

Media Alert

High School Players to Volunteer at Basketball Camp for Kids with Epilepsy

Players & Coaches join "Mighty Mike" Simmel & Local Nonprofits to Fight Seizures

Event: *Bounce Out the Stigma* Basketball Camp

Dates: Tuesday July 19 and Wednesday July 20, 2016

Time: 9:30 am – Noon

Location: Fountain View Recreation Center, at 910 N. Gary Ave. in Carol Stream, IL

Details: The Danny Did Foundation, the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago and Jack's Army are partnering to offer a free, two-day basketball camp for children and teens with epilepsy called *Bounce Out the Stigma*. Mike Simmel, a New Jersey-based author, basketball player and the founder of the Bounce Out the Stigma Project, leads the Bounce Out camp.

- Basketball players and coaches from Wheaton North High School will serve as volunteers.
- DePaul University mascot "Dibbs" will make a special appearance on Wednesday at 10:30 am.
- The Bounce Out the Stigma Project utilizes basketball to advance understanding of seizure safety, promote the steps in responding to a seizure, and to erode the stigmas and bullying that is often faced by children who suffer from epilepsy.
- According to the Institute of Medicine, **1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy during their lifetime**. Epilepsy is defined as the occurrence of two or more unprovoked seizures and impacts 3 million people in the United States.

Camp director "**Mighty Mike**" Simmel is a former member of the Harlem Wizards basketball team and a person with epilepsy. At age 16, he was asked to leave a basketball camp because of his epilepsy. Mike now leads *Bounce Out the Stigma* camps in eight states, where everyone is included and welcome, and no stigma exists if a seizure occurs.

This event is camera friendly with approximately co-ed 30 participants. Coaches, participants and advocates can be available for interview.

For more information:

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About Danny Did Foundation

Founded by Chicagoans Mike and Mariann Stanton in January 2010 after the sudden death of their four-year-old son Danny, the Danny Did Foundation's primary mission is to prevent deaths caused by seizures. The Foundation is dedicated to advancing public awareness of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), enhancing the SUDEP communication model between medical professionals and families impacted by seizures, and gaining mainstream acceptance and use of seizure detection and prediction devices that may assist in preventing seizure-related deaths. Seizures can be fatal—more people die as a result of seizures than from fires and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) combined—and thousands of deaths occur annually from SUDEP, status epilepticus (prolonged seizures), and other seizure-related causes such as drowning and other accidents. The name of the Danny Did Foundation originates from the last line of Danny Stanton's obituary, written by his dad: "*Please go and enjoy your life. Danny did.*"

About the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago

The Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome challenges created by epilepsy. Created in 1946 as a grassroots effort in Illinois to help people with epilepsy, the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago is a not-for-profit, incorporated in Illinois, serving 43 counties, offering counseling, advocacy and educational services to people with epilepsy, their families, and the communities in which they live. The Foundation's all-volunteer Board of Directors is made up of professionals from all walks of life. A Professional Advisory Board made up of over twenty board certified epileptologists, pediatric neurologists, pharmacologists, social workers, psychologists and nurse educators from the Chicagoland area advises on education, services, research and advocacy programs. Its Community Action Boards are teams of dedicated volunteer leaders who are committed to expanding the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago's mission across its 43 county region.

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