



2017 Easter Seals Iowa
ANNUAL REPORT



Easter Seals Iowa is a leading provider in Iowa serving the lifespan of children and adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities, autism and mental illness.



Mission

Our mission is to provide exceptional services to ensure all people with disabilities or special needs, and their families, have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in our Iowa communities.



LIVE

Our services support individuals with learning basic living skills like managing finances and cooking healthy meals.



LEARN

Our services support individuals in their education journey, ensuring that individuals are set up for future success with employment.



WORK

Our employment services support individuals to obtain and maintain meaningful employment, ensuring that they are able to be contributing members of our community.



PLAY

Our camp and respite programs provide skills and confidence-building programs for our campers while giving much needed breaks to their caregivers.



ONE in **FIVE** Iowans lives with a disability

Serving more than **3,000** clients each year

We are a life-long provider

15

programs supporting people with disabilities



93¢

of every dollar supports program services



98%

customer satisfaction



A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

The legacy of Easter Seals Iowa and Camp Sunnyside has been built by countless volunteers, donors, clients, family members, team members and friends. We are so thankful for you, our community of supporters, who make independence possible for people living with disabilities.

For more than 90 years, Easter Seals Iowa has supported individuals with disabilities to live their best lives and be engaged in our Iowa communities. I'm often asked what our mission means for the people we support, and I always have the same answer: hope, belief and independence. These are our core principles and the heart of the services we provide every single day.

Because of you, Easter Seals Iowa truly changes lives. It's a privilege to come alongside families and clients and support them in identifying solutions and reaching independence. When a client gets a job, is able to stay in their home, makes a first friend at Camp, gains the confidence to learn something new and achieve what they never thought possible, that's the mission and magic of Easter Seals Iowa.

We have experienced great success over the last fiscal year. The partnership of our donors, funders, and team members has allowed us to provide new opportunities for independence for our clients and comfort for our families.

The beginning of 2017-2018 has also brought some changes to the way we will deliver our services. AmeriHealth Caritas unexpectedly left the State of Iowa's IA Health Link program as a Managed Care Organization. Our contract to provide case management services was held through AmeriHealth, which resulted in the reduction of our case management department and the transition of 500 clients from our caseload to the remaining Managed Care Organizations. We continue to see volatility in the disability services delivery system, and are asked to provide more services at a lower rate of reimbursement.

Easter Seals Iowa has always led the way in innovation and efficiencies; we are committed to continuing down this path. We believe every Iowan should have the services and supports they need to live their most independent life in the community. We are committed to advocating for this fundamental right.

It is more important now than ever before to have the support of our donors and community to ensure we continue to provide the services our clients need to live with dignity and independence. Thank you for your support and commitment to changing lives.

Cheers,
Sherri Nielsen
President/CEO of Easter Seals Iowa

2017 Milestones



The McAninch Family Aquatic Center opened at Camp Sunnyside, providing an accessible therapy pool with sensory-friendly areas for campers.

- Renovations to the Lodge at Camp Sunnyside began and will be complete in the spring of 2018. The renovation includes new siding, heating and air conditioning, a four-season porch and updated plumbing and lighting to better serve campers.
- The Sunnyside Express food truck hit the streets, providing employment skills and training for clients, as well as healthy food options.

- The Easter Seals Iowa Assistive Technology Program expanded to provide more tools and devices for daily living for individuals across the state.

“The Assistive Technology Center Lending Library allows me to test out a variety of tools, such as typing aids and wireless headsets. As a graduate student, these devices make my time using the computer more efficient.”

– Jenna



- Through a unique partnership with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Des Moines Public Schools, Easter Seals Iowa has a team member at each Des Moines high school to encourage employment or furthering education after graduation.



- We hit a new record of more than 200 children attending our integrated summer day camp programming and extended the number of weeks we offered day camp.
- We launched the Easter Seals Iowa blog to share perspectives from clients, families, team members, volunteers and donors. Check out some of our first posts and follow us at www.eastersealsiowa.wordpress.com.

OUTCOMES

The community-based services provided by Easter Seals Iowa:

- ✓ Increase independence and quality of life for people with disabilities
- ✓ Increase overall mental health
- ✓ Reduce hospital stays, medical emergencies and incarceration rates
- ✓ Allow more families to stay together
- ✓ Provide employment and wellness opportunities

› 34% of our clients experience independence through employment in the community. These clients represent people who otherwise would have difficulty finding and maintaining employment.

› 54% of our clients are living in the healthy BMI range, and rising.

DETERMINED TO FARM

Kaleb has a passion for farming and dedication to his family. Nothing was going to hold him back from reaching his goals and continuing his way of life.

As a young man Kaleb was involved in a farming incident that resulted in the amputation of his right leg. Farming and being on his feet were Kaleb's top priorities. He did not want to give up the things he loved.

This is where Easter Seals Iowa stepped in to assist with adaptations on the farm, including a hand brake on the tractor. With the collaboration of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Easter Seals Iowa also helped Kaleb get a side-by-side ATV that allows him to safely move through the mud, snow and ice on the farm.

Kaleb's mom Laura says, "Easter Seals Iowa has always just been there. They would go out on the farm and say, 'here's an option, have you thought this through? How can we make modifications so it works the best for Kaleb?'"

Kaleb graduated from Iowa State University, and now spends his time farming with his dad, brothers, wife and two children, Rebekah and Will. Kaleb says, "I was bound and determined to be a farmer. I was going to figure out how to get it done one way or the other."

To learn more about Kaleb's story, check out the video about Kaleb on our YouTube Channel, www.youtube.com/eastersealsiowa.





Allison and camp counselor Hannah

FRIENDS, FAMILY AND FUN—WHAT CAMP SUNNYSIDE MEANS TO ALLISON AND HER FAMILY

Easter Seals Iowa and Camp Sunnyside came into Bobbi Jo's life at just the right time. Her husband had recently passed away and Bobbi Jo found she needed some extra help and support. Her daughter Allison started attending respite weekends at Camp Sunnyside shortly thereafter. Bobbi Jo and Allison both quickly started experiencing the benefits of respite services.

It's hard to believe now that Allison used to have anxiety about being away from Bobbi Jo or difficulty in social interaction with peers. Much of Allison's time was spent with medical professionals, childcare staff or adults in general. "At Camp, Allison started bonding with other children. Now she is just a social butterfly. She likes to talk and if she knows you, watch out because she will talk your ear off. Allison has a good memory, so don't share something in conversation with her that you don't want her to call you out on later," Bobbi Jo says.

During respite weekends, Allison is known to hangout and sit with children who have extensive limitations with mobility or communication, just to be with them and show them they have a friend. "This brings tears to my eyes and humbleness to my heart," Bobbi Jo says. "And she can do so much at Camp that we can't offer her at home, like horseback riding, the rock climbing wall and swimming. But still, I believe her favorite part is just to be able to be around her friends."

For Bobbi Jo, Easter Seals Iowa respite services have provided the break she needs to collect her thoughts and care for Allison when she returns. "If Easter Seals Iowa wasn't a part of our life, we would be under a lot of stress. It's provided Allison all of those new friends and experiences she has learned to love, and that little break helps me do even some of the simplest things, like going to the grocery store, that become more complicated when you are caring for a child with special needs," Bobbi Jo says.

The staff at Camp Sunnyside hold a special place in Allison's heart, and Bobbi Jo's. Bobbi Jo was diagnosed with cancer at the age of six and went in and out of remission four times. During elementary and high school, Bobbi Jo attended camps through Children's Cancer Connection.

"I am a cancer survivor and so Allison came to me by extreme surprise because doctors always told me that I would never be able to have children because of my years of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. I found out I was pregnant with her when I was six months along, and she came six weeks later.

I know your counselors do amazing things. I really understand the connection Allison has with the counselors, because I had that as a child, too. It has been a great blessing to have services like this in our lives," Bobbi Jo says.



Donor Recognition

Thank you to our President's Council donors who make contributions of \$1,000 or more each year. Our work and mission are possible because of your commitment and support.

The following donations were made September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017.

Edgar Allen Founders Society: \$100,000 +

McAninch Corporation
Polk County Board of Supervisors
Pony Express Riders of Iowa
Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust

Independence: \$25,000-\$99,999

Marsella Elliott
Gabus Automotive Group
Don and Charlene Lamberti
Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino
The Sunderland Foundation
Michael and Mary Timmons
Variety - the Children's Charity
Ziegler CAT

Empowerment: \$10,000-\$24,999

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Rochelle Burnett
Don and Mary Coffin
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Opportunity: \$5,000-\$9,999

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Dignity: \$2,500-\$4,999

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Connie Oelmann
Signarama
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University of Iowa Community Credit Union
Wells Fargo
Larry and Kathleen Zimpleman

Ability: \$1,000-\$2,499

American Legion of Iowa Foundation
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Mary Chase
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Christopher's Fine Jewelry
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Chuck and Diane Cutler
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Fitness World Prairie Trail
Flooring America
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Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Iowa Department of Human Services
Iowa Program for Assistive Technology
Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Polk County Health Services
State of Iowa
The Ability Experience
United Healthcare





LEGACY SOCIETY

The Easter Seals Iowa Legacy Society honors individuals who are including Easter Seals Iowa in their wills or estate plans, expressing their commitment to individuals with disabilities and providing for the future as part of their legacy.

Legacy Society Members

Carole Bailey	SherRee Engles	David and Amy Lester	Cathleen Simpson
Russell Boseck	Sari Farquhar	Tracey Mayland	Kevin Small
Greg Brennan	Ernie Gruwell	Dennis Michener	Duane Smith
Rochelle Burnett	Carol and LeRoy Haberl	Sherri and Jason Nielsen	Kevin Sporer
Dennis Burns	Richard Henstorf	Amanda and Aaron Nuzum	Amy and Randy Stevens
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Jack and Judy Church	Linda Johnson-Lundquist	Mary Jo and Dave Rapp	Dorothy Winkey
Don and Mary Coffin	Shannon Langan	Marlene Scarlett	Deb and Harold Wissink

John's Journey to Independence

From the age of three John was in the foster care system. He says he bounced around every corner of the state of Iowa until he aged out of the system. When he was 21, and living on the North side of Des Moines, John lost everything he had. He describes this time as rock bottom for him, and he ended up living in a shelter.

Then John heard about Easter Seals Iowa from one of his friends, and started receiving the support he needed. Life hasn't been the same since. John is now studying to receive his bachelor's degree in Social Work from Grand View University. He also has a job as a security officer.

"Without Easter Seals Iowa, my life would be a complete disaster. Easter Seals changed everything dramatically, for the better. Through the support of Easter Seals I've learned about motivation, how to socially have a voice and how to challenge myself.

Easter Seals Iowa sees the inner; they don't look at the disability. They look at the person's heart," John says.



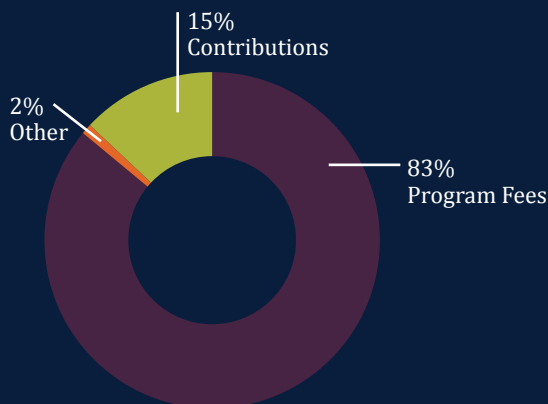
2016-2017 Financials

Revenue & Support	2016-2017	2015-2016
Service Fees - Government	9,415,829	8,745,009
Service Fees - Individuals	840,978	802,076
Grants	562,907	381,559
Contributions	1,933,313	1,539,073
Investment Income	280,891	219,029
Other	63,396	117,267
TOTAL	13,097,314	11,804,013

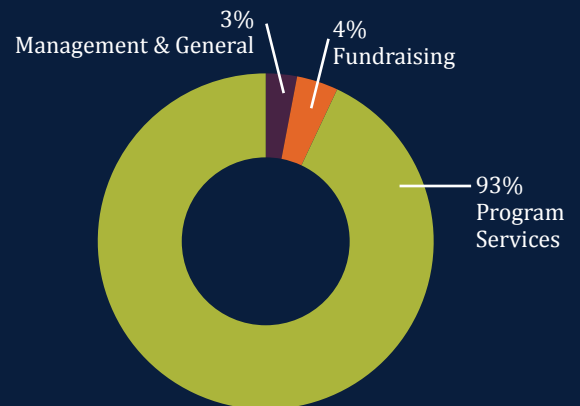
Expenses	2016-2017	2015-2016
Camp & Respite	1,392,373	1,272,707
Employment Programs	601,822	570,773
AIM (Achieving Independent Methods)	1,163,476	1,110,899
Case Management	1,859,473	1,722,075
Supported Community Living	3,602,811	3,495,700
Child Development Center	646,578	548,566
Day Habilitation	677,798	719,950
Rural Solutions	194,125	170,543
Assistive Technology	269,385	165,319
Public Education	100,510	112,058
Management, General, Fundraising	773,135	801,644
TOTAL EXPENSES	11,281,486	10,690,234

*Includes Easter Seals Iowa Foundation
 * Financial statements audited by Shaul & Desmond PLLC

Funding Sources



Dollars at Work





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Easter Seals Iowa
401 NE 66th Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

P: 515.309.1300
F: 515.274.6434
TTY: 515.289.4069

www.eastersealsia.org
Easter Seals Iowa Blog: www.eastersealsiowa.wordpress.com

