



LIVE



LEARN



WORK



PLAY



Access & Ability

Increasing independence and maximizing opportunity

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A publication of Easterseals Eastern Pennsylvania

SPRING 2018

New Autism Clinic offered in Berks County *at our center in Reading*



Easterseals is now offering an Autism Clinic once a month at our center in Reading through a unique collaboration with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) utilizing telemedicine technology. Using the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2), evaluations are conducted onsite by Amy Cengeri, MS, OTR/L and via telemedicine by Carissa Jackel, MD, and Kaitlin L. McHenry, MSN, RN, CRNP, both specialists from CHOP. After the evaluation, the team meets with the family to present its findings and provide a recommended course of action. To participate, children must be referred to Easterseals through Service Access Management, based on their score on the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT). We are thrilled to be offering this unique service to families in Berks County. We thank the United Way of Berks County and the Pennsylvania Department of Health for providing funding in support of our clinic services.

Wing-eaters send kids to camp!

Our annual Wing Competition raised a record \$12,319 to provide camperships to Camp Lily-Berks

Thank you to M&T Bank, presenting sponsor, J.G. Automotive Services, wings sponsor, and California Bar & Grill, our host, for helping us put on another successful event. Here are the winning team results. Each team consists of three people and the number of wings they eat is combined for a team total.

SUICIDE CATEGORY

1. Pink Flamingos - 88 wings (5th consecutive year)
2. Smells Like Fish - 69 wings

HOT CATEGORY

1. Glass and Sons 1 - 124 wings
2. Glass and Sons 3 - 123 wings

MEDIUM CATEGORY

1. UGI 1 - 91 wings
2. Bone Crushers - 86 wings



**Thank you to everyone who participated and came out to support us!
Our campers will have a great summer thanks to you.**



Introducing LEAP 2.0

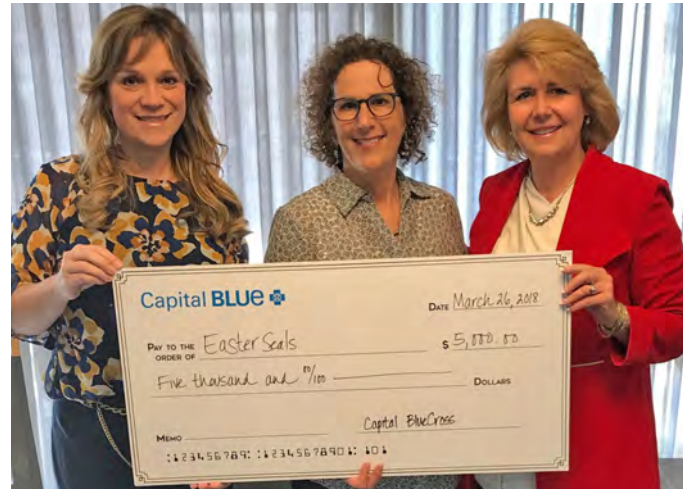
Learn, Experience, Achieve and Practice

Our popular LEAP program is evolving in order to better serve our consumers. This summer, we will be introducing LEAP 2.0, an employment preparation "boot camp" for youth and young adults with disabilities, ages 16-21. It's designed to help them develop the self-advocacy, leadership and job skills needed to transition into the workplace. The program combines curriculum instruction, hands-on work experience at local businesses and service learning. Participants will prepare to advocate for the lives they want and develop the skills they need to live and work in their communities of choice. Easterseals is partnering with local businesses and utilizing a variety of funding strategies to provide this program at little or no cost to participants and their families. LEAP 2.0 will be offered in Berks County and the Lehigh Valley this summer. **Contact Corey Nelson at 610-289-0114 x212 or cnelson@esep.org for more information.**

EITC donations benefit Growing Green and LEAP

Easterseals has received \$42,000 in donations from Cigna Health Insurance, UGI Utilities, Inc., Capital BlueCross, East Penn Manufacturing and PPL through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). The funds are used to support our young adult vocational program and our residential summer camp in the Poconos.

Anne Baum and Chrissy Hixson present the donation from Capital BlueCross to Easterseals



CRAYOLA FUNDS GUEST ARTIST

A grant from Crayola is providing funding to bring a guest artist, Roey Ebert of Roey's Paintbox, to two of our popular Lehigh Valley Programs. Roey will conduct painting workshops one day a week during four sessions of Camp Lily-Lehigh Valley this summer. Similarly, participants in Hangin' Out, our evening recreation program for teens and young adults, will be treated to three painting workshops with Roey during the fall session. We are thrilled that Crayola has provided the funds and donated the supplies to bring such a talented teacher and artist to our consumers.

Carpenter Technology hosts party

Volunteers from Carpenter Technology hosted a party for the children and young adults attending Saturday Respite in Berks County. The festivities featured an Easter egg hunt, craft activity, cupcake decorating and games.



Utilities Employees Credit Union donates books and toys

The member service staff at Utilities Employees Credit Union adopted Easterseals as the recipient of its annual holiday collection. They collected boxes full of books for the Make the First Five Count program and purchased new therapeutic toys for our outpatient therapy center.

PLANNED GIVING: Your Legacy Begins with a Vision

Your generosity has the power to change the way the world defines and views disabilities. Since Easterseals began, legacies and bequests have played an important part in funding many of the programs that enable people with disabilities to live, work and play in their communities.

There are many ways you can ensure your philanthropic wishes become a reality. One of the simplest and most popular ways to empower people with disabilities is to leave a gift to Easterseals in your will or trust. **To discuss your philanthropic goals, please contact Ann Marie Surovy, CFRE, Director of Advancement, at 610-289-0114 x205 or asurovy@esep.org.**



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**Thanks for all you
do for Easterseals.
We couldn't do it
without you.**

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Meet Lexi!

Lexi is a lively, energetic teen who thrives on events and activities. She is always planning and looking forward to the next thing on the calendar. Among her favorite activities are two Easterseals programs: Camp Lily and Saturday Respite. What Lexi loves most about camp and respite is the sense of belonging and acceptance that she feels. Like all teens, she requires a social network to develop her identity and self-confidence, but it is often difficult for children with disabilities to find a social group that is embracing and supportive. At Camp Lily and Saturday Respite, Lexi is surrounded by peers who accept and support her. These relationships play a significant role in her emotional and psychological development, and empower her to try new things and test her social skills.

As Lexi's mom says, "I have always known that the phrase – it takes a village to raise a child – is true. Easterseals is a very important part of Lexi's village. It takes a lot to support a typical child. It takes more to support a special child. Not everyone has the gift of being able to support a child like mine. I am so glad Easterseals is there for Lexi. There is no other place I have found that brings her such joy."

