

easterseals

Delaware & Maryland's
Eastern Shore



Community
Impact Report
2022



Dear Friends,

“If we want to include everyone, we have to help everyone develop their talents and use their gifts for the good of the community. That’s what inclusion means– everyone contributes.” ~ Melinda Gates

As our organization continued to recover from the pandemic in 2022, we were inspired and motivated by the resiliency of the thousands of people who depend on our services. Because of Easterseals, seniors like **Tina** remain a vibrant part of her community through our adult day program in Georgetown. Because of Easterseals’ Personal Attendant Services, Tina’s daughter, **Ashley**, can get paid to help care for her mom, which is critical to her because she also cares for her son, who has a chronic health condition. **Little Stella** can reach for the stars and meet her milestones because of our Children’s Therapy programs. **Carolyn**, who participates in our adult day services for adults with intellectual disabilities, is becoming more independent. **All these stories and countless more are possible because you support our essential mission. It takes a village to build an inclusive community, and we are so glad you are a part of ours.** Read more about these stories on pages 5-7.

While the success of our participants is foremost, we also are excited to share some honors that our local Easterseals received throughout this year. That included **a perfect score in the accreditation of surveyed services, recognition of our advocacy efforts from national Easterseals,** and the **“Cultural Access Award”** for our inclusive Artfulness program. We also aided in achieving the total funding of the **Michael McNesby Act** – a promise made by Delaware legislators in 2018. Read more about all these accomplishments on page 4.

Our fundraising events doubled this year as we added a second location to our signature **Easterseals/CAI Volleyball Challenge**, and a new **Walk With Me Salisbury** event. Our Volleyball Challenge took place in New Castle and Dover this year. Now in its 10th year,

continued...



Walk With Me Delmarva has become a staple in the community. Our inaugural Walk With Me Salisbury event was a welcome new tradition for our Maryland supporters. **Our Annual Celebration, held at Winterthur Museum and Gardens**, was a beautiful night celebrating what makes Easterseals shine – our families. Read more about these events and our ambassadors on pages 8-9.

We served 6,108 individuals in direct services last year and **an additional 28,827 individuals through indirect services** like education, training, and outreach activities. **Total operating revenue last year was \$27,557,148.**

Looking forward to 2023, we anticipate serving more participants as we continue to see them return as the impact of the pandemic lessens. We're also excited to be able to finally open **our newest location in Smyrna**, which will help meet the growing demand for care for Delaware senior citizens.

Many Easterseals programs are underfunded, which is why additional support through foundation grants and corporate and individual donors is critical to our ability to serve individuals and families who need our services. **We hope you will continue to join us in support of our important work.** Because of your support, our participants can continue to meet developmental milestones, find dream jobs they love, live independently, and so much more. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Kenan J. Sklenar
President/CEO



Joseph Guariano
Chair, Board of Directors



8
REACH

Anticipating
the opening
of our 8th
location in
2023!

Community Impact Report

2022 brought us many reasons to be proud of the work at Easterseals!!

Unprecedented Accreditation Results!

In the spring, Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore earned the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) after an exhaustive survey of reviewed services. CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body for health and human services that evaluates service quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services.

We are proud that our affiliate was among only 3% of CARF survey receiving no improvement recommendations!

CARF identified 31 specific strengths in awarding the highest accreditation level, breaking our record in previous surveys.



Bringing Inclusive Art to our Programs

We received the **"Cultural Access Award"** from Art-Reach of Philadelphia for the Artfulness program. This program allows our participants to work with local artists and brings true inclusion to our Easterseals adult day programs. Even during the pandemic shutdown, the Artfulness program continued its work virtually to reach a broader audience in all of Easterseals day programs in the state.

State Advocacy Success to Benefit Direct Support Staff

Years of advocacy have resulted in securing total funding this year of the **Michael McNesby Full Funding for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities Act**. This Act helps assure more livable wages to Direct Support Professionals who work tirelessly for the people we serve. We are very grateful to our elected leaders who supported this ground-breaking legislation in Delaware. In recognition of our advocacy at the state level, National Easterseals President Kendra Davenport presented our President/CEO Ken Sklenar with the **"National Network Summit Affiliate Award for Advocacy."**



Community Impact Report

Isn't It Time to Bring Inclusion to Your Workplace?

When **Beebe Healthcare** was looking for employees who would be dependable, hard-working, and could work independently, they turned to the Easterseals Supported

Employment program and the outstanding workers with disabilities that are a part of it. Thanks to that critical decision, Erin and her twins, Dontasia and Donnisha, are earning competitive wages as a vital part of the team at Beebe. They joined the team as **Environmental Service Technicians** and have blossomed in their roles, ensuring the hospital is supplied with clean medical linens.

"Supported employees are some of the best employees," said Iris Verdi, Director of Environmental Services. "They are all-star performers and hard workers with tremendous work ethic. The work they do is important."

Easterseals Supported Employment gives adults with intellectual disabilities a chance to experience the community through individualized employment. The program matches participants with jobs in local businesses so they can earn competitive wages with the assistance of job coaching and training. **Easterseals Employment Specialists** provide ongoing individualized training and coaching to ensure long-term success on the job.

Easterseals Supported Employees, photographed here with their Beebe supervisors, love their jobs at Beebe. Photographed are (l to r) Iris Verdi, Director Environmental and Linen Services; Supported Employee, Donnisha Eley; Jason Willis, Manager Environmental Services; Supported Employee, Erin Stevenson; Estephania Proano, Lead, Environmental Services; and Supported Employee, Dontasia Eley.

375

Number of
volunteers
donating 3,920
volunteer hours

TIME

Community Impact Report

Easterseals Adult Day Program: Engaging Seniors and Serving Their Caregivers

Tina was a very outgoing and social person who was active in the community. When Tina had a heart attack, it rocked the whole family. After Tina spent 13 minutes without oxygen, her daughter, Ashley, did not know what to expect.

When Tina woke up, they discovered she had a brain injury and low vision. Tina wanted to remain a part of the community, and that is when she found **Easterseals Adult Day program**.

"When I walked into Easterseals, I saw a lot of people, and it felt like family," Tina said. "You know I love Easterseals because I have been there five years!"

While Tina is enjoying painting, dancing, companionship, exercising, and other arts & crafts projects five days a week in the day program, Ashley can take online college classes, go to doctor's appointments, and care for her son. Ashley also takes advantage of **Easterseals Personal Attendant Services**. This program allows her to focus on caring for her mom and son, and the **Respite Program** allows her time to care for herself.

"I'm glad I can care for my family," Ashley says. "Having Easterseals services means a lot for my mental health. It helps to have time to myself. As a caregiver, you can get overwhelmed and overworked. It is important to have time to restore myself and unwind. After all, 'you can't pour from an empty cup.'"



Community Impact Report

Children's Therapy

Throughout 2022, our youngest participants continued to shine brightly in our **Children's Therapy services**. At Easterseals, each child has a unique plan matching their abilities and helping them master their goals.

When **Conor** started receiving therapy, he could barely hold up his head and needed support sitting up. Therapists worked diligently to help strengthen his core so he could become more independent. Later they worked with him to prepare him for school "by challenging him and pushing him to do his best." Conor is now thriving in school with his twin brother and friends!

"Big things come in small packages" is a phrase that comes to mind when three-year-old **Sloane** enters the room. She may be small due to her disability, but she has a big spirit and a bigger voice thanks to Easterseals speech and feeding therapy services.

Once a quiet child unaware of the world around him, **Landon** is now waving, clapping, saying phrases, counting, writing his alphabet and numbers, and playing with others. He has mastered many skills thanks to therapies at Easterseals and has added new goals to continue to help him blossom.

They may be our littlest participants, but each one is making significant strides towards independence, and we could not be more proud of their progress!

Community Impact Report

Easterseals/CAI Volleyball Challenge

The **41st Annual Easterseals/CAI Volleyball Challenge** was held over two days at two different locations: May 14, 2022 at William Penn High School and June 4, 2022 at Delaware State University. We were excited to expand the volleyball action to Kent County and engage new sponsors, players, and volunteers. **The two-day event raised over \$130,000!** This year's ambassador, **Stella**, is a beautiful, capable, and thriving three-year-old girl headed to preschool thanks to her indomitable spirit and the help of Easterseals Children's Therapy services.



Walk With Me Salisbury

The first annual **Walk With Me & Fun Run Salisbury** was held on Saturday, September 10, at the Salisbury Elks Lodge #817. **Over 100 walkers/runners attended the event, which raised over \$20,000 for its inaugural year!** It was a beautiful walk through the Salisbury Zoo and the City Park, with lunch hosted at the Salisbury Elks Lodge #817 following the walk/run. Our ambassador, **Conor**, is shining brightly in life thanks to his firm foundation with Easterseals Children's Therapy services.



Community Impact Report

Walk With Me Delmarva

The **10th Annual Walk With Me Delmarva** was held on a lovely fall afternoon on November 4, 2022 after being rescheduled due to a hurricane. This annual event raises much needed money for programs and services for people with disabilities in the Delmarva region. Tina, who participates in our adult day program for seniors, served as this year's ambassador and is Easterseals' biggest cheerleader! **Easterseals is thrilled to be able to support Tina and her daughter Ashley, who is her primary caregiver.**



2022 Annual Celebration

We hosted the **2022 Easterseals Annual Celebration** on October 13, 2022, at Winterthur Visitor Center and Copeland Hall. Easterseals participant families shared "Because of Easterseals" stories to a full auditorium, who were delighted to meet **Mikayla, Tina, Stella, and Carolyn**. The lifetime of services provided by Easterseals was highlighted through their stories of empowerment and overcoming adversity.



PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL MEMBERS

September 2021 through August 2022

A special thanks is offered to members of the Presidents' Council, Easterseals' premier giving club nationwide, who made leadership gifts to Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore of \$1,000 or more during the year.

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September 2021 through August 2022

A special thank you to our Corporate and Foundation partners who made gifts and/or gift-in-kind donations of \$1,000 or more during the year.

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Community Impact Report

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New Castle, DE

2,551 Persons Served in FY2022

Newark, DE

66 Persons Served in FY2022

Chestertown, MD

233 Persons Served in FY2022

Dover, DE

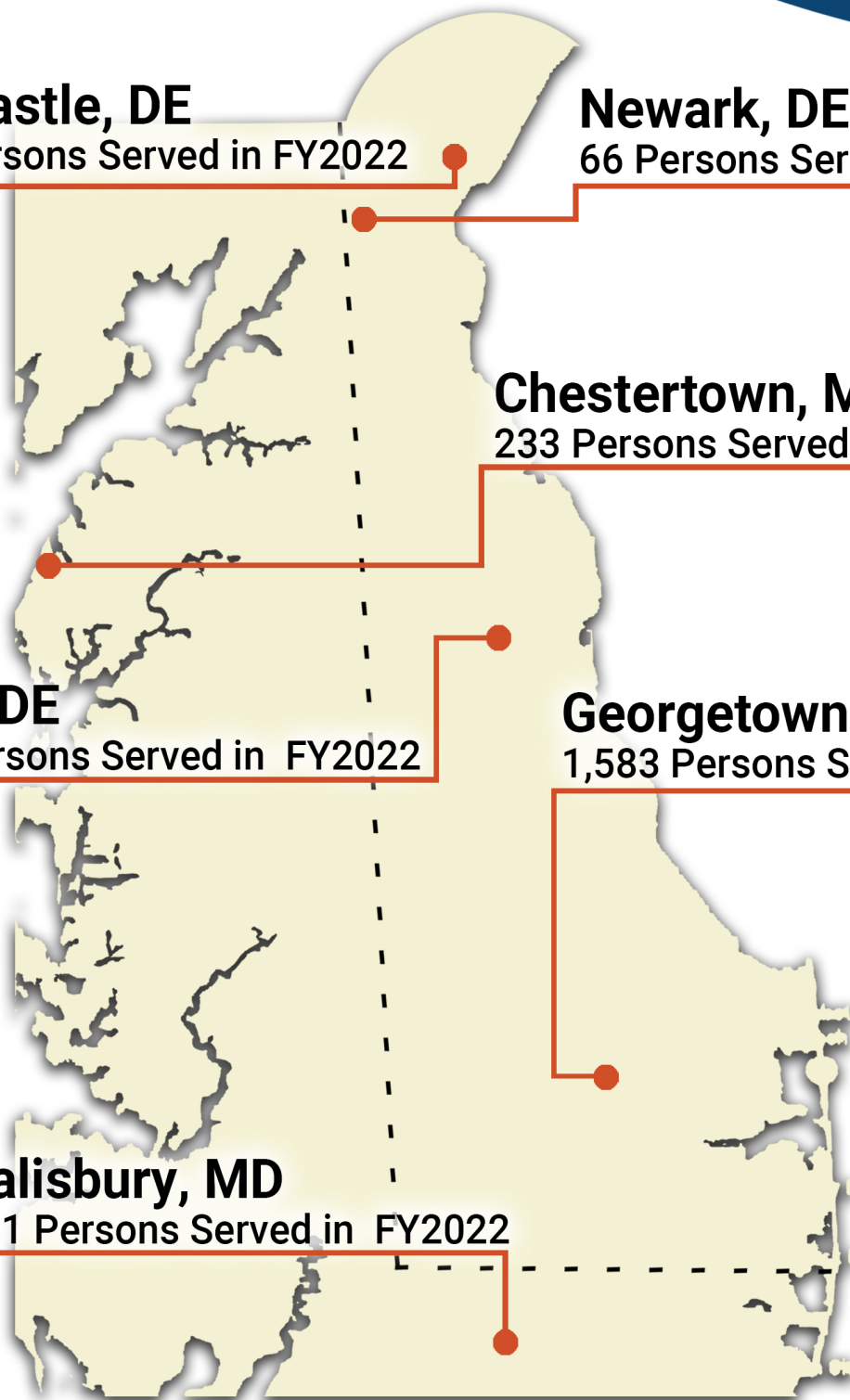
1,344 Persons Served in FY2022

Georgetown, DE

1,583 Persons Served in FY2022

Salisbury, MD

331 Persons Served in FY2022



In addition, Easterseals indirect services benefited 28,827 individuals through outreach activities such as education and training, information and referral services, and disability education awareness.

EASTERSEALS PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Children's Therapy Services

Year-Round Residential Respite
& Recreational Camping

Day Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

Adult Day Health Services

Services for Senior Citizens

Services for Caregivers

Assistive Technology Services

Personal Attendant Services

Supported Employment

Agency With Choice (Medicaid Waiver)

www.de.easterseals.com

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LIVE UNITED 



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Milford, DE 19963
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302-328-2747 fax

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302-324-4441 fax
302-324-4442 ttd
800-677-3800 toll free

NEWARK, DE

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Newark, DE 19702-3322
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302-709-0870 fax

SMYRNA, DE

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Smyrna, DE 19977
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410-546-4913 fax