



Internationally recognized:



# Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley Fiscal Year 2020 Impact Report

Together we are building healthier families, stronger communities and brighter futures for children with developmental delays and disabilities.

VILLA PARK | NAPERVILLE | ELGIN

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© Photo: Rich Howe



Dear Friends,

Fiscal Year 2020  
September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020

We started the fiscal year charged with purpose and fully focused on our strategic vision for the new year:

- *To expand our pediatric rehabilitation therapy services to reach more children*
- *To ensure the earliest possible identification of developmental delays and disabilities*
- *To provide financial support to families who are uninsured and underinsured*

Six months later, our lives were upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our three centers closed to in-person pediatric therapies in mid-March, but we never lost track of our vision and our responsibility to the children and families we serve.

We adopted a new service model that made it possible for our programs to continue through tele-therapy. All of our therapists worked tirelessly to adapt therapy sessions for home, and they began to witness milestones through the screen. We reopened to limited in-person therapies in May, but believe in tele-therapy as an on-going service option. We know it is a strong complement to in-person therapies and enables us to reach more children in more places.

We collaborated with local officials and other providers across Illinois to encourage the approval of tele-therapy for the thousands of 0-to-3-year-olds in the state's Early Intervention (EI) program. We know this is a critical phase in a child's development and there's no time to waste in helping them meet their milestones. By early April the state approved live video visits for EI clients, and our therapists immediately began the required webinar training so our youngest clients could regain services.

The closure and the limits to our service capacity upon reopening left us with a significant financial deficit. At the same time, we saw the heightened needs of children with disabilities and their families. Our donors were quick to respond. Foundations offered relief funds, our virtual fundraising events still drew a crowd, and our emergency response campaign exceeded our expectations. This outpouring of support kept us safe and stable for the thousands of children who count on us to help them reach new goals and meet their milestones, including those in financial need.

The past year tested our resolve and altered the way we work. But through it all, we held fast to our mission. These pages reflect our commitment to the ever-present and evolving needs of children with disabilities, and the dedicated Board, talented staff, loyal donors and devoted families who make it all possible.



*Theresa*  
**Theresa Forthofer**  
President & CEO



"We have found that the therapists at Easterseals stand apart as they are specialized to work with children with different needs. When our son is doing his tele-therapy sessions, the attention is solely on our son and learning about how he operates as an individual. We are so grateful to have them guide our family through the beginning stages of our autism journey."

**Katherine**

Mom of John, Age 5

"Kate will not be returning to school and we are now depending on Easterseals even more. Thank you for being our constant during all of this. Her therapists are so kind and understanding. Without Easterseals we know Kate would have regressed."

**Vicki**

Mom of Kate, Age 16



## Driving Outcomes



We strengthened our commitment to extensive and on-going training in 2020. Our expert clinicians continued to earn credentials and embrace new technology to keep our treatment techniques at the forefront of therapeutic care.

### TRAINING

#### Developmental Individualized Relationship Based Therapy (DIR)

Two occupational therapists and two speech therapists completed an intensive, one-year training in this relationship-based therapy model. In the most recent update from the American Academy of Pediatrics, DIR is recommended as a growing therapeutic approach in facilitating parent engagement through interactive floor-time play. It is used across therapy disciplines to help develop emotional, social and cognitive skills in children with autism spectrum disorders.

#### Neurodevelopmental Treatment (NDT)

Four more clinicians pursued their NDT certification, bringing our total number of NDT credentialed therapists to 22. NDT is a hands-on therapy approach used to improve the function of children and adults with neurological challenges who have difficulty controlling movement. Our extensive NDT knowledge, paired with advanced experience treating babies qualifies Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley as a Neurodevelopmental Treatment Center of Excellence.

#### Pediatric Pelvic Floor Treatment

Our physical therapy offerings expanded to include Pediatric Pelvic Floor Treatment. Therapists developed strategies to help children strengthen muscles to support improved bowel and bladder function – a common challenge for many with neurological impairments. This training equipped a team of physical therapists with key concepts that they shared in a peer-to-peer training in October.

### TECHNOLOGY

#### Embracing Tele-Therapy

Within two days of the statewide shelter-in-place order in March, all 87 therapists and our social services team completed an extensive peer-led tele-therapy training. This training ensured that our team was well prepared to continue helping families from home. Tele-therapy has been offered by our Assistive Technology and Nutrition Therapy departments for more than ten years, but by early April it was being utilized by 55% of our clients across all therapy disciplines. This number grew quickly as we helped families adopt the technology and offered flexible scheduling to accommodate work from home and e-learning schedules.

**By the end of summer, 84% of families reported that their child was making progress through tele-therapy.** Our Medical Diagnostic, Autism Diagnostic and Feeding Clinics also transitioned to a virtual format. The quick adoption of this new service model made it possible to safely continue services so children could maintain progress toward their goals.



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### Interdisciplinary Training Session Keeps Clinicians Connected

At the onset of the pandemic, our therapy team initiated an Interdisciplinary Skill Building session to share tele-therapy ideas and techniques between physical, occupational and speech therapists. They came together virtually to learn from each other, hone their skills and honor our multidisciplinary approach to services. By collaborating and sharing expertise, they found ways to help families make therapeutic gains at home.

Through tele-therapy, children were able to practice skills in their home environment, and parents learned hands-on techniques to support them. Whether creating an obstacle course with couch cushions, engaging siblings in therapy sessions or motivating children with interactive games on-screen, our clinicians found many creative ways to individualize tele-therapy to each child's needs and interests.

## A Look at 2020



© Photo: Tad Dunn

Unveiled **26 new photos** in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Annual Photography Exhibition in partnership with College of DuPage



**98.6% of families** reported satisfaction with the services they received



© Photo: Rich Howe

Provided an average of **151 therapy sessions per day** during the pandemic



Provided **44,690 hours of therapy** through a combination of in-person and tele-therapy sessions



**698 people** participated in virtual fundraising events



Introduced a **Social Club** for children to develop listening, conversation, teamwork and social skills



© Photo: Rich Howe

Served **2,714 individuals and their families** in FY20



Kept all **140 staff members** safe and employed



© Photo: Helena Joergenrud

**150 children and families** benefited from social work services and support

### FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

215 caregivers completed our free screening tool to help track developmental milestones

SEPT

OCT

Continued collaborating with the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab and Pathways.org on a video training project about infants' first four months of development

NOV

DEC

Assistive Technology evaluations increased by 33%

JAN

FEB

Illinois declared a shelter-in-place order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

All 3 centers closed to protect our clients, families and staff

MAR

APR

Reopened to limited in-person services

MAY

JUN

Reopened the Lily Garden Child Care Center at limited capacity

JUL

AUG

Celebrated the close of the Growing Home Capital Campaign, securing ownership of our Villa Park building

Easterseals supporters contributed more than \$115,000 on #GivingTuesday

Occupational therapist, Diane Fritts Ryan, taught a two-week course with the South African Neurodevelopmental Therapy Association

55% of clients continued services through tele-therapy

84% of families reported that their child was making progress in tele-therapy

Provided 3,186 therapy sessions in August

## Leading the Way

### FY20 Board of Directors

**Roger McDougal** | Board Chair  
Senior Vice President, Northern Trust

**Craig Boroughf** | Vice Chair  
Sr. Director of Transportation & Indirect Sourcing,  
United States Gypsum Company

**Kristen Barnfield** | Division Lead,  
Communications & Public Relations,  
CK&D Cause Marketing & Media

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

**Bryan Hanson** | Executive Vice President  
and Chief Generation Officer, Exelon Nuclear

**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** | Director, Sr. Portfolio Manager,  
BMO Asset Management US

**Dr. Ingrid Liu** | Medical Director,  
Wellcome MD Medical

**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** | Vice President Operations,  
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

### Leadership

**Theresa Forthofer** | President & CEO

### Associate Board Executive Committee

**Luke Skertich** | Associate Board Chair  
Associate, M25

**Catie Alviti** | Special Events Chair  
Clinical Dietitian, TouchPoint Support Services

**Matt Gaughan** | Membership Chair  
Procurement Associate for  
Global Indirect Services, Littelfuse Inc.

**Elsa Remak** | Communications Chair  
Account Supervisor, MWWPR

**Lyndsey Quick** | Service Chair  
Paraprofessional, Lisle CUSD202  
Graduate Student, Special Education

[eastersealsdfvr.org/associateboard](http://eastersealsdfvr.org/associateboard)



### Community Memorial Foundation Funds Culture Training

Our Director of Human Resources & Operations participated in an intensive three-day training on the Organizational Culture Inventory Tool (OCI). She earned her OCI accreditation, qualifying her to administer the culture survey and interpret and respond to the results. This assessment tool helps to identify any gaps between an organization's current and ideal culture. The Community Memorial Foundation's investment in Capacity Building supports our greatest asset – our team. The survey will be conducted in early FY21 and will provide valuable insight to help support our staff, strengthen our workplace and realize our mission.



### Kathy Schrock Retires from 15 Year Career with Easterseals Vice President, Clinical Services

Kathy Schrock dedicated her career to supporting individuals with disabilities. She joined Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley in 2005 as Vice President of Clinical Services and celebrated her retirement in July 2020. Kathy is a highly effective leader who drew on her expertise in communicative disorders and speech-language pathology to help build the clinical team and innovative programs that define us today.

The governor recognized her as a passionate advocate for infants and toddlers with developmental delays by appointing her chairperson of the Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention. She formed valuable partnerships with local daycare centers to provide developmental screenings to more than 27,000 children in DuPage County.

She also built collaborative relationships with leading hospital groups and physicians to help grow our specialized clinics. She fostered a joyful, stimulating and invigorating work environment that promoted mentorship and education. We are grateful for her impact.

### Clinical Management

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

**Jamie Boddan, MA, CCC-SLP/L**  
Manager of Assistive Technology

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

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

**Maureen Karwowski, OTR/L**  
Director of Occupational & Developmental Therapy  
Vice President of Clinical Services, July 2020

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

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

## Fiscal Year 2020:

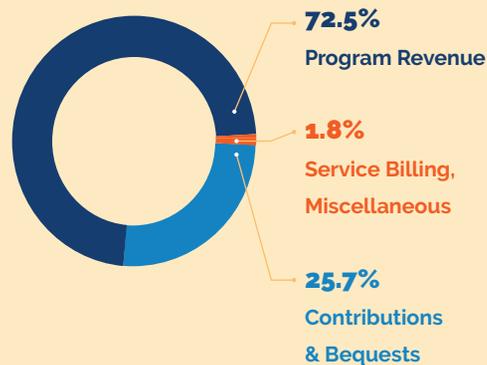
### Statement of Financial Position

September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

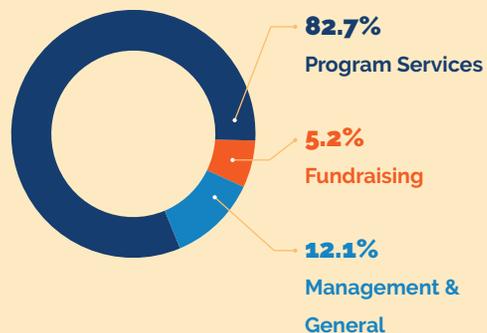
This condensed financial summary has been prepared by Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley.

Complete financial statements including notes and the independent auditor's report of Tighe, Kress, Orr, P.C., are available upon request. A complete donor list is also available upon request.

### Revenues



### Expenses



Assets	2020	2019
Cash	\$2,674,983	\$1,914,773
Investments	\$796,537	\$694,510
Receivables, Net	\$765,289	\$807,741
Other Assets	\$183,537	\$281,115
Land, Building & Equipment, Net	\$2,886,563	\$2,890,491
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$7,306,909</b>	<b>\$6,588,630</b>

### Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities	\$875,166	\$809,017
Long Term Debt	\$2,315,927	\$1,052,614
Total Liabilities	\$3,191,093	\$1,861,631
Total Net Assets	\$4,115,816	\$4,726,999
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$7,306,909</b>	<b>\$6,558,630</b>

### Revenues

Contributions & Bequests	\$1,985,064	\$2,044,373
Program Revenue	\$5,608,099	\$6,476,265
Service Billing Revenue	\$13,012	\$46,145
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$18,062	\$23,698
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,624,237</b>	<b>\$8,590,481</b>

### Expenses

Program Services	\$6,897,580	\$6,983,377
Management & General	\$972,940	\$991,540
Fundraising	\$435,632	\$452,412
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,306,152</b>	<b>\$8,427,329</b>
Other Revenue (Expense)	\$70,732	(\$6,657)
Change in Net Assets	(\$611,183)	\$156,495
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$4,726,999	\$4,570,504
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$4,115,816</b>	<b>\$4,726,999</b>

## COVID RESPONSE FUNDING

### PPP Loan

In mid-April, we were approved for a federal loan through the Paycheck Protection Program. This forgivable SBA loan funded 24-weeks of eligible expenses and made it possible to keep our full staff employed.

### CARES Act

The CARES Act provided assistance through the Coronavirus Relief Fund and helped cover unbudgeted expenses incurred due to the public health emergency.

### Community Support

Many individual donors, local foundations and corporate partners provided emergency relief funding to provide technology upgrades, personalized protective equipment (PPE), and support services.