

## RapidSOS and Epilepsy Association of Central Florida team up for enhanced access to emergency services

- 240 million<sup>1</sup> 9-1-1 calls are made every year in the U.S.; over 70%<sup>2</sup> are from mobile phones, which fail to provide exact location to emergency dispatchers
- Nearly 2 out of every 100 Americans have Epilepsy<sup>3</sup>
- Haven represents a transformation in access to emergency services – from a phone call solely dependent on voice to a robust data connection for voice, text, medical/demographic data

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Orlando, Florida (July 13, 2016).**

The Epilepsy Association of Central Florida (EACF) today announced a partnership with [RapidSOS](#), an advanced emergency technology start-up revolutionizing personal safety and family connectivity. The partnership will offer access to the RapidSOS Haven mobile app at a reduced price, providing individuals with enhanced access to emergency services. Haven sends important data to 9-1-1 to aid in fast emergency response and better situational awareness for first responders.

Working together, RapidSOS and EACF will support those with epilepsy and their families, by connecting them to their loved ones and providing peace of mind that emergency help is one touch away. With one tap on Haven, the app connects the user with the nearest dispatch center anywhere in the contiguous U.S., while providing a voice connection and a data pipeline to 9-1-1, to transmit:

- GPS location
- Type of emergency
- Relevant medical and demographic data
- Text messages: Haven speaks the text message if the dispatch center does not have the capability to receive texts. Currently works one-way (user to 9-1-1); two-way coming in future

When setting up the app, users conveniently enter all medical conditions, allergies, and medications, so that if an emergency occurs, life-saving information is communicated directly to 9-1-1. Additionally, after an alert has been triggered, Haven notifies emergency contacts, so that family and friends are informed.

“This partnership with EACF supports a community of individuals who live with more nuanced medical needs than most,” said RapidSOS co-founder and CEO Michael Martin. “People with epilepsy and their families deserve to be confident that they can reach emergency services quickly and reliably wherever they are, and Haven provides that.”

The Haven app also includes access to RapidSOS’ Family Connect feature. For the first time, people can call 9-1-1 on behalf of a loved one, transmitting their loved one’s location and relevant data directly to the

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<sup>1</sup> National Emergency Number Association. <http://www.nena.org/?page=911Statistics>

<sup>2</sup> National 911 Program. *Review of Nationwide 911 Data Collection*. <http://www.911.gov/pdf/current911datacollection-072613.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Epilepsy Association of Central Florida. <http://epilepsyassociation.com/about-eacf/>

dispatch center closest to them. Additionally, Family Connect allows users to share their location with loved ones, see family members' real-time locations without the distraction of a phone call or text, and easily ask family and friends for help. A user can choose who can see their location and when it is shared, ensuring privacy and control.

"This partnership with RapidSOS gives peace of mind to the individuals and families we support," said Charles "Chuck" Carmen, Executive Director of EACF. "For people with epilepsy, being able to transmit important medical information to emergency personnel with one touch is a distinctly valuable asset."

RapidSOS is offering Haven at a 20% discount to those associated with EACF when they sign up [here](#). The Haven app is available for iPhone and Android devices and works anywhere across the contiguous U.S. and Hawaii, with one touch emergency calling in over 250 countries and jurisdictional territories. For more information about RapidSOS and the Haven app, visit [www.rapidsos.com](http://www.rapidsos.com).

### **About RapidSOS**

RapidSOS was formed in 2012 by a team of M.I.T., Harvard, and Stanford grad students who had personal experiences with the challenges of the existing emergency communication infrastructure. Working closely with the 9-1-1 community, tech and telecom companies, and leading investors, RapidSOS is developing technology to predict and preempt emergencies before they occur, dynamically warn people in harm's way, and ensure that first responders are one touch away globally. Learn more at [www.RapidSOS.com](http://www.RapidSOS.com)

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### **About Epilepsy Association of Central Florida**

Established in 1962, The Epilepsy Association of Central Florida (EACF) is a not-for-profit community based organization dedicated to serving the needs of those affected by epilepsy. EACF is a local direct service agency where 100% of the gifts we receive stay to serve the citizens of Central Florida. We are governed by a local elected volunteer Board of Directors that represent a cross section of professionals, civic leaders, and consumers that are responsible for directing the activities of our agency. EACF is further strengthened by a volunteer Professional Advisory Board made up of local area medical professionals and a dedicated staff of men and women.

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