

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Fall 2018

Kids of all abilities learn, play and grow together in three programs at our inclusive Easterseals Early Learning Center!

See the exciting updates and help us celebrate Oct. 24!

Did you know that *all* children benefit when kids with *and* without disabilities share an inclusive learning environment? That's why all three of the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's early childhood programs are now together in one inclusive location!

Exciting changes happened on the first day of the school year, when the Dan & Nancy Mitchell Therapeutic Preschool (previously at 3701 Bellemeade) relocated to join other programs at the newly updated **Easterseals Early Learning Center**. That location at **621 S. Cullen Avenue** in Evansville is now the home of:

- **Milestones Early Care** for children of all abilities, 6 weeks-3 years of age
- **LEAD Academy** (Learn, Engage, Achieve, Discover), an inclusive preschool with a wide ranging educational curriculum for children of all abilities, age 3-6
- **Mitchell Therapeutic Preschool** for children age 3-5 identified as having a developmental disability requiring special education services



JOIN THE CELEBRATION! Wed., October 24 at the Easterseals Early Learning Center

- **10:45am** - Sign unveiling and ribbon cutting
- **11:30am** - Annual luncheon in the Crescent Room (To join us for the complementary luncheon, please RSVP by calling 812-437-2609 by Oct. 15.)
- **1:00-5:00pm** - Open house with tours featuring updated classrooms and the new "Golf Gives Back" Art Enrichment Studio!

The goal at the Early Learning Center is to help *all* children prepare to enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed! To learn more about the programs, openings for children in specific age groups, or employment opportunities, please contact Laurie Seals, V.P. of Early Childhood Services, 812-474-2244 or lseals@evansvillerehab.com.



Reserve your spot for "Passion for Fashion!"

Join Zoie Sims and other fashionable friends of Easterseals at our annual style show and luncheon Nov. 15 at Holiday Inn Airport. Proceeds fund *life-changing* therapy for kids and adults with disabilities! Details on page 4.

Local United Way “Day of Caring” volunteers give back in a big way!



Community volunteers gave back in a big way on United Way’s “Day of Caring” on Sept. 7! Special thanks to hard-working volunteers from Atlas World Group, Fifth Third Bank, George Koch Sons, and Vectren for giving their time to make a difference for many of our programs! The special day kicked off the annual United Way campaign. The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center is a United Way of Southwestern Indiana partner agency and benefits from United Way support!



Kids of all abilities partied at Tools 4 Teaching presents “Under the Big Top” Adventure!

Children of differing abilities and their families had fun together at Tools 4 Teaching presents “Under the Big Top” Adventure. The second annual Adventure party, featuring circus-themed food and activities, was held Oct. 13 in the Crescent Room at the Easterseals Early Learning Center.

Special thanks to lead sponsor Tools 4 Teaching and to Crescent-Cresline-Wabash Plastics, Edward Love Foundation, Kemper CPA Group, John and Diane Schroeder, and St. Vincent.

We are also grateful to all the generous “Adventure Angels” who donated. They made it possible for children who receive Easterseals services to join the fun, regardless of their families’ ability to pay.

Kids at the Easterseals Early Learning Center clowned around in anticipation of the Adventure party.



Monthly giving makes an ongoing difference!

Last year, Easterseals introduced a local monthly giving program and we invite our friends to be a part of it. Joining our *Ability Alliance* is the easiest and best way to help ensure that the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center is *always here*—and that we can *always* provide therapy for local kids and adults who need our help.

Regularly scheduled monthly gifts from a debit or credit card or directly from a bank account allow us to focus resources on *changing lives*, instead of mailing donation requests and invoices. It’s convenient for donors, too!

To sign up or for more details, text “alliance” to 27126; visit ESRCenter.com; or contact Laura Terhune at 812-437-2627 or LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com.

Mark your calendar & visit [EastersealsRehabCtr](https://www.facebook.com/EastersealsRehabCtr) on Facebook for event info!

Sat., Oct. 20, 1-4pm: Children’s Day at Newburgh Civitan Zombie Farm. \$5/person. Fully accessible! 5466 Vann Rd., Newburgh. Thanks to Newburgh Civitan, Nick Nackery, 103GBF, 99.5 WKDQ, MY 105.3FM, 106.1 KISS FM.

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays through Oct. 31, 6-6:45pm: “No-scare” tours of Newburgh Civitan Zombie Farm for children or the faint of heart. \$1 of each \$5 admission will be donated to Easterseals!

Thursday, Nov. 15, 11:30am-1pm: “Passion for Fashion” Style Show & Luncheon, Holiday Inn Airport. [See p. 4.](#)

November 22-Jan. 1, Ritz’s Fantasy of Lights drive-through light show in Evansville’s Garvin Park. 5pm nightly. Closed to vehicles Nov. 28 for “Bright Lights for Easterseals” run/walk. [See page 3.](#)

25th Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights shines Nov. 22-Jan. 1!

Popular 5K run & family fun walk returns Wed., Nov. 28!

It's the 25th year for Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights—a beloved holiday tradition that raises therapy funds for Easterseals! The show will brighten Evansville's Garvin Park nightly from Thanksgiving (Nov. 22) through New Year's Day (Jan. 1). *On Nov. 28 ONLY, no vehicles will be admitted, as the event welcomes runners and walkers to the "Bright Lights for Easterseals" 5K run and family fun walk!*

The drive-through display features 62 elaborate lighted scenes. Animation gives the illusion of movement to many exhibits. **More displays will be transformed with LED lights this year, so the event will shine brighter than ever!**

Hours are 5-9 p.m. Sun.-Thur. and 5-10 p.m. Fri. and Sat. Tickets are available at the gate OR in advance from any Ritzy's in Evansville. Admission per vehicle remains at the same affordable price: Up to 6 people \$7; 7-14 people \$10; 15 or more people \$25. Visitors may choose a horse-drawn carriage ride (weather permitting) for \$30, which includes admission; no reservations are needed.

Tickets are great holiday gifts for friends, family, employees, and customers! Tickets are just \$7 each at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center (3701 Bellemeade, Evansville) or any Ritzy's in Evansville.

Discounted tickets (50 or more) are available for businesses and organizations. Choose 50 tickets for \$337.50 (retail value \$350), or 100 tickets for \$650 (retail value \$700). Tickets are available for as little as \$4 each, depending on quantity!

For information and to order discounted tickets, contact Alexandra Jarvis at 812-474-2348 or ajarvis@evansvillerehab.com.

Major sponsors of Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights are Ritzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Teamsters Local 215, Electrical JATC, WEHT Local/Local 7 WTVW, Lamar Advertising, 104.1FM-WIKY, HOT 96, 93.5 DUKE FM and WABX.



Enjoy the
"Bright
Lights"
Run/Walk
**WED.
NOV. 28**
in
Garvin
Park!

On Wed., Nov. 28 ONLY, Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights will be closed to vehicles and open to runners, walkers, strollers and wheelchair users.

A timed 5K run will start at 5:45 p.m. Registration is \$25 (\$30 after Nov. 1) and includes a t-shirt (adult sizes S-XL). Awards will go to the top 2 male and female runners in various age groups. Visit our EastersealsRehabCtr Facebook page for details!

An untimed 1-mile walk will begin at 6:15 p.m. Registration is just \$5 for the walk. (No charge for ages 2 and under, or for paid 5K race entrants. No dogs permitted.)

"Bright Lights for Easterseals" will be a festive event for all ages and abilities, so bring friends and family! A costume contest will add to the fun!

ALL proceeds will fund therapy! Register now at <https://register.chronotrack.com/r/31836>.

For details or to volunteer, sponsor, or provide goody bag items, please contact race director Rhonda Trail: rhonda_trail@yahoo.com.



The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center is working to change the way our community defines and views disability by making profound, positive differences in local people's lives every day.

Connect with us!

eastersealsrehabcenter.com

P 812.479.1411 • F 812.437.2634



Congrats and Thank You to Easterseals Rehabilitation Center Audiologists Jayne Fields and Christine Griffiths!



The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's audiologists, Jayne Fields and Christine Griffiths, recently received a well-deserved honor – the 2018 Courier & Press Readers' Choice Gold Award for Best Hearing Care Facility/Audiologist. Congratulations to Christine and Jayne!

Thank you to the community for recognizing the hard work of these compassionate, dedicated professionals. They make a difference every day!

To learn more about hearing evaluations for newborns, children and adults, as well as hearing aid fittings and other life-changing audiology services, call 812-479-1411. Easterseals provides audiology testing regardless of ability to pay.

Audiologists Jayne Fields and Christine Griffiths (l. to r.) display their Gold Award at the Courier & Press Readers' Choice event.

Share our "Passion for Fashion" and make a difference Nov. 15!

Hurry to reserve your spot for our 2018 style show and luncheon, "Passion for Fashion!" Join emcee Shelley Kirk **Thursday, Nov. 15**, for the 28th annual event at Holiday Inn Airport on Hwy. 41 N. in Evansville.

Passion for Fashion features a silent auction with jewelry items, massage and "pamper yourself" packages, exercise classes, themed baskets, gift cards from area merchants, event tickets and more. Find something perfect for everyone on your holiday shopping list!

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. for the silent auction. Enjoy lunch at 11:30, and at noon, community models will present fashions from **The Graceful Lady and Graceful Lady Glam** in Ft. Branch. Child models will show off clothing from the **Lollipop Tree Boutique**.

Passion for Fashion proceeds fund therapy for local individuals with disabilities. For details and to rsvp, contact Laura Terhune at 812-437-2627 or lterhune@evansvillerehab.com.

Passion for Fashion 2018

- Individual: \$50
 - *Friend: \$75
 - *Patron: \$100
 - Sponsor Table for 8: \$500
 - *Sponsor Table for 8: \$650
 - *Presidents' Council: \$1,000
 - *Benefactor: \$5,000 & up
- *Includes preferred seating and program listing*

Mitchell Preschool graduate Luke Gilberg and his Easterseals Occupational Therapist Janel Gatz were a big hit at last year's show! Photo by Bret Roebing



Win a \$1,000 unrestricted gift card from The Diamond Galleria!

One lucky Easterseals supporter will win a \$1,000 unrestricted gift card from The Diamond Galleria! How? Buy up to four \$25 Diamond Galleria unrestricted gift cards through Easterseals; with each one purchased, you fund life-changing therapy, and you're entered into a drawing to win the \$1,000 unrestricted gift card! A maximum of 150 of the \$25 gift cards are available until Nov. 15 at "Passion for Fashion." **The winner will be drawn at the event, but you DON'T have to be present to win!** To purchase gift cards in advance and be entered in the drawing, contact Caylee Elpers at 812-437-2607 or celpers@evansvillerehab.com.

Experience the HEART connection that *changes lives!*

For more than 30 years, the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's Group Home program has created a home-like atmosphere, offering the highest possible quality of life for individuals with disabilities while providing the safe, caring, comfortable environment families have come to expect and trust.

Do you know someone who could benefit from Group Home living? The program is accepting applications for new residents. Many adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities thrive in this nurturing environment with a family feeling! Residents participate in programs that meet their unique needs and interests, while building confidence and self-sufficiency.

Nine homes are located in residential neighborhoods in Evansville, Mt. Vernon, and the Newburgh/Chandler area. Transportation is provided to work, day programs, medical appointments, recreation activities, and community events.

An experienced, highly-trained interdisciplinary team of staff and health care professionals provides around-the-clock support. Loyal long-term employees have a passion to serve and they get to know each resident personally.

Group Home residents must be eligible for the program through Indiana's Bureau of Development Disabilities Services. Easterseals Rehabilitation Center staff can



Photos by Bret Roebing



**Improving Lives,
Encouraging Independence,
Creating Family!**

assist families in determining eligibility. Contact Christy Gogel at 812-437-2646 or cgogel@evansvillerehab.com for more details or to receive a brochure.

Group Home employment is a great match for people who want more than just a job! Assisting clients in achieving their own unique potential can be truly rewarding. Full time and part time positions are now available.

Newly hired direct support staff complete a comprehensive training program, followed by mentoring by an experienced team member. The program offers competitive pay with regular increases, opportunities for advancement, and excellent benefits for full time.

For employment information, contact Kieu Tran, 812-437-2602 or kttran@evansvillerehab.com.



Thank you, E'ville Iron!
Congratulations and many thanks to the E'ville Iron Street Rod Club for an amazing Frog Follies Aug. 24-26! The tireless work of club members and their families made the 44th annual street rod show a big success!

E'ville Iron members are extremely generous friends of Easterseals, funding thousands of therapy sessions for local children and adults with disabilities.

Since they began supporting Easterseals over 35 years ago, the club has donated more than \$1.5 million! They have funded countless therapy sessions and make a huge difference in the lives of local people with disabilities!

Mark your calendar now for the 2019 Frog Follies on Aug. 23-25!

Wesselman's "Golfing Fore Kids" scramble scores big success!

Thank you to our friends at Wesselman's Supermarkets for a very successful "Golfing FORE Kids!" Over 175 golfers played in the 19th annual scramble at Cambridge Golf Course on Sept. 27. More than \$55,000 was raised to fund approximately 1,150 therapy sessions for local people with disabilities!

Next year's event is tentatively set for Sept. 26, 2019. For information, contact Alexandra Jarvis at 812-474-2348 or aj Jarvis@evansvillerehab.com.

"Cool Car, Cold Cash" sponsored by Old National Bank funds life-changing therapy.

A total of 2,838 tickets were in the July 26th "Cool Car, Cold Cash" drawing. Proceeds of \$81,930 will help to fund approx. 1,870 therapy sessions! Winner of a Nissan Sentra or \$15,000 was Graziella Hawa, who chose the cash prize. Rebecca Perkins won \$5,000 and Donnell Hall won \$1,000. Many thanks to everyone who entered!

Kids learn life lessons with *Tools 4 Teaching* presents “Easterseals Hop-N-Ing!”

Kids have fun *and* learn valuable life lessons with **Tools 4 Teaching** presents “Easterseals HOP-N-ING!” The week-long disability awareness program can be used *at no cost* by elementary teachers any time during the school year, or year-round for preschools and other groups.

Materials include a curriculum guide and five dolls with disabilities. Their stories help students develop a better understanding of people with differing abilities. **Last year, a doll named James, depicting a child with autism, joined four other dolls with more visible disabilities.**

Easterseals staff can present HOP-N-ING information to groups, classes, or in an assembly setting. Groups can also tour the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center to see how our services enable people with disabilities to live, learn, work, and play independently.

After learning about disabilities, children help to change lives *and* win prizes by collecting pledges for each hop completed during a 3-minute HOP-N-ING. Money raised provides therapy for local kids and adults.

If you are a teacher, principal, parent or grandparent and want to get your school involved, contact Alexandra Jarvis at 812-474-2348 or ajarvis@evansvillerehab.com.



Special thanks to title sponsor **Tools 4 Teaching** and to sponsors St. Vincent Hospital for Women & Children and Cold Stone Creamery & Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory.

