys through epilepsy and its solemn responsibility is to prioritize equity in our programs and services. It operates a successful social enterprise in used clothing collection and its resale to thrift stores.