

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Fall 2022

Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights Nov. 24-Jan. 1



*Make memories and
make a difference!*

DETAILS INSIDE!

Special thanks!

Thanks to everyone who made the 2022 Easterseals Golfing Fore Kids sponsored by Winkler a big success! Approximately \$57,000 was raised for therapy services! Special thanks to our friends at Winkler for supporting this event from the start. Golfing Fore kids has now raised more than a million dollars in its 23-year history! **Save the date for next year! Join us at Cambridge Thur., Aug. 31, 2023!**



- Residents David, Rett and Steve (l. to r.) enjoy some "family time" with staff member Sarah Parkerton in Alvord Group Home's bright and cheery living room. (Photo courtesy of Roebling Photographics)



- Openings available for new residents!
- Group Home environment meets unique needs, empowers residents, and feels like family.**
- For 35 years, the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's Group Home program has created a home-like atmosphere, empowering residents while providing the safe, caring environment families have come to expect and trust. ***The program is now accepting applications for new residents!***
- Many adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities thrive in this nurturing environment with a family feeling! Residents enjoy programs that meet their unique needs and interests. Individuals are empowered to work toward their own goals and gain greater independence.
- Easterseals Group Homes are located in residential neighborhoods in Evansville, Newburgh and Chandler. Easterseals provides transportation to day programs, appointments, and community activities. Highly-trained staff provide around-the-clock support and get to know each resident personally. ***It's a Heart Connection!***
- Individuals must qualify for the program** through Indiana's Bureau of Development Disabilities Services. Easterseals Rehabilitation Center staff can assist families in determining eligibility. Contact Christy Gogel at 812-437-2646 or cgogel@evansvillerehab.com for details or a Group Home tour. ●

Residential programs can be giant steps toward independence.

Since 1987, Easterseals has operated group homes for people with significant disabilities who need 24-hour care or supervision. These homes are funded by Medicaid and serve adults who have significant cognitive or physical disabilities and often have a need for increased attention to medical or behavioral issues. We also provided Community Living (Waiver) Services through Medicaid Waiver funding from the early 1990s until earlier this year, when we chose to stop providing those services in order to focus our resources on the group home program.

In my tenure here at Easterseals, I worked directly with both of these programs and I'm often asked how they are different and which is best. I can speak to the services that we provided. Other providers will vary.

Group homes are eight-bed homes for adults, located in residential neighborhoods. Residents in these homes are provided 24-hour care based on their individual needs. This includes personal care, medical care, provision of meals, regular recreational activities inside and outside the home, consistent transportation services with dedicated staff, and behavioral supports. Staff in group homes rarely work alone and a manager works directly at the group home, providing better oversight and ongoing training.

Waiver services are provided in an apartment or home setting (often with one or two other people) and individuals receive care up to 24 hours a day as needed. This includes personal care, assistance with obtaining medical care outside the setting, assistance with meals, support to plan recreational activities, and can include outside behavioral supports. Transportation needs are mostly met through public transportation or paid transportation services. Staff in this type of program often work alone and managers may work at a central office. Because they have fewer roommates, people in this setting will have the opportunity to make more choices (including choosing roommates), but notice that they receive assistance with accessing care, instead of inherent access to care.



Kelly Schneider
President/CEO

For many people, the Waiver provides better engagement and choice within the community. But for many with physical disabilities who need specialized transportation, the supports may actually be inadequate and sometimes result in people being isolated in their apartment, even though they are in a community setting. Another area where this type of program may fall short is with behavioral supports, and especially medical care and supports. Group homes provide nursing services in the home on a consistent basis while, at most, those in community living settings receive one or two contacts per month with a nurse.

Which program is best really depends on the individual and their needs. At times, group homes can even be a good transition for an adult living at home before living in an apartment setting. Family members of adults with disabilities can help them assess the risks and rewards of both services to make that decision. We're here to help in any way we can, and we invite you to tour one of our group homes to see for yourself.

While they are different, both programs can be a giant step for adults to gain independence. Let us know if we can help. ●



The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's MISSION
is to make profound, positive differences in the lives
of local people with disabilities every day, and
to change the way our community defines and views disability.

OUR VISION is a community in which all individuals and families
are accepted, valued and included, and have equal opportunity
to achieve their goals, dreams and aspirations.

Spotlight on friends of Easterseals...

Meet John and Diane Schroeder, special members of the Easterseals family.

In many ways, Easterseals is like a family, thanks to caring people like John and Diane Schroeder of Evansville.

John was introduced to Easterseals as a boy by his father, John H. Schroeder. John remembers visiting the preschool with his dad when it was located in a former church. He recalls his father raising funds to build the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. John H. served as Easterseals Board Chair and throughout his life, he shared his time, expertise and resources with Easterseals. John and Diane have continued that caring tradition.

Diane and John have been involved with Easterseals since the early 1970s. They have been members of the Presidents Council since 1996 and have generously supported many special campaigns through the years.

"When you think that one out of every four families need the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, it tugs at my heart," Diane said. "We can help out the children and adults who need services. It's a joy to be able to do that."

John followed in his father's footsteps by serving as Easterseals Board Chair, and now serves as Director Emeritus. He said, "When I see the staff and the dedication they have to help the children, I think it's just natural to say, what can I do to help?"

The Schroeders' commitment makes a difference every day, and their impact will continue in the future. In fact, their son Scott is already carrying on the legacy as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

Thank you, John and Diane Schroeder, for being very special members of the Easterseals family! ●

Will you join the Schroeders in making a difference in the lives of local children and adults with disabilities? Your generous gift today will empower individuals to achieve their own goals for independence. Leave a legacy through planned giving, and you'll make an impact for years to come! To donate now or learn more about leaving a legacy, please contact Laura Terhune, VP of Philanthropic Partnerships, at 812.573.1083 or LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com.



Thank you, Easterseals DSPs!

September was National Direct Support Professionals Month, a perfect time to shine a spotlight on Easterseals DSPs!

Direct Support Professionals make a difference in the lives of our residential clients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. These highly trained professionals provide exceptional care while empowering group home residents to pursue their interests and achieve greater independence.

DSP Month featured special activities, door prizes, and an appreciation lunch. Here are a few pictures of the fun! Thank you, DSPs, for making a difference every single day! ●

Congratulations and thanks to Paul Green and IBEW Local 16!

Thanks to all who attended, donated, or supported our Easterseals Tribute event honoring IBEW Local 16 and Paul Green on June 8th.

Almost three decades ago, IBEW Local 16 made a commitment—to help Easterseals create a holiday light show to fund services for local people with disabilities. Today, IBEW continues as a crucial partner in the hugely successful Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights. Paul Green's dedication has been instrumental to the growth of this event into a treasured community tradition.

We were excited to honor Paul and IBEW for their exceptional support of the Easterseals mission. Be sure to visit Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights this year to see the amazing results of their hard work and dedication! ●



Easterseals welcomed representatives of 2022 Tribute honoree IBEW Local 16 to the celebratory event in the Crescent Room at the Easterseals Early Learning Center. Among the IBEW members attending were (l. to r.) David Green, Ryan McRoberts, Paul Green (who was also honored individually), Brandon Wongngamnit, James Stidham, Jacob Gurtz, Ben Ipock, and Roger Clark.

Easterseals board members are recognized as community leaders at Rotary's "20 Under 40" awards.



Three members of the Easterseals Board of Directors were honored with "20 Under 40" awards at a Sept. 27th dinner reception sponsored by Rotary Club of Evansville. Congratulations to (l. to r.) **Jeff Wedding** of the Evansville State Hospital, **Michele Graham** of Harding, Shymanski & Co. PSC, and **Chad Grunow** of G.D. Ritzy's.

Rotary's annual awards recognize individuals in the Evansville area who are younger than 40 years old and have exhibited outstanding leadership qualities in their various community roles.

We are fortunate to have these exceptional leaders serving on our volunteer board. Thanks to Jeff, Michele, Chad, and ALL board members for giving their time and expertise to help Easterseals achieve its mission! ●

Your holiday shopping can fund Easterseals therapy!

- When you do your holiday shopping, a portion of what you spend can provide essential therapy services for local kids and adults with disabilities! **Amazon Smile** donates 0.5% of your total purchase price to Easterseals when you shop at **smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1087526**. Join AmazonSmile and choose "Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center" as your charity. **To shop on your phone, download the Amazon Shopping app, find "settings" and tap on AmazonSmile!**

let's connect!

812.479.1411

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Make holiday memories AND make a difference...

Enjoy festive fun at Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights, open nightly Thanksgiving-New Year's Day!



Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights—the perfect event for festive family fun—returns **BIGGER AND BRIGHTER THAN EVER** from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day (Nov. 24-Jan. 1). Drive through Evansville's Garvin Park with your loved ones to enjoy 72 elaborate scenes—the most in the event's history! ALL displays in this “magical mile of holiday lights” feature brilliant LED lights. Make holiday memories and *change lives* for local children and adults living with disabilities who are served by the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center! **Closed to vehicles on Dec. 7 for the Bright Lights 5K & 1-Mile Fun Walk.** ●

Drive Through Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights Thur., Nov. 24-Sat., Jan. 1

Sun.-Thur. 5-9PM • Fri.-Sat. 5-10PM
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 5-10PM
Closed to vehicles Dec. 7

Choose how to get your tickets!

- In advance at RitzysFantasyOfLights.com
- In advance at any Evansville Ritzy's or the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center
- At the admission booth during event hours

Still the same affordable admission per vehicle!

- Up to 6 people - \$7
- 7-14 people - \$10
- 15 people or more - \$25

Quantity Discounts

Discounted tickets are available in quantities of 50 or more! They make great gifts and greeting card enclosures! Contact Carolyn Franklin, 812.437.2607 or cfranklin@evansvillerehab.com.

Carriage Rides

Horse-drawn carriage rides are offered nightly, weather permitting, through Dec. 31 (EXCEPT Dec. 7). \$30 for up to 6 people. Kids 5 & under free. No reservations or online ticketing for carriage rides. Gift certificates available by calling 812.437.2607. Follow [EastersealsRehabCtr](#) on Facebook for updates!

“Bright Lights” 5K Run/1-Mile Fun Walk Wed., Dec. 7 ONLY, 5-8PM

Wed., Dec. 7 ONLY, Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights will be closed to vehicles and open ONLY to runners, walkers, and individuals using wheelchairs or other mobility equipment. Don't miss this unique experience! **Sign up now for the timed 5K run OR the 1-mile fun walk!** For

details, updates, and registration info, follow [EastersealsRehabCtr](#) on Facebook. Special thanks to volunteer race director Rhonda Trail!

Register now! runsignup.com/brightlights

**Bright
Lights
5K** for easterseals
Rehabilitation
Center

Sponsored by **Edward Jones**
Jim Back, CFP® Financial Advisor

**Visit our
NEW WEBSITE!
RitzysFantasyOfLights.com**

- Buy advance tickets!
- Get directions & details!
- Preview the displays!

Many thanks to all light display sponsors, volunteers, and major sponsors:

Ritzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Teamsters Local 215, Electrical JATC, IUPAT DC91, ABC 25/CW 7, Lamar Advertising, 104.1FM-WIKY, HOT 96, 93.5 The Lloyd, 107.5 WABX, and Evansville Living. Special thanks to the EVANSVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION for their exceptional support!



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United Way Day of Caring volunteers make a difference!

United Way of Southwestern Indiana held its Fall Day of Caring on Sept. 16. Community volunteers from area companies and organizations gave their time at more than 40 local nonprofits, including Easterseals!

Volunteers from Wathen Lobel Miller Schultz Group - Baird Private Wealth Management, South Western Communications SWC, and Mead Johnson/Reckitt took on the task of cleaning therapy gyms at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center.

Kids at the Easterseals Early Learning Center had fun while learning through STEAM activities with volunteers from United Leasing & Finance, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, Ascension St. Vincent, Atlas Van Lines, Liberty Federal Credit Union, CenterPoint Energy, and Traylor Bros., Inc.

Thanks to all Day of Caring volunteers for making the commitment to #BeTheOne! ●

