

Help, Hope & Answers

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME.

www.EasterSeals.com/eseep

A publication of Easter Seals Eastern Pennsylvania

WINTER 2016



How many wings would you eat to send a kid to camp?

The 24th Annual Wing competition will be held on March 6, 2016, and this year it's more important than ever. We're facing a funding gap in camperships for local kids to attend Camp Lily—Berks. We need your help to raise \$14,500 to send 52 kids to camp.

It costs \$280 per kid. How many can you help?

- Ask your employer to sponsor your team at \$280 or see if your employer will match what you raise
- Ask 14 friends or family members for a \$20 sponsorship
- Run a car wash, bake sale, or jeans day at your workplace

BECOME A BIG CHEESE ... TOP DOG ... OR SUPERHERO!

BIG CHEESE Raise \$280 Send 1 kid to camp for a week

TOP DOG Raise \$560 Send 2 kids to camp for a week

SUPERHERO Raise \$840 Send 3 kids to camp for a week

It's still \$80 for a team of 3 wing eaters – can you raise more to help a kid get to camp?



FOR ALL THE DETAILS VISIT
www.easterseals.com/eseep/wings



LEAP Program expands to year-round



The summer LEAP Program in Berks County has been expanded to a year-round opportunity for teens and young adults ages 13-22 years to participate in career, volunteer, and recreational

experiences in the community.

LEAP

LEARNING ENRICHMENT
AND PARTNERSHIPS

LEAP Job Club is held at the John Paul II Center for Special Learning on Tuesday afternoons. Participants gain an introduction to career options after high school graduation with a focus on resume development, interviewing skills, and job search techniques.

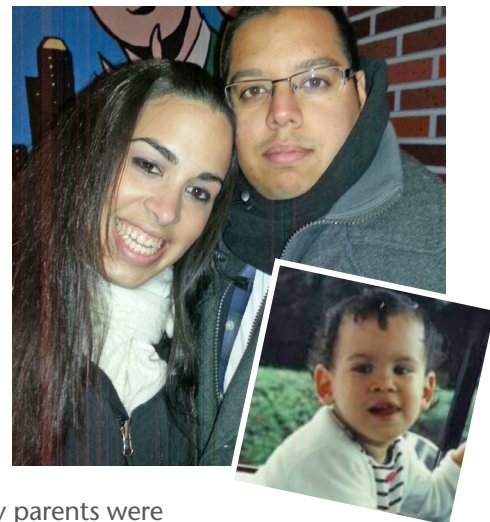
LEAP Community Network introduces participants to a variety of volunteer, vocational, and social opportunities with an emphasis on volunteering, job shadowing, employer visits, and recreational opportunities.

There will also be four informational sessions for families to meet representatives from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Service Access and Management, Goodwill Industries, and service providers in the county to learn about funding, programs, and processes. The LEAP program will also offer a Leadership Summit in 2016 where participants will develop their leadership skills, team building, and establish a plan for next steps upon graduation.

Funding for LEAP was made possible through the generosity of the United Way of Berks County!

Nadia Lozano - in her own words – tells you how Easter Seals helps change lives.

My name is Nadia Lozano. When I was 9 months old I was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy (CP). For those who are unsure what that is, CP refers to a group of neurological disorders that appear in infancy or early childhood and permanently affect body movement and muscle coordination. It is caused by damage to or abnormalities inside the developing brain that disrupt the brain's ability to control movement and maintain posture and balance.



When I was diagnosed with CP, my parents were scared and didn't know what to do because I was their first child. The pediatrician who diagnosed me referred my parents to Easter Seals. I spent almost the first 5 years of my life with Easter Seals. There I learned how to do just about everything from sitting, walking, crawling and learning how to feed myself. Easter Seals was the best thing that happened to me during this time because everyone else thought I would never be able to do anything. But Easter Seals believed in me and helped my parents through this time of need.

After Easter Seals, I went to school, where I was included in regular classrooms and was able to be just one of the kids. My parents always treated me the same as my younger sisters. My father taught me how to ride a bike and swim by the time I was 8 years old. I was able to walk without a walker, crutches and wheelchair by the time I was 14 years old. I also got my driver's license at age 17. I graduated from high school and then from DeSales University with a BA in Business Management.

For the last five years, I have been a landlord and I love it. For 2 years, I worked at the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL), which is a non-profit organization that serves people with disabilities, and their family members, living in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. I worked there as a Strategic Community Building Coordinator. I did outreach and trained people in the community about disabilities and helped them understand that people with disabilities want to, and can, be independent. As of now, I have been married for a year and we just bought our first home.

I am thankful for everything I have because Easter Seals was able to help me learn the basic skills you need in life that so many take for granted. Easter Seals believed in me and saw what I could do. They helped my parents create a life for me that led me to where I am today. I will always be thankful for them and I want to thank everyone who has it in their heart to help support Easter Seals. You can't imagine the gift you are giving to children and their families until someone you know needs their services.

Mary Ellen Golf Tournament Executive Committee Wins Outstanding Fundraising Group of the Year



On November 11th the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) got together to celebrate National Philanthropy Day. Each year, AFP honors individuals and groups who, through their hard work, passion and dedication, have enhanced philanthropy, their communities and the world.

This year, Easter Seals Eastern PA has much to celebrate because the 46th Annual Mary Ellen Golf Tournament Executive Committee won the 2015 Outstanding Fundraising Group of the year!

In 1994, local entrepreneur Tony Salvaggio and his team from Computer Aid decided to get involved and make a difference for local children with disabilities. Using his considerable organizational, networking and people skills, he brought a wealth of resources to

the table to grow the already successful golf tournament into a fundraising powerhouse for Easter Seals Eastern PA.

Under Mr. Salvaggio's leadership, the incredibly caring and talented members of the Mary Ellen Golf Tournament Executive Committee raised more than \$1,500,000 for Easter Seals Eastern PA. An achievement as impressive as this can only happen through the leadership of a very special person, and with a group of people who work together well and care deeply about the mission of the organization.

This year the 46th Annual Mary Ellen Golf Tournament raised a record breaking \$145,482!



Mary Ellen Golf Tournament Executive Committee members honored at the National Philanthropy Day Awards Ceremony were:

Tony Salvaggio, Chair

Jonathan St. George

Mike Brodsky

Anne Baum

Robert Beck

Andy McInyre

Gregg Feinberg

Jarrett Laubach

Anthony Deutsch

Dan Persa

Lori Kehs

Maureen O'Meara

Jacqueline Beck

Sean Boyle

Jack Iannantuono

Brian Lee

There are so many people who support the Mary Ellen Golf Tournament year after year. Our sincerest thanks to the Mary Ellen Golf Tournament Executive Committee, the generous sponsors, in-kind donors, our hard-working and dedicated volunteers.



M-Power offers habilitation services

This exciting new program offers habilitation and community supports to empower teens and adults to live an independent and rewarding life in their community. Easter Seals staff provide the supports so that individuals can volunteer, explore social and recreational activities specific to their interests, and access the community so that they may live as independently as possible. All services are customized to individual career interests and opportunities to engage in the community and peer networks.

M-POWER
Maximum Life, Powerful Results



1501 Lehigh Street, Suite 201
Allentown, PA 18103

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 6TH

WINGS

*The New California Bar and Grill,
Shillington, PA*

APRIL 16TH

DAY OF EMPOWERMENT

*Capital Blue, The Promenade Shops,
Center Valley*

MAY 21ST

Spring Prom

*Capital Blue, The Promenade Shops,
Center Valley*

JUNE 4TH

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

JUNE 6TH

47th Mary Ellen Golf Tournament

Upcoming Spring 2016:

Two Exciting (and free) Events Sponsored by Capital BlueCross

Check our website and facebook for more details as they become available.

DAY OF EMPOWERMENT

APRIL 16TH, 9-2PM

Young women (ages 16-26) living with disabilities and other special needs will join us on a Saturday this spring for an incredible morning of professional development and networking, followed by lunch. Participants will be individually mentored by women business leaders, and will receive business cards, certificate of achievement, photos and more.
Capital Blue, The Promenade Shops, Center Valley

SPRING PROM

MAY 21ST, 5-9PM

Children and young adults (age 12 to 30) living with disabilities and other special needs will be invited to attend the prom. There will be music, refreshments, and lots of fun for all.

Capital Blue, The Promenade Shops, Center Valley

The events are free and registration is required.

Email info@esep.org and ask to be added to the list for regular updates. Check our facebook page and website for updates as well (www.easterseals.com/esep).

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PROGRAM SUPPORT

We are pleased and proud to recognize these local businesses and foundations whose generous support allows us to have the resources needed to provide exceptional programs and services. We truly couldn't do what we do without your commitment to the work we do. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

Holiday Open House

**Wells Fargo
Computer Aid, Inc.**

Camp Lily – LV

**Air Products, Inc.
Crayola
Greater Lehigh Valley Auto
Dealers Association
Wells Fargo**

Camp Lily – Berks

Colonial Oaks Foundation

LEAP – Lehigh Valley

**Ruth P. Seruga
Charitable Trust**

LEAP – Berks

**Comcast Foundation
United Way of Berks County
Venture Grant**

Make the First Five Count

**A. C. Moore
Century Fund
Lehigh Valley
Community Foundation**

Preschool - Lehigh Valley

**Just Born
PPL
Trexler Trust**

Growing Green

**Harry & Jeanette
Weinberg Foundation
Pocono Environmental
Education Center**

All Lehigh Valley Camp and Recreation Programs

Andre Reed Foundation

All Summer Camp Programs

Friendly's



SATURDAY RESPITE IS NOW AVAILABLE IN BANGOR.

Our newest program is located on the beautiful campus of Kirkridge Retreat Center in Bangor. Participants ages 9 and older enjoy cooking, games, music, art, and an introduction to independent living skills while enjoying all that Kirkridge has to offer.

For more information, visit our website or contact Katelyn at 610-289-0114, ext. 209 or kolah@esep.org.