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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Governor Dayton proclaims May 9 as Seizure Smart Schools Day**  
*Coach Jerry Kill pictured accepting the honor with the Governor*

**St. Paul, MN – May 9, 2016** – The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) is pleased to announce that Governor Mark Dayton proclaimed May 9, 2016 as Seizure Smart Schools day in the state of Minnesota.

The Foundation's sold-out gala on May 7, hosted by WCCO's Frank Vascellaro and Amelia Santaniello, raised over \$280,000 to support Seizure Smart Schools and Camp Oz for kids with epilepsy.

Coach Kill is pictured with Governor Dayton accepting the declaration. His Chasing Dreams Fund supports EFMN's efforts to educate schools about epilepsy and support students with seizures, ultimately reducing bullying and stigma.

Seizure Smart Schools brings free seizure first aid training into classrooms and raises epilepsy awareness statewide. Over 150 schools and three districts have already earned the distinction of being a Seizure Smart School.

Epilepsy is the most common neurological condition in children, and over 300,000 kids in the U.S. have the seizure disorder – it's critical that schools understand seizure first aid and can support students with epilepsy in classrooms.

"Every kid in the state of Minnesota is entitled to an education, including kids with epilepsy who deal with the unpredictability of seizures, medication side effects and stigma that surrounds epilepsy. They deserve to chase their dreams like everyone else," said Coach Jerry Kill.

Kill received the inaugural Chasing Dreams Coach Kill Epilepsy Fund award at the gala. WCCO's Mike Max and CNN's Wayne Drash presented the surprise honor to Kill, which will be given in future years to people who champion epilepsy awareness.

**About Epilepsy**

One in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime, and 1 in 26 will develop epilepsy. There are 60,000 people in our community with epilepsy and its prevalence rate is equivalent to breast cancer in the U.S. Yet it's one of the most under-funded and stigmatized conditions. EFMN works to change this through public awareness efforts, free statewide education and more.

**About the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota**

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) envisions a world where people with seizures realize their full potential. The Foundation's services educate, connect and empower people with seizures across MN and Eastern ND. For information, visit [efmn.org](http://efmn.org).

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