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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota raises awareness through documentaries *TPT partners with EFMN to illuminate epilepsy and break down barriers*

ST. PAUL, MN – November 1, 2016 – To recognize National Epilepsy Awareness Month, the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) and local public media organization Twin Cities PBS (TPT) are partnering to host a special screening of two powerful documentaries that unravel the mysteries behind seizures on Thursday, November 17.

PBS's *Seized: Inside the Mystery of Epilepsy* dives into the real-life, honest stories of individuals fighting the enigmatic disease and shares the struggles they face seeking treatment and acceptance. *Brainstorm*, produced by award-winning local journalist Stacia Kalinoski gets behind the lens and shares her private battle with epilepsy, touches on seizure first aid, and tries to answer the question, "Can brain surgery cure seizures?"

Seizures are more common than people realize: one in ten people will have a seizure in their lifetime and 1 in 26 will develop epilepsy. Despite this prevalence, there is still a lot of misinformation and stigma associated with the condition. This event aims to break down the barriers surrounding seizures by encouraging those who attend to invite close friends and family to gain insight in to what it is like to live with epilepsy. Following the screenings, local epileptologists and filmmaker Kalinoski will share their expertise and stories in an intimate Q&A panel.

"Bringing epilepsy into the public eye this month is important for the 60,000 people in our community living with seizures. We are so fortunate to partner with TPT to help raise epilepsy awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding seizures," said Heidi Fisher, EFMN Executive Director.

This event is free and open to the public. Register at bitly.com/SeizedDocumentary. Doors open at 6:15 PM.

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About the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota envisions a world where people with seizures realize their full potential. Founded in 1954 and headquartered in Saint Paul, the Foundation's services cover the greater Minnesota region and Eastern North Dakota. For information, visit efmn.org.

About Epilepsy

One in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime, and 1 in 26 develop epilepsy. It's more common than people think, with a similar prevalence rate to breast cancer in the U.S. Yet it's one of the most under-funded and stigmatized conditions. EFMN works tirelessly to raise public awareness, decrease stigma, and provide resources to help people rise above seizures.

About Twin Cities PBS (TPT)

The mission of TPT is to "enrich lives and strengthen our community through the power of media." As one of the nation's leading public media organizations, Twin Cities PBS (TPT) uses television, interactive media and community engagement to advance education, culture and citizenship. Over its nearly 60-year history, TPT has been recognized for its innovation and creativity with numerous awards, including Peabody awards and national and regional Emmys. For more information about TPT, visit our website at www.tpt.org or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Interviews: Heidi Fisher
- *Seized: Inside the Mystery of Epilepsy* documentary: www.pbs.org/program/seized-inside-mystery-epilepsy