

Growing Inclusion in Our Communities



Photos @ Rich Howe Photography



Community in Motion

Hundreds Rally for Bike and Run for the Kids Events

More than 1,000 people biked, walked, volunteered, ran or rolled between the Bike for the Kids (August 27) and Run for the Kids: Superhero Hustle (September 30). Both events boasted record-setting attendance and surpassed fundraising goals. Thanks to participants, sponsors and supporters, combined net proceeds from these events totaled more than \$103,000!

Many reached physical and fundraising milestones at these events. Parker, has worked hard in physical therapy to build strength and endurance. He proved his progress by cycling 25 miles with his Physical Therapist, Josephine. Adapted bike recipients, Abbie, Camden, Colton, Jayden, Maya and Ting led the children's pedal parade, joyfully riding their new bikes along Elgin's Fox River Trail.



For Tiffany Olson, the 20th Anniversary of the Run for the Kids was motivation to set a \$20,000 fundraising goal. Eleven years ago, the Olsons participated in their first Run for the Kids with daughter, Brinley, who was born with a partially formed brain, tethered spinal cord, extra fingers and toes, and low muscle tone. After witnessing children take their first steps at the finish line, the family was moved by the community they'd found at Easterseals and their hope for Brinley.

"I walked through the doors and I didn't feel alone. I felt like all of Brinley's challenges became her (Easterseals) team's challenges to overcome. And overcome they did. This girl who wasn't supposed to walk or talk did. In fact, she took her first steps here at Easterseals. Today, she ran across the finish line, just as she's done the last handful of years. And the poignancy of that moment is never lost on me." - Tiffany Olson

Since joining the Run for the Kids in 2011, The Brincredibles have become enthusiastic participants and top fundraisers. Their efforts have raised nearly \$150,000 to help empower other families at Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley. The Olsons are grateful to all the professionals at Easterseals who gave them support and belief that Brinley would reach greater independence.



Plan for 2024

Save the date and join us at these upcoming events.

SATURDAY | APRIL 20

Benefit Gala
Four Seasons Hotel Chicago

THURSDAY | MAY 9

Tee it Up for Easterseals
Top Golf, Naperville

SUNDAY | AUGUST 25

Bike for the Kids
Festival Park, Elgin

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 14

Photography Exhibition
College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 5

Run for the Kids: Superhero Hustle
Villa Park, IL

Learn more at:
eastersealsdvr.org/events

Say Cheese!

Our immense gratitude to the photographers and families involved in our annual Photography Exhibition. With event supporters, Constellation and College of DuPage, we held an unveiling of new photos from student and alumni photographers that will hang across our locations to welcome families and visitors.



Photo by Kristan Wozniak

How 708 Boards Make A Difference

708 Boards or Community Mental Health Boards have mobilized throughout our service area to help support mental health, disability, and substance abuse services for residents. Support from voters directs local tax dollars to causes like Easterseals who impact the overall health of the community.

Bloomington Township was the first township in DuPage County to form a Mental Health Board. Since its start in 2017, the Bloomington Township Mental Health Board has granted Easterseals \$340,000 to support pediatric rehabilitation therapies, programs, and mental health services. We are grateful for this transformational funding, and the example Bloomington Township has set for other local municipalities.

Our gratitude extends to all the 708 Community Mental Health Boards to fund Easterseals including, Bloomington Township, Dundee Township, Hanover Township, Milton Township, and St. Charles Mental Health Board.

Watch your local ballot for the opportunity to support Mental Health Board referendums in your area.

Confident Outcomes for Alex

Throughout his five years at Easterseals, Alex has developed his confidence through engaging in services like occupational therapy, focused therapy groups: Fun with Foods and Colorful Experiences, and Mental Health services. He has learned to face his fears, take risks, try new things, and find confidence in who he is!

"Alex is awesome! He loves encouraging others to do the same with his huge heart," said Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Natalie Donald.



Clinical Evidence & Excellence

The American Medical Association (AMA) recently passed Resolution 706, "Caring for Neurodivergent Patients," which fundamentally recognizes the diversity and personhood of individuals with autism. This resolution is a big step forward for the neurodiverse community and aligns with our philosophy that evidence-based efforts and neurodiversity-affirming care should be at the forefront of all medical services.

At Easterseals, our evidence-based services incorporate the benefits of DIR/Floortime (DIR®) into our occupational therapy, speech language and mental health support services for children with autism. All of our services are tailored to best reach a child's goals and to improve relationships at home, at school and in their community.

Our clinicians are continuous learners, receiving time for mentoring and further education to facilitate each child's development with child-led, play-based care. This includes specialties and certifications in:



Seven Easterseals therapists working on their DIR Floortime coursework with instructors

12

DIR Floortime
Certified Therapists



Advanced Training and
Expertise in Childhood
Apraxia of Speech



Lactation Specialist, Infant
Feeding & Handling

22

Advanced Sequential Oral
Sensory Approach Trained
Feeding Therapists

16

Neuro-Developmental
Treatment (NDT)
and NDT Baby

6

Board-Certified
Clinical
Specialists
in Pediatric
Physical
Therapy



Trauma Informed Care &
Traumatic Stress Studies



IDTA Growing Brain
Endorsement

Trainer of Nonviolent
Crisis Intervention
Methods

Yoga Certified Teacher &
2 International Schroth
3D Scoliosis Trained
Therapists

THANKS TO

Todd & Libby
Rieke

KNIGHT
Electronics, Inc.



Cairy & Tom
Brown

WAYNE
WISE
Wellness
Fund

WESTERN
EXPRESS

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Old World
QUALITY FOODS

& Friends of Easterseals

Katten

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We are proud to support **Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley**.
Thank you for all you do to improve the lives of those with disabilities
and the families who love and care for them.

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DONATIONS WILL BE DOUBLED!



#GIVING TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

Help us raise \$200,000 in 24 hours!



Get ready for the giving season and follow
along @eastersealsdfvr to learn more
about how you can show up for children
like Autumn this November 28.

GET INVOLVED

Everyone has something to give and
every act of generosity counts (x2!)

Make plans to share your Easterseals story
and help spread the word.

Contact Kelly at kmoreland@eastersealsdfvr.org or
visit eastersealsdfvr.org/givingtuesday to learn more.



New Giving Opportunity For Federal Employees or Retirees

You can give through payroll deduction or annuity, giving a little each pay period and supporting our mission all year long. The CFC is the annual opportunity for members of the Federal community to support charities they care about through monetary and volunteer contributions. It is an employee-focused, cost-efficient, federally-regulated program aimed at raising the greatest amount possible for participating charities.

Use our charity code 95487 to give.



Our Lee A. Daniels Center in Naperville recently relocated a half-mile north to **1555 Bond Street, Suite 115.**
We look forward to welcoming you!

Outstanding pediatric services
to help every child and their
family thrive.

Call 630.282.2022
for evaluations or to
schedule an appointment.

Donate

Call 630.261.6240 or visit
eastersealsdfvr.org/donate

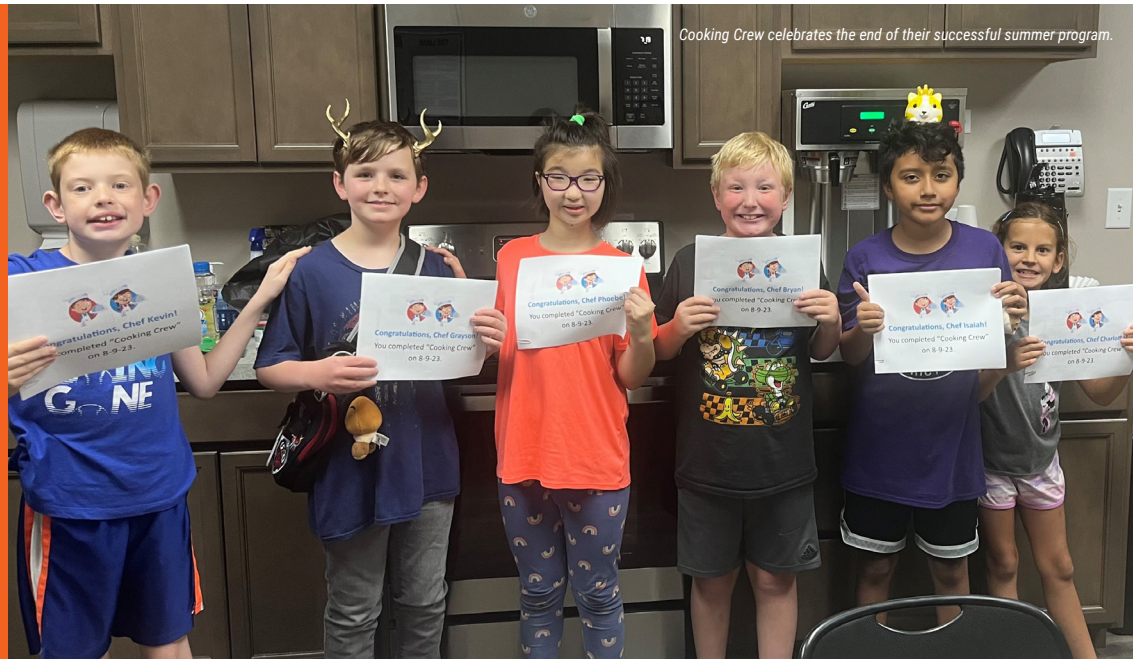
Volunteering

Call 630.282.2029 for individual,
corporate and group opportunities.

Villa Park | Naperville | Elgin
630.620.4433 | 630.357.9699 | 847.742.3264



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Cooking Crew celebrates the end of their successful summer program.

Focused Therapy Programs

Learn more about our quarterly focused therapy programs for all ages including First Friendships, Crafty Kids, Fun with Food, Build Your Muscles, TAAP, Mighty Movers, Cooking Crew, and Young Yogis.

Contact us at focusedtherapy@eastersealsdfvr.org or 630.357.9699 to register or to ask questions.