



Photo @ Janine Orihuela

Finding A Center of Excellence

Brynn is a happy and playful two-year-old who enjoys animals, cheese, time with her family, and new independence at local parks. At her one-year-old well visit, Brynn's pediatrician discussed referring for [physical therapy](#) to address Brynn's low muscle tone (hypotonia). Upon receiving that news, her mother, Lisa said,

"I asked for a referral to Easterseals right away. It was the only place I wanted her to go because it is a center of excellence."

Before services at Easterseals, Brynn scooted, but did not walk, crawl or pull herself up to stand. Now, she has caught up in many areas and is performing age-appropriate activities like squatting and jumping. Her family is thankful for their experience with Easterseals clinicians who they describe as dedicated, knowledgeable and motivating. Brynn especially enjoys the many fun activities with her physical therapist, Jenna, and shouts her name eagerly as soon as they turn into the Easterseals parking lot.

Lisa shares, "Starting physical therapy services made a big impact. Most people who encounter Brynn today would not know she receives therapy services. I think that is partially because of the excellent therapy she's received. She's catching up to her peers."

FALL FEATURES

Golfing for a Cause

Cold and rainy weather didn't stop 120 golfers from taking to the course on September 12. Painters' District Council #14 selected Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley as the beneficiary of their 2022 Painters and Allied Trades Union golf outing. For four years this event has supported causes with meaningful connections to the council's members. We extend our thanks to all of the contributors who helped to raise more than \$60,000 for Easterseals!

Powerful Photography Partnership

On September 10, the College of DuPage (COD) welcomed the [23rd Annual Photography Exhibition](#). With immense gratitude to the photographers and families involved, along with event supporters, Constellation, the JCS Arts, Health and Education - a Fund of DuPage Foundation, and COD, we held an incredible unveiling of new photos from student and alumni photographers that will hang across our locations to welcome families and visitors.

Superheroes Unite on October 1

Thank you to all who walked, ran or rolled in our [Run for the Kids: Superhero Hustle!](#) The 5K Run/2-Mile Walk raised more than \$40,000 (net). Special Thanks to all our sponsors, fundraisers and volunteers for their superhero efforts.

Photos @ Rich Howe Photography



Mental Health Spaces for Care and Play

Our [mental health and family support services](#) department has grown to include a psychologist, care coordinator and six social workers. The team has created new therapy spaces designed around many different modalities of play. Each space features toys for imaginative play, board games and art supplies to support child-led and play-based sessions. A special art room offers slime recipes, crafts and a museum spot to share and celebrate new creations. For children who need help with regulation, there are sensory spaces with swings and mats along with reading nooks and weighted blankets.

These unique spaces facilitate connections through fun and exploration. By keying into each child's interests, families are experiencing positive outcomes.



Thank you Healthy Driven Edward-Elmhurst Health

We want to thank Healthy Driven Edward-Elmhurst Health, for their generous funding to support our Mental Health services. We are honored to be among 14 local organizations that are working with Edward-Elmhurst Health to enhance health equity, social determinants of health and community economic security. This support allows us to expand our mental health and family services team to help more children with disabilities and their families as well as children with anxiety, depression, ADHD, and/or mood dysregulation learn new coping skills.

SUMMER WRAP UP

100%

Included

100%

Empowered

Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley believes in a future where every child is 100% included and 100% empowered. Donors, families and staff went all in for Easterseals this summer and demonstrated their full commitment to our programs and activities that are helping children thrive.

Nearly 100% of families recognize outcomes at Easterseals:

98.13%

of families are satisfied with services

98.6%

report that Easterseals therapies have resulted in positive change for their child

According to 2022 Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley family survey results

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED



Hundreds of cyclists participated in the [7th Annual Bike for the Kids along Elgin's Fox River Trail](#) on August 28. Riders chose from 12, 25 and 50 mile routes that day; some completing a 100-mile challenge. Alex was one of three adapted bike recipients whose new wheels came through the fundraising efforts of the event's top teams. For Alex and his family, the bike was an incredible form of independence.



Giving it our All

Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley successfully completed the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) re-accreditation process this summer. For more than 40 years, Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley has achieved the highest possible recognition from CARF, acknowledging our commitment to quality services and continual improvement.

The Neuro-Developmental Treatment Association (NDTA) also renewed our designation as a Neuro-Developmental Treatment Center of Excellence. Our team includes 18 therapists certified in this highly specialized treatment of infants and children with cerebral palsy and other neurological impairments. We are proud to support the advanced clinical education that distinguishes Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley as one of only seven NDTA Centers of Excellence in the country.

THANKS TO

Todd & Libby
Rieke



Pete & Danielle
Tomczak



Katten



DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED

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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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GIVING SEASON AHEAD!

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON: NOVEMBER 29, 2022



Donations on Giving Tuesday will be doubled until we reach our \$150,000 goal!

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@eastersealsdvr.org or visit eastersealsdvr.org/givingtuesday to learn more.

Making Gains: Disability, Equity, Inclusion & Access

Team up with Easterseals to further DEI&A in our communities. Our Easterseals team leads interactive presentations to support awareness, understanding and appreciation for the disabled community. Connect to learn more about our educational sessions for:

Employee Resource Groups
Scout Troops

Community Organizations
Sports Teams

Faith Groups
School Assemblies

In support of Disability Pride Month, Boyd Group, hosted Easterseals to facilitate a webinar and virtual discussion about disability with their employees nationwide.

"It was an honor to have Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley join us for a discussion around Disability Inclusion. The team at Easterseals customized a message for our workforce and industry. We learned about the importance of the words we use and how to effectively interact, hire, and develop people with disabilities. Hats off to the team at Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley for providing an engaging and informative session!"

– Annie Karrick, Talent Manager, Boyd Group



Disabilities and Relationships, part of Easterseals' new children's book series is a great gift this holiday season. Use code **EASTERSEALS25** for a 25% discount at: <https://bit.ly/jaxonbook>

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

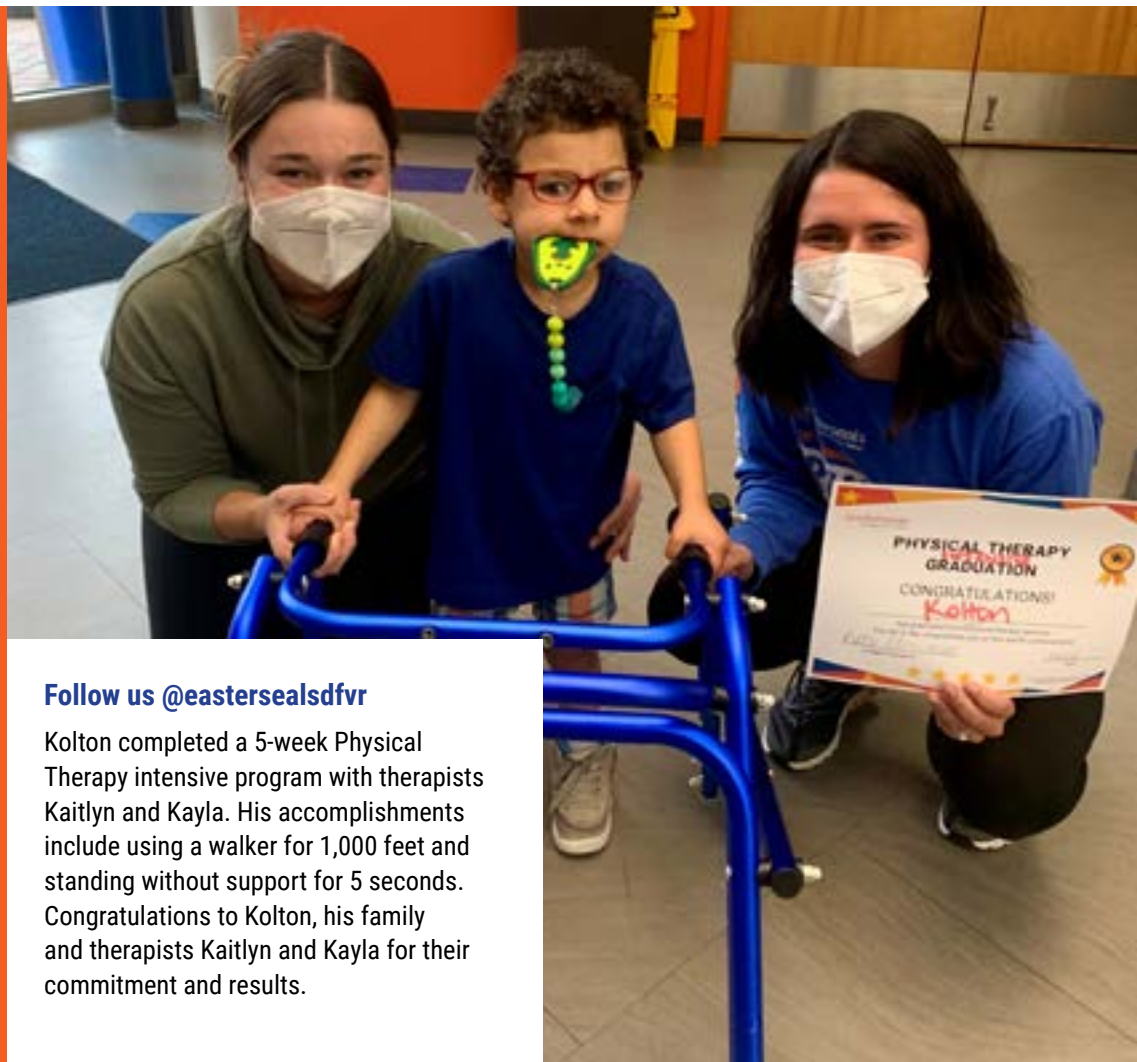
Call 630.282.2029 for individual, corporate and group opportunities.

Villa Park | Naperville | Elgin

630.620.4433 | 630.357.9699 | 847.742.3264



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Kolton completed a 5-week Physical Therapy intensive program with therapists Kaitlyn and Kayla. His accomplishments include using a walker for 1,000 feet and standing without support for 5 seconds. Congratulations to Kolton, his family and therapists Kaitlyn and Kayla for their commitment and results.