



© Photo: Molly Gardner

# Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley Fiscal Year 2021 Impact Report

Together, we are providing safe, innovative, future-focused therapies to children with developmental delays and disabilities.

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630.620.4433

VILLA PARK | NAPERVILLE | ELGIN

Internationally recognized:



September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021

Steadfast health and safety measures proved effective in our centers, and tele-therapy continued to reach families at home.



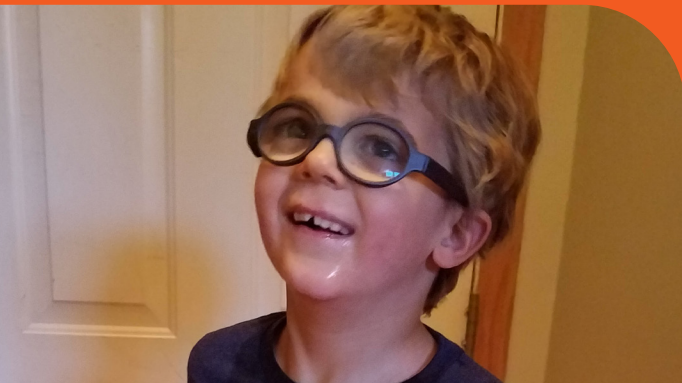
FY21 Therapy Delivery

- 45% tele-therapy
- 55% in-center

Six-year-old Benjamin spent the year alternating between weekly tele-therapy and in-person visits to Easterseals where he worked on taking steps with a walker. This blended therapy model was key to his development during the pandemic. Tele-therapy helped him build skills at home, like getting in and out of bed himself. At the same time, visits to Easterseals provided hands-on physical therapy. The combination helped him learn to walk with the aid of a specialized gait-trainer.

“When he started therapies, he couldn’t walk down the hall and back, but now he just keeps going...”

- Meghan, Benjamin's Mom



Dear Friends,

Unprecedented. Challenging. Uncertain. These words were widely used in conversations throughout 2021. They described the staggering impact the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have on businesses, schools, gatherings and non-profit organizations like ours.

However, in a year that required a great deal of rethinking, I prefer to attach these words to the incredible progress and positive outcomes we experienced at Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley.

- **Friends like you demonstrated *unprecedented support*** that kept our services strong. Donations helped support 40,314 hours of pediatric therapies.
- **We found opportunities to help families overcome *challenges*** by growing our mental health services and launching a new health equity initiative.
- **Our team turned *uncertainty into possibility*** for 2,621 infants, children and adults with developmental delays and disabilities by helping them achieve their goals and meet new milestones.

Our incredible community of partners, donors, volunteers and friends have shown up for us time and time again. Your generosity is bolstered by our Board’s solid leadership and our staff’s deep commitment to the children and families we serve. Together we are reimagining a future where every child can thrive.



*Theresa*

Theresa Forthofer

President & CEO



# Family-Centered Support

Responded to a  
**27% increase in demand**  
for social work support



## Expanded Mental Health Services

Family support is as integral to our services as the therapies we provide. Our network of parent liaisons and social workers have always been at the ready to help navigate challenges and concerns, but the pandemic elevated families' need for support. We furthered our commitment to building healthy families by expanding our comprehensive mental health services.

We welcomed licensed clinical social worker, Brittany Wilkie, as Director of Social Services and bilingual psychologist, Citlaly Gonzalez. They add their respective expertise in trauma-informed care and autism to our already strong team of mental health clinicians.

© Photo: Lauren Sims



## Attuned to Families' Needs

An investment in specialized training enabled the first phase of Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN) Training. This approach, in partnership with the Erikson Institute, is intended to build collaborative parent-provider relationships that lead to more effective therapy outcomes. The ability to read parents' cues and attune to their needs guides the therapist to the most appropriate and empathetic response.

Representatives from our occupational therapy and social work team participated in a monthly training program ahead of their own reflective supervision. They're helping to strengthen parent/child connections by offering new ways to communicate and interact – particularly in challenging situations. FAN training will extend to all our clinicians, parent liaisons and social workers in FY2022 to help keep children and their families emotionally strong.

© Photo: Joel Weigand



**40,314** HOURS  
OF  
**INDIVIDUALIZED  
THERAPY PROVIDED**

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech-Language & Assistive Technology Therapy
- Audiology
- Nutrition Therapy
- Developmental Therapy
- Social Work

**138** FAMILIES  
PARTICIPATED  
IN SPECIALIZED CLINICS

- Autism Diagnostic Clinic
- Medical Diagnostic Clinic
- Feeding Clinic
- Positioning & Mobility Clinic
- Vision Clinic



# Centering Equity & Inclusion

Our main goal is to ensure that all people, no matter what background or ability, are 100% included and 100% empowered. Our advocacy extends to people affected by disabilities who also identify with other underrepresented groups and minorities.

## Efforts to address systemic inequities in 2021 included:

### The Pediatric Health Equity Initiative

Easterseals established the Pediatric Health Equity Initiative to help end racial disparities in healthcare. CDC research recognized a three year delay in the time it took to identify and support Black families' concerns about their child's development. They were less likely to be diagnosed at an early age, resulting in the need for longer and more intensive therapies. Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley was one of three affiliates to receive a generous grant from Abbott Laboratories to help close this gap. This investment helped us reach more pediatricians, school districts and community organizations. In year one, we were successful in screening and/or evaluating 171 families and connecting them to appropriate services.

*The Pediatric Health Equity Initiative, in partnership with the Abbott Fund, made it possible to address developmental concerns shared by David's caregivers and his pediatrician. Complications at birth contributed to sensory challenges, and at age three he was experiencing sleep interruptions and difficulty managing his emotions. A thorough evaluation identified the need for weekly occupational therapy. Soon after, David's ability to express his feelings had improved and his caregiver felt empowered to enact strategies at home.*

### A Voice for Women & Girls

Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley President & CEO, Theresa Forthofer, is proud to serve on the Governor's Council for Women and Girls. She joins female leaders across the state who advise on policy issues impacting women and girls in Illinois, including those with disabilities. She was identified by the Health and Healthcare Committee of the Council as an "exemplary leader, representing the voices of under-resourced communities who deserve unrestricted access to healthcare." As a participant in the group's Health Equity Summit, she brought attention to healthcare barriers that disproportionately impact women and girls with disabilities. Her advocacy helps to support the Committee's vision of equitable healthcare and optimal health for every woman and girl in Illinois.



PROVIDED  
**1,501** FREE ONLINE  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
SCREENINGS TO  
CHILDREN ACROSS **47**  
COMMUNITIES

[askeasterseals.com](http://askeasterseals.com)

Many early childhood programs were disrupted by the pandemic. We responded quickly to ensure that children didn't go without developmental and social-emotional screenings. In addition to the online Ages & Stages Questionnaire, we were the only organization in DuPage County to offer live virtual assessments with a developmental therapist. These were utilized by parents, caregivers, and DCFS case managers to help track milestones, assess behavior challenges and identify potential delays.

Easterseals experts also hosted a webinar: *Supporting Child Development in a Pandemic* in partnership with University of Chicago developmental pediatrician, Dr. Peter J. Smith.



As one of the few pediatric therapy providers that accepts Medicaid, we provide critical therapies to children in need.

**Funded therapies for 309 families facing financial challenges or hardships.**



### Support for Working Parents

The Lily Garden provided safe and inclusive childcare to 50 infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

## Leadership & Expertise

### FY21 Board of Directors

**Craig Boroughf** | Board Chair | Senior Director of Transportation & Indirect Sourcing, United States Gypsum Company

**Kristen Barfield** | Partner, Change for Blance

**Thomas Brown** | Retired Chief Financial Officer, RLI Corp | Board Member, Old National Bancorp | Board Member, James River Group Holdings, Ltd.

**Amy Green** | Managing Director and Senior Relationship Manager, CIBC Private Wealth Management

**Bryan Hanson** | Executive Vice President & Chief Generation Officer, Constellation

**Andy Koziarski** | President, Marketplace Brands

**Lynn Krizic** | Retired School Superintendent

**Derek Ladgenski** | Partner, Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLP

**Dmitriy Lampert** | Partner, Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLP

**Tom Lettenberger** | Senior Portfolio Manager, Columbia Threadneedle Investments

**Roger McDougal** | Senior Vice President/Senior Managing Director, Northern Trust

**Christy Noland** | Attorney

**Chad Olson** | Director of State Government Affairs, American Dental Association

**Deb Piscola** | Senior Director of Government Affairs, Comcast

**Blake Pontius** | Director of Sustainable Investing, William Blair Investment Management LLC

**Allison Wyler** | President, Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital

### President & CEO

**Theresa Forthofer**

### Clinical Leadership



**Maureen Karwowski**

OTR/L, Vice President of Clinical Services

As both an accomplished occupational therapist and leader within the organization, Maureen Karwowski offers knowledge and guidance to a team of 65 clinicians. Her passionate teaching of the DIR (Developmental, Individual Difference, Relationship-Based) Model motivated four Easterseals therapists to achieve this highly specialized certification in FY21. The DIRfloortime application supports children with Autism or other sensory needs by involving parents in play-based activities driven by the child's natural interests.

"The simplest play can have the most beautiful interactions and bonding experiences for the parent and child."

- Occupational Therapist, Kelly Nesbitt, describing DIR

### Clinical Directors

**Cindy Baranoski, MS, RDN, LDN**  
Manager of Nutrition

**Laura Hellier, PT**  
Director of Physical Therapy

**Valerie Heneghan, MS, CCC-SLP**  
Director of Speech-Language,  
Feeding & Assistive Technology

**Melissa Jimenez**  
Director, Lily Garden Child Care Center

**Andrea Sagel, MS, OTR/L**  
Director of Occupational & Developmental Therapy

**Karen Voels Malesevic, Aud, CCC-A**  
Manager of Audiology

**Brittany Wilkie, LCSW**  
Director of Social Services

# 12 YEARS

## AVERAGE TENURE OF



EASTERSEALS DUPAGE & FOX  
VALLEY STAFF MEMBER

# MORE THAN 200

## CLINICIANS ACROSS THE

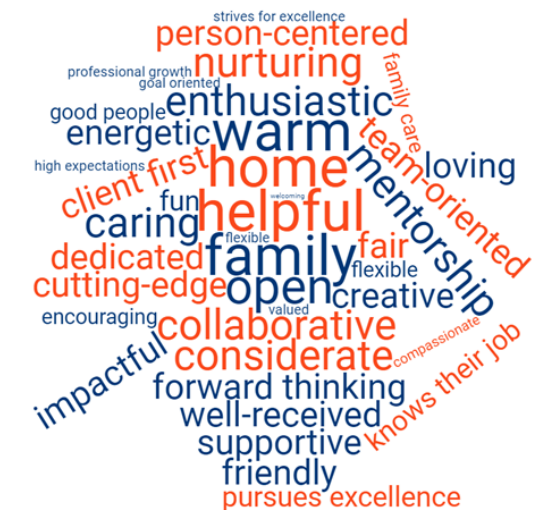
# GLOBE

## ATTENDED OUR VIRTUAL

## CONTINUING EDUCATION WEBINARS

Words staff used to describe

Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley:



according to a staff culture survey

## Fiscal Year 2021:

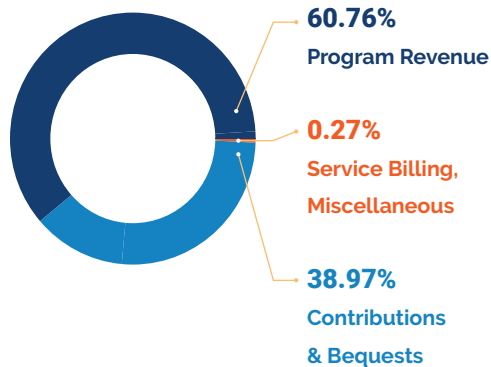
### Statement of Financial Position

September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

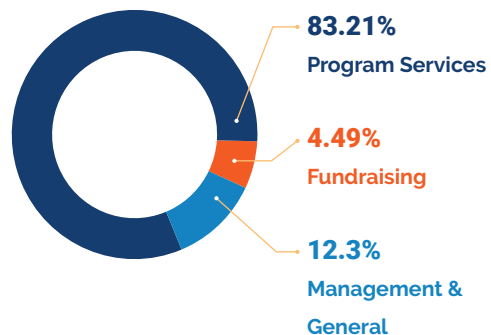
This condensed financial summary has been prepared by Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley.

Complete financial statements including notes and the independent auditor's report of Wipfli, LLC are available upon request. A complete donor list is also available upon request.

### Revenues



### Expenses



Assets	2021	2020
Cash	\$2,897,139	\$2,674,983
Investments	\$ 1,960,647	\$796,537
Receivables, Net	\$731,714	\$765,289
Other Assets	\$176,357	\$183,537
Land, Building & Equipment, Net	\$2,859,703	\$2,886,563
Total Assets	\$8,625,560	\$7,306,909

### Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities	\$696,560	\$875,166
Long Term Debt	\$1,291,478	\$2,315,927
Total Liabilities	\$1,988,038	\$3,191,093
Total Net Assets	\$6,637,522	\$4,115,816
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$8,625,560	\$7,306,909

### Revenues

Contributions & Bequests	\$3,268,625	\$1,985,064
Program Revenue	\$5,097,277	\$5,608,099
Service Billing Revenue	\$14,315	\$13,012
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$8,294	\$18,062
Total Revenue	\$8,388,511	\$7,624,237

### Expenses

Program Services	\$6,494,591	\$6,897,580
Management & General	\$959,778	\$972,940
Fundraising	\$350,957	\$435,632
Total Expenses	\$7,805,326	\$8,306,152
Other Revenue (Expense)	\$1,938,521	\$70,732
Change in Net Assets	\$2,521,706	(611,183)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$4,115,816	\$4,726,999
Net Assets at End of Year	\$6,637,522	\$4,115,816

IMPACT

INTEREST

INVESTMENT

## Building for the Future

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted our services and threatened our financial security. Without our community's generous response, a PPP loan and CARES Act funding, the impact would have been insurmountable. Long-time donors and Easterseals parents, Jim and Jane Miller, pledged a \$1 million endowment gift to protect us from future crises.

We launched an endowment campaign to match their gift by the end of 2023. Others were quick to join them. The endowment ensures we have the financial footing to respond to the evolving needs of the children we serve – today and in the future.

"I have always felt that what was needed was a financial security blanket that would allow freedom to continue in the face of challenges. As a result, we have committed to getting the endowment fund started and will continue to support its growth.

- Jim Miller