

May 15, 2023

Contact:
Shena L. Daly Pearson
Executive Director
409.299.5559
info@gceatx.org
GCEATX.ORG



**3rd Annual Butterfly Release for October SUDEP-Epilepsy Awareness Month
Supporting those touched by Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders
Sponsored by Gulf Coast Epilepsy Alliance (GCEA)**

Gulf Coast Epilepsy Alliance (GCEA) will host their 3rd Annual Butterfly Release for SUDEP Epilepsy Awareness Month on Sunday, October 8th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Carbide Park, in the Wayne Johnson Community Center, La Marque, Texas. We honor our local community of people with epilepsy and seizure disorders, ensuring our GCEA Members know they are supported.

Come join us and enjoy a **FUN** afternoon in the park (indoors & outdoors) to recognize true super-hero seizure lifesavers!

Release a **LIVE** Butterfly-in-a-Box, enjoy DJ music, a pop-up shopping market, puppy therapy, silent auction, food trucks, face-painting, and friendship, all while supporting GCEA's programs, raising SUDEP awareness, and learning how to keep those with epilepsy **seizure-SAFE**.

Did you know?

- **1-in-10** may have a seizure during his or her lifetime
- **1-in-26** people in the United States will develop epilepsy
- **3 Million** US adults & **470,000** children have epilepsy
- Number of Cases in TEXAS (all ages) = ~ **300,000** *(source: cdc.gov/epilepsy)*

GCEA's Butterfly Release launched in 2021 with only 100 guests and countless volunteers honoring local families having a loss to SUDEP / epilepsy seizure. This year we are honoring Micayla and the Branin family. Her passing, as a result of SUDEP, took place on December 3, 2022.

2021 Butterfly Release ~ Honoring the memory of **Bashan Swain** (24 years old)

2022 Butterfly Release ~ Honoring the memory of **Henry Furler** (22 years old)

2023 Butterfly Release ~ Honoring the memory of **Micayla Branin** (21 years old)

2023 BUTTERFLY RELEASE PROGRAM

Welcome & Opening:

Betsy Furler, GCEA Executive Committee

Danielle Lance, GCEA Board President

Abigail Beer, GCEA Board Vice President



SUDEP & Epilepsy: Todd Masel, MD, UTMB Neurology

G.E.M. Honorees: Shena Daly Pearson, GCEA Executive Director

Closing and Prayer: Doreen Hughes & Pastor Jervie Windom

LIVE Butterfly Release: Trysten Pearson, GCEA Founder

ABOUT GULF COAST EPILEPSY ALLIANCE (GCEA) - Est. 2019

Founded by Shena and [Trysten Pearson](#), Gulf Coast Epilepsy Alliance (GCEA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides direct services to individuals with seizure disorders and those touched by epilepsy in the Texas Gulf Coast.

After [Trysten's](#) diagnosis of epilepsy at age 12, a five-year partnership with the Epilepsy Foundation Texas – Houston/Dallas-Fort Worth/West Texas, advocating for the passage of [Sam's Law for Texas Schools](#), raising [SUDEP awareness in the New York Times](#) newspaper, and receiving rank of Eagle with the [Boy Scouts of America](#), Trysten established GCEA to support and improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy in Texas.

- GCEA's vision is to achieve a society where no person's life is limited by epilepsy. GCEA's mission is committed to working for and meeting the needs of people with epilepsy, their families, and their caregivers in the Gulf Coast counties of Texas.
- Our aim is to maintain existing services and activities, while also developing in new directions to ensure we continue to meet the needs of people with epilepsy, their families, and their caregivers in the Gulf Coast areas of Texas.

We work hard to help bring awareness to the world of epilepsy. As a leader, you understand the pressing need for solutions to the challenges in our epilepsy community.

In an effort to solve some of these challenges, GCEA organizes a Butterfly Release annually to raise funds for our nonprofit. We are so proud of what we have already achieved, but we want to make this year even better! With funds required to host this event, we need the support of generous businesses and leaders like **YOU!**

Please consider one of our sponsorship levels by reviewing the PDF Packet on our website. As a thank you, GCEA would like to publicly announce your partnership with our nonprofit.

To discuss how you can get involved or volunteer, please give us a call at 409.299.5559. We hope to hear from you soon, the time is now to move this event forward. Thank you for your consideration.

For Tickets, Sponsorship or Volunteer Opportunities, please visit GCEATX.ORG/events.

*GCEA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, all contributions are tax deductible.
EIN# 84-2099498*