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A Source of Support for the Whole Family



When Jon was born with an intellectual disability, his mom, Carla, knew she needed help, but she had no idea how Easter Seals would continue to be a source of support for many years.

"I can't speak enough about the impact that Easter Seals has had on our lives. They gave us the confidence early on to know that throughout Jon's life they would always be there," Carla says. "The early intervention program lays the foundation for the family and the child."

At 18 months, Jon started with Easter Seals Early Intervention program and received speech, occupational and physical therapy, giving him the tools he needed to enter school. Since then he has continued to receive speech therapy intermittently through Easter Seals.

Two years ago, Carla nervously decided to send Jon to Easter Seals Camp Fairlee Manor, an accessible camp for children and adults with disabilities. Although the family, including Jon, who kept repeating "home," was very reluctant the first time they dropped him off, they soon figured out that Fairlee Manor was a great fit for everyone. Now Jon repeats "camp" and counts down to those fun-filled days when he can enjoy his favorite activities like swimming, fishing and horseback riding.

While Jon is at camp having fun with friends, Carla and her family receive a much needed break from caregiving. "I enjoy the time to myself which I really don't get any other time of the year," Carla says. "My other sons and I can spend time together doing things we can't do with Jon. Respite is so important for people who deal with a child with a disability day in and out. There are not a lot of services for that in our area. It is great for him to be at camp among his peers."

Easter Seals offers a range of services, including children's therapies, assistive technology, day programs for adults with physical or intellectual disabilities and respite services for caregivers. To learn more about how Easter Seals helps children and adults with disabilities, call **1-800-677-3800** or visit www.de.easterseals.com.

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