



**Michele G.  
Griffin, GA  
Born 1961  
Diagnosed 1989**

*"Are you going to let this stop you from living life?"*

Michele was raised by a strong, loving grandmother who taught her to never give up, to trust her heart and to face problems with courage. She needed those gifts when she was diagnosed with epilepsy, which she developed after her heart stopped twice during surgery at age 28.

Michele underwent numerous tests at the hospital, including continuous EEG monitoring and a room filled with cameras that taped her nearly every minute. She was devastated to learn she was not a candidate for surgery, and grew depressed.

Having a great support team and a doctor who gave it to her straight helped her see her life in a new light. Michele went back to college and started writing. One of her professors liked her essays and poems enough to help get them published. Michele also started learning as much as she could about epilepsy, and grew strong and empowered by her new knowledge.

After nearly twenty years and more than 14 medications in various combinations, Michele finally started taking a newer medication in 2005. Finally, Michele's seizures are under control, giving her more of a chance to make her dreams a reality. Two of Michele's dreams came true when she started a home-health service and finished her second book of poetry titled "When the Wind Blows."

As an Epilepsy Advocate, Michele hopes sharing her personal experience will build further awareness and understanding on living well with epilepsy.