



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New funding from CareSource to support Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Easterseals of Central and Southeast Ohio one of 10 affiliates nationwide to receive grants from CareSource

DAYTON, OH., May 9, 2023 –Easterseals of Central and Southeast Ohio announced today it will receive a grant of \$10,000 to support its Dolly Parton Imagination Library which promotes literacy among children from birth to age five in seven Ohio counties.

The grant is part of a national \$2.55 million donation CareSource, a nationally recognized leader in managed care, made to Easterseals in late 2022.

Annual CareSource grants of \$725,000 will support the work of select Easterseals Affiliates nationwide, the work of Easterseals’ national office, and the organization’s Project on Education and Community Health Equity, an initiative focused on addressing the educational and health care needs of children with disabilities, including children with disabilities of color, so they are kindergarten ready and can reach their full potential.

“We are so grateful to CareSource for supporting our efforts to combat child illiteracy in southeast Ohio. These funds will help impact thousands of children and families through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio, and we can’t do it without this support from CareSource.” – Pandora Shaw-Dupras, CEO of Easterseals Central and Southeast Ohio.

In 2019, the Ohio Governor’s Imagination Library was established with financial support from the Ohio General Assembly and affiliates across the state. By November 2020, this innovative outreach program expanded to serve all Ohio children between birth and age five. In July 2022, the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library transitioned to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio (DPILO) helping nonprofit administrative affiliates, like Easterseals CSO, to further promote the program and increase enrollment.

“CareSource is proud to partner with Easterseals of Central and Southeast Ohio knowing our grant dollars will help enrich education by promoting child literacy and kindergarten readiness,” said Dee Yocum, Vice President of Operations for Ohio Market CareSource. “In addition, these dollars will amplify and elevate our communities by increasing family engagement and connection with public services.”

Easterseals of Central and Southeast Ohio has been a partner affiliate of the DPILO since 1996, promoting literacy development by coordinating participant enrollment and book fulfillment to children birth to age five among seven counties within the Appalachian Ohio region: Gallia, Hocking, Jackson,

Meigs, Pike, Scioto, and Vinton. Easterseals Central and Southeast Ohio has the largest coverage of any DPIL affiliate in the state of Ohio.

Another round of funding for Easterseals Affiliates' programs and services will be announced in late 2023.

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Easterseals' purpose is to change the way the world defines and views disability by making profound, positive differences in people's lives every day. We provide exceptional services, education, outreach, and advocacy so that people living with autism and other disabilities can live, learn, work, and play in our communities.

Our goal is to lead the way to 100% equity, inclusion, and access for people with disabilities and their families. To reach that goal, Easterseals Central and Southeast Ohio provides help, hope, and answers every single day across the state.

To learn more about our services and find a location near you, visit eastersealscentralohio.org

About Easterseals

Easterseals is leading the way to full equity, inclusion, and access through life-changing disability and community services. For more than 100 years, we have worked tirelessly with our partners to enhance quality of life and expand local access to health care, education, and employment opportunities. And we won't rest until every one of us is valued, respected, and accepted. Through our national network of Affiliates, Easterseals provides essential services and on-the-ground supports to more than 1.5 million people each year – from early childhood programs for the critical first five years, to autism services, medical rehabilitation and employment programs, veterans' services, and more. Our public education, policy, and advocacy initiatives positively shape perceptions and address the urgent and evolving needs of the one in four Americans living with disabilities today. Together, we're empowering people with disabilities, families, and communities to be full and equal participants in society. To learn more, visit www.easterseals.com.

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