

# EUROPEAN EPILEPSY DAY 2014

*Epilepsy  
is more  
than  
seizures*

10 FEBRUARY 2014  
**eed**  
EUROPEAN EPILEPSY DAY



**KALLE-PEKKA  
HIETALA  
FINLAND**

**Epilepsy has not prevented  
a full and active life**

25 year old Kalle was born in Kemi, near the Arctic Circle, but grew up in Pirkkala in southern Finland. After finishing high school, he undertook environmental and nature studies and also has a degree in youth and sports leadership. He is currently studying for a degree in Social Science.

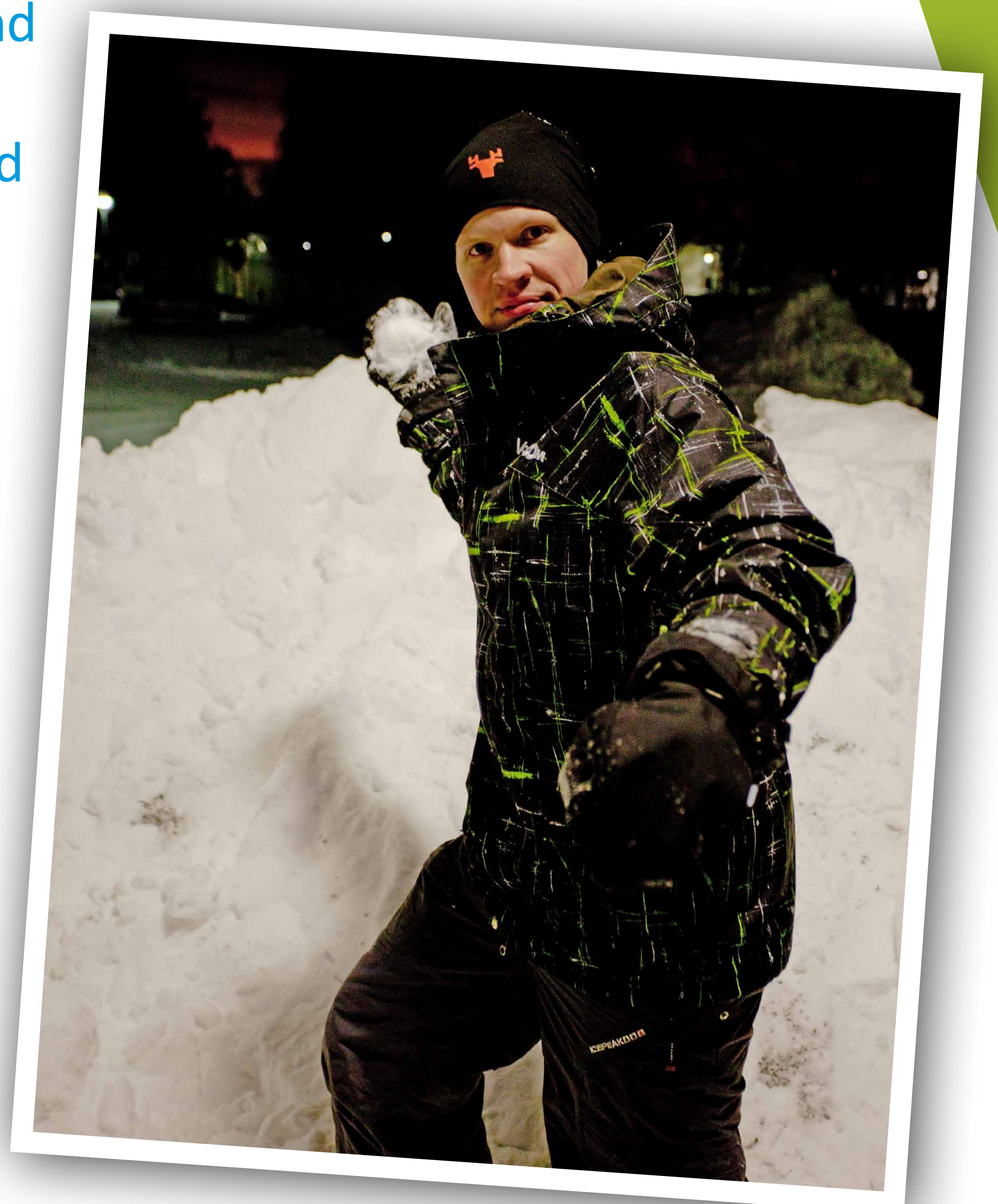
Diagnosed with epilepsy when he was one year old, for many years Kalle's epilepsy was intractable with tonic-clonic seizures, but he has been seizure-free following successful epilepsy surgery as a teenager.

Kalle also had speech impairment in childhood and was bullied at school. Sometimes he felt the parents were overprotective.

Despite his epilepsy, he took up swimming and competed at national level with good results. Swimming was the most important thing in his life, but competing was difficult with school and sport taking up long hours. He later coached groups with special needs and found this very rewarding.

Kalle has participated in rehabilitation courses for young people with epilepsy and is a trained peer supporter.

He likes to travel and was an ICYE (Inter Cultural Youth Exchange) volunteer in Mexico in 2010-2011. He is a Vice Board Member of the Finnish Epilepsy Association and is also a trustee in several other voluntary organisations.



**European Advocates for  
epilepsy**

Epilepsy  
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European Epilepsy Day is organised by Epilepsy Advocacy Europe Task Force, European Advocates for Epilepsy MEP special interest group, and by national epilepsy associations across Europe