



FISCAL YEAR 2023 **IMPACT REPORT**

We believe every
child deserves to
thrive in an inclusive
community.

VILLA PARK | NAPERVILLE | ELGIN

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Dear Friends,

Curiosity is a core trait of everyone **who** is part of Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley. This is a place **where** families turn for answers, and inquisitive therapists respond. We know **how** to help children gain new skills, and we celebrate with them **when** they achieve their goals.

Our collective curiosity drives us to learn more, explore new ideas, and discover the potential of every child we serve. Thank you for joining in our commitment to ensure children with disabilities and their families are empowered. They are the reason **why** we do what we do.

We are led by a solution-driven Board of Directors and backed by a generous community that asks **what** they can do to help. We are proud to report on our progress and share your impact.



Theresa

Theresa Forthofer

President & CEO



© Rebecca Morrison

WHO?

Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley served **2,901 infants, children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities** in 2023.

WHAT?

47,104 hours of pediatric therapies

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

5 Specialized Clinics utilized by **193 families**

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

One-of-a-kind inclusive childcare for infants, toddlers and preschoolers with and without disabilities.



© Jack Kreger

WHEN?

We provide services from infancy through childhood and into early adulthood. Our goal is for children to start therapies as early as possible, in their most formative phase of development.

Our free online screening at [askeasterseals.com](https://www.askeasterseals.com) helps parents and caregivers recognize if their baby or toddler is meeting age-appropriate milestones.

WHERE?

We reach families across **168 different communities** throughout west suburban Chicagoland. Our pediatric therapy centers are in Villa Park, Naperville and Elgin, and we serve children in their homes through tele-therapy and Early Intervention.



© Thomas Haslett

WHY?

1 in 6 children are impacted by disability. Therapy services help children reach their goals and meet new milestones.

We are the only local therapy provider that accepts all insurance plans and Medicaid because **we believe every child deserves to thrive in an inclusive community.**

HOW?

Play-based therapy sessions are tailored to a child's individual needs and interests. Our therapists are constantly earning new credentials and utilizing the latest innovations and equipment. Their advanced knowledge and clinical expertise are widely recognized and well-respected.

Donations make it possible to serve hundreds of families in our community, regardless of their income level or insurance plan.

Every milestone is significant. These are just some of the outcomes we celebrated in 2023.

In the most recent family survey, **98.6%** of families indicated that therapy services at Easterseals resulted in positive change for their child.



Scarlett crossed the monkey bars.



Maggie took her first steps.



Ethan navigated a flight of stairs.



Owen played a game with his sister.



Rayyan joined a soccer team.

Advocating for Early Childhood Services

We are grateful for community partners who rally behind services and support for children with disabilities. We join local advocates who are responding to issues that impact the disabled community.

President and CEO, Theresa Forthofer, was invited to join Region 19 - DuPage County Action Council as part of Birth to Five Illinois.

As a member of this statewide council, she is helping guide policies and funding priorities to build and sustain inclusive, high-quality early childhood services for children and families in Illinois.



Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley partnered with Ray Graham Association, Little Friends, and Association for Individual Development as hosts of a legislative breakfast. State legislators attended to discuss critical issues faced by children and adults with disabilities in Illinois. Parent, Meg Navolio introduced state representatives to her son, Nolan, and demonstrated how quality Early Intervention services through Easterseals helped him learn to walk.

Vice President of Clinical Services, Maureen Karwowski, took to the floor of the State Capitol to testify on the positive impact of statewide Early Intervention services for babies and toddlers in Illinois. She added her voice as a member of the Joint Committee on Early Childhood where she advocates for greater support of early childhood services and providers.

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 that impact the overall health of the community. In 2023, Milton and Dundee Townships added their support to the list of Mental Health Boards that support Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley, which also includes Bloomingdale Township, Hanover Township, and the St. Charles Mental Health Board.

Board and staff collaborated in a thoughtful strategic planning process that will guide the organization through 2025. The resulting goals build on our excellence and quality to ensure strong outcomes for families. In year one we demonstrated progress in all areas and are proud to share these notable results:

Strategic Priorities

Progress



Receive a 3-year accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)



Achieved the highest possible international recognition for our quality services

Implement Scoliosis Treatment



Two physical therapists specially certified in the International Schroth 3D Method are providing exercise-based treatment to children with scoliosis.

Serve more children in our Autism Diagnostic Clinic

Autism remains one of the fastest growing developmental disorders in the country. Autism can be identified in children as young as age two, but long waitlists across providers often prevent early diagnosis.



Supported 33 families through the diagnostic process that includes a comprehensive assessment by a clinical psychologist, occupational therapist, and speech-language pathologist

Increase Early Intervention services

The earlier a developmental delay is identified and addressed, the greater the outcomes. Our team includes 71 Early Intervention credentialed therapists who provide in-home services for 0 to 3-year-olds in Illinois.



Served 1,281 infants and toddlers who qualify for the state's Early Intervention services – an increase of 8.65% over last year



Extend Average Length of Employee Service

✔ 31% of Easterseals employees celebrated service anniversaries of 6+ years in 2023.

A Climate and Belonging Survey led by the Perception Institute reported that 97% of staff believe that Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley is working to make sure that staff of all identities experience equity and belonging.



Gina Coulter
Vice President of Human Resources and Employee Engagement

Grow the Endowment Fund

The endowment provides a financial foothold for future security of Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley.

✔ We ended the fiscal year 74% of the way toward matching the \$1MM lead gift to our Endowment Fund.

Continue to grow Mental Health Services

✔ Provided social work services to 35% more children in 2023

Build Board Post-Service Engagement

✔ Board Alumni reunited for a reception at Ruth Lake Country Club to reconnect and catch up on the latest at Easterseals.

Engage New Corporate Partners

✔ Major corporations and local businesses supported as volunteers, event sponsors and grant funders.

Grow Social Media Following

✔ We gained followers across platforms, keeping more people connected to our content @eastersealsdfvr

📘 ↑ 9% 📷 ↑ 19.7% 🌐 ↑ 8.6%



Roger McDougal, Bob Jank, Steve Owens and Kelly Taira were among the past Board Members who attended a June reception.

Making Change



Ady and Lily participate in physical therapy with Easterseals therapist, Joanne Pygon.

Empowering Outcomes

Twin sisters, Lily & Addy, were born joined at the chest. They spent nearly 11 months at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia before their medical team felt they were ready to undergo the 10-hour surgery that successfully separated their shared liver, diaphragm, chest and abdominal wall. Two months later they flew home to Chicago where doctors at Lurie's Children's Hospital were quick to recommend Easterseals for the girls' therapeutic care.

A team of nine Easterseals therapists were honored as the 2023 Changemakers for the powerful impact they made on these determined little girls. These clinicians provided 646 hours of occupational, physical, speech, and nutrition therapy to Lily and Addy. Uncounted are the hours of additional education and collaboration that went into ensuring the best possible outcomes for the girls. *Cindy Baranoski, Jenna Georgacakis-Nurre, Laura Hellier, Valerie Heneghan, Linda Merry, Joanna Osos, Jenny Press, Joanne Pygon and Connie Swan* demonstrate a commitment to excellence that is a hallmark of the Easterseals team. The twins' parents credit these Changemakers with providing the peace of mind that comes from having trusted experts supporting their daughters' development.

[Click to view the Changemakers' impact on Addy and Lily.](#)



2023 Changemakers

The Alviti Changemaker honor was established in 2020 and named for physical therapist, Jim Alviti. It acknowledges individuals who are enacting meaningful change in disability awareness and services. It was presented at our sold out 45th Annual Benefit Gala on April 15, 2023.



Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley is nationally recognized as a Neurodevelopmental Treatment Center of Excellence.

Sharing Expertise

Maureen Karwowski was one of the renowned experts to present at Profectum's 2023 International Winter Conference – a gathering of more than 400 clinicians from around the world. She led Masterclass Session: A Sensory Affective Approach to Supporting Regulation and Visual-Spatial Skills. Maureen was selected for her knowledge as a DIRFloortime trainer. She brings this play-based therapeutic approach for children with Autism or other sensory needs to Easterseals and shares her skills with other occupational therapists worldwide.



Maureen Karwowski, OTR/L

Vice President of Clinical Services

Advancing Skills

Five physical therapists joined the ranks of Board Certified Pediatric Clinical Specialists at Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley. Congratulations to physical therapists, Laura Basi, Laura Donatello, Jenna Georgacakis-Nurre, Wendy Lirgameris, and Alyson Wagner. They each completed more than 2,000 hours of direct patient care and passed a written examination demonstrating their advanced knowledge and clinical skills.

Supporting Families

We started the year welcoming Annemarie LeCompte as our Care Coordinator. This new position, made possible by Endeavor Health's Community Investment Fund, is part of our robust Mental Health & Family Support department. Annemarie's background in behavioral science, psychology, and organizational leadership helps support parents and caregivers through their unique experiences.

All families at Easterseals have access to our care coordinator who helps navigate resources and form connections. In her first year, Annemarie coordinated care for more than 300 families, developed a Parent Connection group, and facilitated webinar series on IEP and transition planning.

Strong Leadership

FY23 Board of Directors

Craig Boroughf | Board Chair

Senior Director of Transportation & Indirect Sourcing
United States Gypsum Company

Kristen Barnfield | Partner & Co-Owner, Change for Balance

Terri Connor Brankin

Retired Nonprofit Fundraising and Communications
Executive

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

Dr. Matthew J. Bueche | Attending Physician
Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine
Lurie Children's Hospital

Amy Green | Managing Director & Sr. Relationship Manager
CIBC Private Wealth Management

Bryan Hanson

Executive Vice President & Chief Generation Officer,
Constellation

Andy Koziarski | President, Marketplace Brands

Dr. Lynn Krizic | Retired School Superintendent

Wendy Kubista | Managing Director of Sales, UPS

Derek Ladgenski | Partner, Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLP

Dmitriy Lampert | Partner & Chief Operating Officer
Chicago Atlantic

Tom Lettenberger | Senior Portfolio Manager
Columbia Threadneedle Investments

John Merriman | Retired, Bank Treasury Management

Christy Noland | Attorney

Chad Olson | Director of State Government Affairs
American Dental Association

Debra Piscola | Senior Director of Government Affairs
Comcast

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

Allison Wylor | President, Central Chicagoland Area
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

Medical Advisory Board

Leading physicians share their expertise
and advise on special cases.

Christopher J. Bender, MD

Pediatric Specialist
Advent Health

Lauren Boyd, MD

Developmental-Behavioral Pediatric Specialist
Loyola University Medical Center

Matthew Bueche, MD

Attending Physician, Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine
Lurie Children's Hospital

Jennifer Hall, MD

Pediatric Specialist
DuPage Pediatrics

Carolyn Jones, MD

Pediatric Geneticist
Rush University Medical Practice

Larissa Pavone, MD

Pediatric Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Northwestern Medicine

Maribel Serrato, MD

Neuropsychologist
Advocate Medical Group

Christine H. Sajous, MD

Neonatologist
Loyola University Medical Center

Rita Yadava, MD

Pediatric Neurologist
Advocate Medical Group

Clinical Directors lead a team of 75 therapists and educators

Cindy Baranoski, MS, RDN, LDN

Manager of Nutrition

Kim DeLaurentis

Director, Lily Garden Child Care Center

Laura Hellier, PT

Director of Physical Therapy

Andrea Sagel, MS, OTR/L

Director of Occupational & Developmental Therapy

Mindy Vasilakopoulos, M.A. CCC-SLP/L

Director of Speech-Language, Feeding and Assistive Technology

Karyn Voels Malesevic, Aud, CCC-A

Manager of Audiology

Brittany Wilkie, LCSW

Director of Mental Health & Family Support

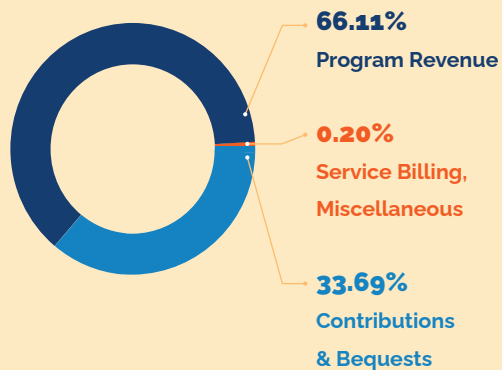
Dr. Matthew Bueche, member of the Board of Directors and Medical Advisory Board, rides with Easterseals therapists and supporters at the Bike for the Kids event in Elgin.



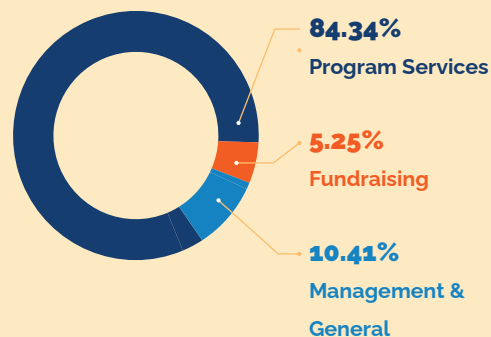
Fiscal Year 2023

Statement of Financial Position

Revenues



Expenses



¹ Includes forgiveness of SBA PPP Loan, Second Draw and CARES Act funds of \$1,375,328

² Represents recognition of operating leases as required by new lease accounting standard

Assets	2022	2023
Cash	\$1,886,471	\$1,847,414
Investments	2,966,496	3,084,140
Receivables, Net	650,781	506,379
Right of Use Assets	0	655,288 ²
Other Assets	121,408	187,601
Land, Building & Equipment, Net	2,868,924	2,846,906
Total Assets	\$8,494,080	\$9,127,728
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Accounts Payable	\$130,136	\$149,802
Accrued Expenses	584,506	398,500
Operating Lease Liabilities	0	660,512 ²
Other Liabilities	99,680	130,667
Total Liabilities	\$814,322	\$1,339,481
Revenues		
Contributions & Bequests	\$3,010,776	\$2,939,108
Program Revenue	5,466,548	5,767,763
Service Billing Revenue	12,077	6,897
Miscellaneous Revenue	5,202	10,331
Total Revenue	\$8,494,603	\$8,724,099
Expenses		
Program Services	\$7,109,009	\$7,445,939
Management & General	900,961	919,518
Fundraising	414,510	463,442
Total Expenses	8,424,480	8,828,899
Other Revenue (Expense)	972,113 ¹	213,289
Change in Net Assets	1,042,236	108,489
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	6,637,522	7,679,758
Net Assets at End of Year	\$7,679,758	\$7,788,247

Sept 1, 2022 – Aug 31, 2023

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.



David Gardner
Chief Financial Officer

Our development team was recognized for Excellence in Fundraising at the National Easterseals Summit. We were proud to celebrate our donors' standout generosity with representatives from Easterseals affiliates across the country.



Kelly Moreland
Vice President of Development



Theresa Forthofer and Kelly Moreland accept the Excellence in Fundraising award from National Easterseals CEO, Kendra Davenport.