

MAKING A Difference

Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center

Winter 2016



Changing lives so all people with disabilities have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in our community.

Tune in to the 39th annual Easter Seals Telethon Sunday, April 10, LIVE on WEHT Local!

Tune in to the annual Easter Seals Telethon and see how the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center is changing lives—with your help!

The 39th annual broadcast airs live Sunday, April 10, 12 noon-6 p.m. on WEHT Local from our therapy gym at 3701 Bellemeade Avenue. Viewers will meet local children and adults who are achieving their greatest potential for independence, with the help of Easter Seals.

Inside, join the audience and the hosts from Eyewitness News. Outside, see the **E'ville Iron Street Rod Club's "cruise-in"** of street rods, classic cars, and street machines. Enjoy games and food when you donate at the fishbowl.

Last year's Telethon raised \$1,040,240. **This year's goal is to raise \$1,045,000 to underwrite therapy.** Help us change lives for more than **5,400 people with disabilities in the tri-state!** **Make your pledge during our Telethon!**

Learn more about our 2016 local Easter Seals Representatives (pictured at right) on page 5! ■



The April 10th Telethon will feature Easter Seals Representatives (front, l. to r.) Maurice Berendes and Gracie Tucker and (back, l. to r.) Ron Rhodes, Alexandra Johnson, Wayne Hart, Shelley Kirk, Brad Byrd, Tina Stein, and Laura Kirtley of WEHT Local/Local 7 WTVW. (Photo by Erik Photographic Studio)

Home Run Sweeps ALL CA\$H Raffle tickets available until March 14!



Tickets are still available for the 2016 Home Run Sweeps ALL CA\$H Raffle! Grand Prize is \$100,000 cash; 2nd prize: \$10,000; 3rd prize: \$5,000.

Great odds of winning!

A maximum of 3,000 raffle

tickets will be sold at a cost of **\$100 each.**

The entry deadline is March 14 at noon.

Tickets can be purchased Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center, 3701 Bellemeade Ave., Evansville, and at Milestones Child Development Center, 621 S. Cullen Ave., Evansville.

Continued on page 2



Congratulations to Kendra Kirkwood, a client of our New Frontiers Employment Services program, who recently received an Employee Excellence award from Sodexo at USI. She was also nominated for an Employee of the Month award, which may lead to regional

level recognition! New Frontiers placed Kendra in her job with Sodexo in 2013, and offers employment services for individuals with disabilities from throughout the Tri-State. Learn more about New Frontiers, which is based at our Easter Seals Posey County location, by calling Cindy Eaton at 812-838-0636.

Finding a voice through technology: The Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center reintroduces Augmentative and Alternative Communication



A student in our Dan & Nancy Mitchell Therapeutic Preschool uses an assistive device to let Santa know her wish list.

Local children and adults with disabilities deserve the opportunity to reach their greatest potential at home, in the classroom, on the job, and in our community. That's what our new Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) program is all about.

For some individuals with disabilities, the inability to communicate is the greatest obstacle to achieving their dreams of independence. AAC will help local people with complex learning and communication needs "find their

voice" and reach goals that were previously unattainable.

Recent advancements in technology can help to change lives for individuals with communication challenges caused by autism, intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, ALS, stroke, traumatic brain injury, and other conditions. Available tools that can help a child or adult express themselves effectively include low-tech options to high-tech possibilities such as specialized communication devices, "apps" for tablets, and adapted keyboards for computers which can be customized for those with limited motor abilities.

The Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center is reintroducing the AAC program after a 15-year absence of this program. Area residents once again have access to this potentially life-changing specialty close to home, instead of traveling for hours to larger cities.

Experienced Speech-Language Pathologist Susan Turley leads our program. She will evaluate clients' needs and abilities, demonstrate various systems to each individual, offer "try-outs" of devices and adaptations to determine the best "fit" for each person, and provide clients with the training they need to succeed with their new technology. For more details, email sturley@evansvillerehab.com or call 812-479-1411, extension 308. ■

Take a swing at \$100,000 *Continued from page 1*

Tickets may also be purchased by mailing the entry form below to the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center by March 10. For each ticket purchased you will be entered in a random drawing to WIN AN ADDITIONAL TICKET FREE!

Sponsors of the Home Run Sweeps ALL CASH Raffle are Kemper CPA Group, WEHT Local, Local 7 WTVW, 104.1 WIKY, 93.5 DUKE FM, and Evansville Courier & Press.

Proceeds will help fund therapy for children and adults with disabilities. For more information, call 812-437-2607. (Indiana Raffle License #139590) ■

Very special thanks to...

- Louis Berman Trust
- City of Evansville Endowment Fund
- City of Evansville Youth Sports Grant
- Downtown Optimist Club
- James R. Duncan Trust
- Henry F. Koch Charitable Foundation
- Mother Bear Charitable Foundation
- "Pete" (anonymous)
- Tri-State Woodcarvers
- Vanderburgh Medical Alliance
- Women of AT&T
- Lester E. Yeager Trust

TO ENTER THE HOME RUN SWEEPS BY MAIL: Send this completed form with payment (\$100 per ticket) by March 10 to Easter Seals, 3701 Bellemeade Ave., Evansville, IN 47714-0136. Must be at least 18 to enter. INDIANA LICENSE NO. 139590.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail _____ (C) _____

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TELETHON SPECIAL EVENTS

Shop, eat, play, and help Easter Seals!

■ **The SuperBride Sunday Cake Dive**, sponsored by Midwest Communications at the Old National Bank Events Plaza in Evansville, raised more than \$300. Brides-to-be donated to Easter Seals and participated in the Piece of Cake "cake dive" to win a \$1,000 gift certificate to Turley Mfg. Jewelers.

■ **"Fired Up for Easter Seals"** was at Fired Up! paint-your-own-pottery studio, 2121 N. Green River Rd., Evansville, Feb. 19-21. Participants decorated pottery pieces, and Fired Up! donated all firing fees to Easter Seals.

■ **Shine On Express Car Wash helps Easter Seals!** Shine On Express will donate a portion of February and March sales to fund therapy at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center! Hours: Mon.-Sat. 7am-9pm and Sun. 8am to 8pm. Located just off Burkhardt Road next to Culver's and Lowe's.

■ **SnickerDoodle Kids Art Give Back Day, 1:00 p.m. March 5** at SnickerDoodle Kids, 2017 W. Franklin St., Evansville. Reserve your spot online at www.snickerdoodlekidsart.com or call 812-459-1992 for more information.

■ **"Music Makes a Difference" 9 p.m.-3 a.m. March 5 at Lamasco Bar & Grill**, 1331 W Franklin Street, featuring local bands Osiella, Calabash, Big Ninja Delight, and JEB. \$5 per person; all proceeds benefit the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. For more information, call Lamasco Bar & Grill, 812-437-0171

■ **Easter Seals Night with the Evansville IceMen, March 12, 7:15 p.m. at The Ford Center.** Purchase tickets IN ADVANCE for \$20, and \$5 will be given back to Easter Seals! *In order for Easter Seals to get a donation, tickets must be purchased in advance* at the Easter Seals Rehab Center or by calling Evan: 812-463-6394.

■ **Dine Out with Easter Seals Wednesday, March 16.** See page 4 for a complete list of participating establishments!

■ **Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, March 18, 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post 200.** Cost is \$30 per player, \$5 per entry fee goes to the Easter Seals Rehab Center!

■ **Painting with a Twist** will donate 70% of proceeds on April 2 to the Easter Seals Rehab Center. Join us 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person. Call 812-437-2607 to reserve your spot!

■ **Guns N Hoses - Sat., April 9, 7 p.m. at the Ford Center, Evansville.** Tickets on sale at all Ticketmaster outlets. Watch local police officers & firefighters battle it out for charity! Ticket prices are TBD.

■ **Dialin' & Duelin' for Dollars pledge contest, Sunday, April 10, noon-6 p.m., the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center:** Businesses and civic groups compete for the most pledges during one-hour contests on the live Easter Seals Telethon broadcast on WEHT Local! Sign up by calling 812-437-2607.

■ **"Hot Tubbin' for Easter Seals"- Phi Gamma Delta Hot Tub Marathon, 4 p.m.-midnight Friday, April 22 and noon-4 p.m. Saturday, April 23, University of Evansville Fiji house, 227 S. Lincoln Park Dr., Evansville:** Enjoy entertainment and concessions, cheer on the fraternity brothers and make pledges to the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. To get in the hot tub, donate \$10 to Easter Seals!



2016 local Easter Seals Representatives
Gracie Tucker and Maurice Berendes

■ **The 21st annual LemonAid Stand for Easter Seals: Friday, June 17, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center.** Join Owen George and his family for burgers, hot dogs, BBQ, ice cream, a silent auction and of course, lemonade!

■ **Join Schnucks' eScrip Program and up to 3% of your grocery bill will be donated to Easter Seals.** Pick up a card at any Schnucks location or call Sandy Mohamad, Special Events Coordinator, at 812-437-2607. Register your card by phone or online at <http://www.schnucks.com>.

■ **Zeidler's "Helping Hands" Program:** Zeidler's Flowers, Garden & Gifts donates \$2 to Easter Seals when you order online at www.zeidlers.com, select the "Helping Hands" pull down menu & choose Easter Seals. OR just mention "Code ESRC" when ordering in person or at 812-421-1234.

Join us at June 8 Tribute Dinner honoring Ray Raisor

The annual Easter Seals Tribute Dinner will be Wednesday, June 8 at 6 p.m. in the Crescent Room at Milestones. Join us to honor former local Easter Seals president Ray Raisor. Ray retired in May 2015 after leading the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center for almost 35 years. During his tenure, Ray greatly expanded services and programs that change lives for individuals with disabilities in the tri-state. For details, call Laura Terhune at 812-437-2627. ■

Making a Difference is published for friends of the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. If you have questions or comments, contact Pam Kirk, 812-437-2626 or pkirk@evansvillerehab.com.

Easter Seals Southwestern Indiana is on Facebook & Twitter! Follow [EasterSealsSWIN](#) for updates on events, services & success stories!

Therapist Patty Balbach recognized in *Evansville Business* magazine.



Congrats to Patty Balbach, a physical therapist at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center since 1980. Patty was featured in the December/January issue of *Evansville Business* magazine. This excerpt is reprinted with permission from Tucker Publishing.

What do you strive to accomplish through your work?

I want to provide my clients with the best possible situation... I want to provide them with as much opportunity and ability to maximize their potential... so they can be as functional in their daily lives (as possible).

I also want to help the families enjoy that individual for the person they are and provide them with the most independence and the best function they can possibly have.

What has always driven you in your career?

I've strictly been driven by the love of this job. I truly love being a physical therapist. I truly love the interaction with my clients...I think you have to truly love - and I think the majority of therapists do - what you do and that's your driving force. I feel like that's always been mine. I wouldn't trade it for anything. ■

Volunteer at the Telethon Phone-A-Thon

- March 14-17, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center
- Volunteers work the evening of their choice, calling people who made a pledge to the Telethon last year and asking them to renew their commitment.
- Pizza will be delivered by Noble Roman's (Washington Square Mall).

We also need help with clerical and mailing preparation.

To volunteer, please contact Kandace Encarnacion at 812-437-2609 or kencarnacion@evansvillerehab.com.

Thanks for helping us change lives!

Milestones, the Easter Seals Child Development Center, has summer and fall openings!

- Summer program for children age 5-10: May 31-July 29.
- Childcare openings starting in August for infants (ages 6 weeks to 12 months) and toddlers (ages 12-24 months).
- Pre-K openings beginning August 8, 2016: **On My Way Pre-K funding accepted!**

For details or to arrange a tour, contact Director Laura Lukens, 812-474-2244 or LLukens@evansvillerehab.com!

DINE OUT



WED., MARCH 16

These participating restaurants will donate a portion of sales to fund therapy for tri-state kids & adults with disabilities at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center!

Be sure to mention you are dining for Easter Seals!

- | | |
|---|---|
| Acropolis | El Charro Mexican Restaurant |
| Angelo's | El Patron Mexican Restaurant |
| Archie & Clyde's Restaurant & Bar | Emge's Deli |
| Azzip (Newburgh, East, West) | G.D. Ritzzy's (East, North, West) |
| Bits & Bytes | Great Harvest Bread Co. |
| Bob Evans (East & West))
<small>Please show this ad at Bob Evans</small> | Mojo's Bone Yard |
| Buffalo Wild Wings (East & West) | Piece of Cake |
| Carousel Family Dining | Roca Bar (Hwy 41N) |
| Chuck E. Cheese | Salad World (Boonville New Harmony Rd.) |
| Cold Stone Creamery & Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory (East & West) | Texas Roadhouse |
| Dairy Queen (Mt. Vernon) | The Pacetre |
| | Western Ribeye |

For details, call 812-437-2607
www.EasterSealsSWIndiana.com

Dine Out sponsor: Townsquare Media

Local Representatives Gracie Tucker and Mo Berendes will share their stories.

Each year, two tri-staters who receive Easter Seals services are chosen as spokespersons to share their stories and spread the word about Easter Seals' mission. This year's Easter Seals Representatives are Gracie Tucker and Maurice Berendes.

Gracie, daughter of Rollie and Kimberly Tucker, was born with spina bifida. **Maurice's** life changed after a spinal cord injury.

Easter Seals therapy helped 6-year-old Gracie learn to walk with a walker. After recent surgery, she's working hard to regain those skills. She wants to walk with crutches and play baseball again.

Two years ago, Maurice fell from scaffolding, his legs were paralyzed, and he couldn't sit, stand, or walk on his own. Now, in therapy, he walks with a walker! This 73-year-old drives a car, mows his lawn, and is determined to walk independently again.

Watch the Easter Seals Telethon to meet Gracie, Maurice and other local children and adults who are working hard to achieve their dreams. **Tune in to WEHT Local on Sunday, April 10, 12-6 p.m. and make your pledge!** ■



Maurice Berendes

Gracie Tucker

Register children by May 16 for "iCan Bike" and make dreams come true.

Local kids with disabilities can achieve a dream this summer! Children and youth with special needs can learn to ride a bicycle at Easter Seals' "iCan Bike" day camp, presented with generous support from Mother Bear Foundation and John Oldenburg Bike Fund.

This year's "bike camp" is set for **June 6-10** at Evansville's National Guard Armory. **Registration deadline is May 16** or when a limit of 35 participants is reached, whichever occurs first. Participants

must be at least 8 years old and must have some type of disability or disabling condition.

Each child attends "iCan Bike" for 75 minutes each day. Kids learn to ride by using a series of adapted bicycles. They begin by riding bikes with wide rollers for stability. With individual assistance from staff and volunteers, children lose their fears, build their skills, and progress to bikes with fewer adaptations. By the end of the week, most participants are riding regular, two-wheeled bicycles with no adaptations – a dream come true for many children with disabilities!

Registration cost is \$170. However, thanks to generous donors, "iCan Bike 2016" will offer a sliding fee scale. Scholarships are available in various amounts, and *no child will be turned away due to inability to pay*. To register by May 16, for more details, or to volunteer, contact Patty Balbach at **812-479-1411, ext. 268**, or pbalbach@evansvillerehab.com. ■



•**Easter Seals Safe Halloween 2015** raised approximately \$33,100 to help fund up to **689 therapy sessions**. This brings the 31-year total to approximately \$1,363,098! **Thank you** St. Mary's Hospital for Women & Children, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #73, GattiTown, 104.1 WIKY, 93.5 DUKE FM, HOT 96, and 107.5 WABX.

•**The Diamond Galleria presents "Passion for Fashion"** raised over \$37,730, helping to fund more than **786 sessions of therapy**. We appreciate the exceptional support of our title sponsor, The Diamond Galleria, and benefactors **Kelly Coe, Kim Hermann, and one "grateful grandmother."** Special thanks to **The Graceful Lady & Graceful Lady GLAM**, Shelley Kirk, the Acropolis Restaurant and committee members. *Mark your calendar for the 2016 event on Thurs., Nov. 10.*

•**Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights** raised an estimated \$158,742, helping to provide up to **3,307 therapy sessions**. This brings the event's 22-year total to \$2,992,143! **Thank you** Ritzzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Teamsters Local 215, WEHT Local/Local 7 WTVW, Evansville Courier & Press, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, 104.1 WIKY, HOT 96, 93.5 DUKE FM, Security Enforcement Division of Comair Services and volunteers! We also thank everyone who attended and gave donations.



Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center

3701 Bellemeade Avenue
Evansville, Indiana 47714-0136

*Changing lives so children and adults
with disabilities have equal opportunities
to live, learn, work and play.*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Difference MAKING A

Board Members help Easter Seals change lives.

The Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center is governed by a volunteer board of directors representing all facets of our community. Board members generously lend their time, expertise and guidance to help Easter Seals achieve its mission.

Board chairman for 2016 is Denny Quinn (Skanska). **Members of the Executive Committee** are Ashley Babcock (Vectren), Jon Goldman (Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn), Randy Hobson (community volunteer), Brant Kennedy (Harding Shymanski & Co.), Wayne Kinney (Innovative Consulting Group), Donna Neufelder (St. Mary's Health), Jim Sandgren (Old National Bank), John Schroeder (Wabash/Crescent Plastics), and Mike Staubitz (Grainger Industrial Supply).

Other board members are: Todd Chamberlain (Allied Waste Services), Derek Coe (GE Commercial Finance), Brian Hape (United Leasing), Jeff Helfrich (Kahn, Dees, Donovan, & Kahn), Carol Hull (community volunteer), Shelley Kirk (WEHT Local/ Local 7 WTVW), Steve Link (Gibbs Die Casting), Alzie Malone (Berry Plastics), Carlene Oliver (St. Mary's Health), John Raisor (Fifth Third), Laura Roop (community volunteer), Ken Smith (Breck Logistics), Matt Theby (Lensing Building Specialties), Ted Thompson (Working Distributors), and Ben Trockman (Old National Bank). ■



Chairman Denny Quinn and other board members help Easter Seals change lives for local people like Abby Wells, 2015 Child Representative.