

Meet The Birchak Family

During our 40th Anniversary year, we will be featuring individuals who helped define the past 40 years. Today our spotlight is on The Birchak Family.

The Birchak's first contacted our organization back in 1993 after moving to our area. Their 7-year-old son, Nick, had been diagnosed with epilepsy and they were in search of additional information for their family, and their son's school. In addition to epilepsy, Nick also had visual impairments. Despite all of this, he was a world champion in powerlifting, an amazing photographer, and successfully obtained his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from The College of Saint Rose, which led to a job with Apple. Over the years, Nick continued to have seizures, and his family became very active with our organization, attending our Bowl for Epilepsy events, our Confections in Chocolate events, and even the National Walk for Epilepsy. Nick was an amazing advocate for himself. Sadly, Nick passed away in 2011 at the young age of 27.

Following Nick's passing, his parents, Steve and Annie, created the Nick Birchak Strength of Character Memorial Scholarship. Each year a graduating senior or an individual returning to college is awarded a \$1,000 scholarship in Nick's name.

Over the years, Steve and Annie were amazing advocates for their son. They attended parents support group meetings to meet other parents and share their journey. They also attended our annual family conferences. Steve is a past member of the Board of Directors. He is a professional motivational speaker, and author, and donates proceeds from his books to our organization. Giving back has always come naturally for this family.

We are so grateful for their decades of support, and their decision to create a memorial scholarship in Nick's name to keep his memory alive and help others who have epilepsy. Steve and Annie, you are true heroes!

