

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Fall 2023



Nov. 23-Jan. 1

in Garvin Park

Bigger and brighter than ever before!

- You'll be dazzled by 82 elaborate light displays, including 18 BRAND NEW displays!
- NEW! Find *Andy the Elf* in a different spot each week and you could win a prize package!



- Experience the unique Bright Lights 5K Run/1-Mile Walk on Wed., Dec. 6!

MORE DETAILS INSIDE!

• Ready, set, go! Daly is finding his voice!

- Communicating has never been easy for 6-year-old Daly. He has autism, and learning to speak has been a major challenge. Two years ago, when he still wasn't using words, Daly began receiving services at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. That's when this bright little boy started to find his voice!

- Daly quickly learned to express himself using an AAC (augmentative & alternative communication) device, similar to a tablet. For the first time, Daly could share his thoughts, feelings, wants, and needs! He expertly chooses words and phrases saved in the device, which "speaks" aloud for him.



- Now Daly is using his own voice more and more! He can answer "yes" or "no" when asked if he wants to play with a specific toy. He can request things he likes, including favorite games from his speech therapist's toy cabinet. Daly achieved a major milestone when he started telling his mom "I love you!"

- In another huge step forward, Daly now loves making eye contact with people and saying "Hi!"
- Daly also receives swim lessons in the Easterseals therapeutic pool. He's learning to be safe in the water, and the lessons are impacting Daly's communication and social skills, too. Learning to trust and connect with his swim instructor was a big achievement! Now he has fun interacting with her and learning new phrases like "Ready, set, go!"

- Daly's progress has already been amazing, and it's just the beginning! He will have so much more to say in the months and years to come. Thanks to generous support from the community, Easterseals will be here for every word! ●



"Ensuring the Future" of psychology services is essential for the wellbeing of children and families. You can help us reach our goal!

For more than 75 years, the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center has been a primary community resource to ensure that families at all income levels have access to the highest quality disability services. Our core services include five clinical areas: Speech-Language Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Audiology, and Psychology. For decades, we have been well known and recognized for our ability to help individuals with physical challenges reach their greatest potential for independence, but mental health challenges are also critical. **In 2017, we made the decision to expand our clinical psychology services, responding to a growing need in the community.** We did this because families were in crisis and could not get thorough testing for an accurate diagnosis. This was particularly a problem for families with Medicaid insurance or those who were underinsured, but all families needing services were impacted.

Issues related to mental health are not often visible, but these issues are no less impactful than cerebral palsy or spinal cord injury. We all have friends, family members, or neighbors who need help and support. But did you know that **nearly one in five children has a mental health disorder?** (American Psychological Association, 2022) The rate of children diagnosed with severe mental disabilities today is 30 times greater than it was three decades ago and **depression is the number one cause of illness and disability in 10- to 19-year olds worldwide.** Mental Health America reports that Indiana ranks in the top 10 for states with the highest incidence of youth who experienced a major depressive episode in the last year, and less than 30% of Indiana youth with severe depression receive treatment, largely due to a lack of providers.

Easterseals took a giant leap to be part of the solution by targeting two primary goals in 2018: (1) Increase access to outpatient mental health treatment including psychological testing, regardless of the individual's financial means and (2) Expand the workforce by training psychologists of the future to increase the number of psychologists practicing in this area. We accomplished both by creating a doctoral level internship in psychology.

Last year, Easterseals provided psychology services to a total of 790 individuals. Psychological testing helped 387 children, a major increase from the 52 children who received testing in 2017. We've also provided year-long clinical training for 14 doctoral level interns and 3 post-doctoral fellows. **Three of them are currently practicing in Evansville.**



Kelly Schneider
President/CEO

We are proud of these accomplishments, but they do have a cost. Because we provide access to these services regardless of insurance type or means, we knew from the beginning that it was going to increase our need for fundraising. To support our core services of PT, OT, Speech, and Audiology, we raise money through various events and fundraisers year round and through support from generous businesses and individuals like you. In order to protect the funds directed toward those services, **we knew that we would have to do something different to support the psychology expansion.**

This year we embarked on a campaign with a goal of \$5 million to raise restricted funds to "Ensure the Future" of access to Psychological Services. We are currently at more than 75% of that goal and **we need your help to reach the finish line!**

Campaign donations will be invested and the proceeds will underwrite psychology testing and counseling while training providers of the future for years to come. **Will you partner with us to help children in our region and their families** who desperately need these services? ●

To support the "Ensuring the Future" campaign, please visit easterseals.com/PSYCampaign or send a gift to Easterseals, 3701 Bellemeade Ave., Evansville IN 47714

"Imagine if your child needs help and you can't get it."

Wayne and Beth Kinney are passionate about "Ensuring the Future" for Tri-State children and families.

Beth and Wayne Kinney began supporting Easterseals more than 25 years ago, long before their own family needed the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. Easterseals touched them personally when two of their grandchildren faced challenges with learning, communicating, and reaching developmental milestones.

Wayne shared the family's story at the Easterseals "Ensuring the Future" campaign kickoff on August 11th at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. He also explained why he and Beth made a very generous lead gift to that campaign, to help sustain and expand psychology testing and counseling services for years to come.

The Kinneys understand how difficult it can be when young children experience conditions like autism spectrum disorder and learning disabilities. "We were blessed to be able to work with Easterseals and get the help we needed," Wayne said. After receiving Easterseals services throughout their preschool years, the Kinneys' grandchildren are now thriving! Beth and Wayne believe that *all* children and families deserve compassionate, high-quality, life-changing mental health services, regardless of their financial means.

"Imagine if your child needs help and you can't get it. Psychology services need to be available for *everyone*, for all levels of income," Wayne said. "It was easy for us to say yes when we were asked to participate in this campaign."

Easterseals sincerely thanks Beth and Wayne, and other generous lead donors, for their exceptional commitment. With their help, the "Ensuring the Future" campaign is on its way to raising its \$5 million goal. Now support is needed from the rest of the community to achieve that goal. As Wayne said at the campaign kickoff, "We can, and we will, create a better and brighter future for our community, *together*."

Please join the Kinneys in giving what you can to support the "Ensuring the Future" campaign. You'll help to ensure that life-changing mental health services are always available for area children and families, regardless of their financial means. Complete and return the mail-in form below, give securely at www.easterseals.com/PSYCampaign, or contact Laura Terhune, Vice President of Philanthropic Partnerships, at 812.573.1083 or LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com.



Wayne and Beth Kinney were joined by daughter Julie Burczyk (left) at the "Ensuring the Future" campaign kickoff on the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center playground. Julie's children received Easterseals services and now she serves as a board member.



Ensuring the Future of Psychology Services

Easterseals Rehabilitation Center Campaign

Name(s) _____
Company _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Office _____
Cell Phone _____
E-mail _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Easterseals Rehabilitation Center Campaign

3701 Bellemeade Ave. • Evansville, IN 47714
LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com • Cell: 812-573-1083

I/We make a total pledge of \$ _____

- ☐ **As a one-time donation (check one):**
___ Check enclosed to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center
___ Please bill me on (date) _____
- ☐ **Over a period of (check one):**
___ 1 Year ___ 3 Years ___ Other _____
- to be paid (check one):**
___ Annually ___ Semi-Annually ___ Quarterly
beginning on (date) _____

Method of payment (check one)

- ☐ Bill me (as indicated above).
☐ I will transfer marketable securities.
☐ Charge to: ___ MasterCard ___ Visa ___ Discover ___ AmEx
Name on card: _____
Acct. No. _____
Exp. date: _____

United Way “Day of Caring” volunteers make an impact!

More than 20 community volunteers gave their time at Easterseals on Sept. 15. We can’t thank them enough for being a part of United Way of Southwestern Indiana’s annual “Day of Caring!”

At the Easterseals Early Learning Center, kids of all abilities had fun completing a “Fall Olympics” obstacle course, with assistance from their new friends. Other volunteers washed and detailed the vehicles that provide transportation for adults in our Residential Services programs.

Special thanks to these companies for encouraging their employees to make a difference: Atlas World Group, Traylor Brothers, Capital Electric, Humana Indiana, Lensing Building Specialties & Architectural Sales, and the City of Evansville. ●



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.



Many thanks to everyone who made the 2023 Easterseals Golfing Fore Kids a big success, especially new lead sponsors D-Patrick Ford and D-Patrick Honda! Approximately \$53,000 was raised to support Easterseals inclusive early education and essential therapy services! We also thank our good friends at Winkler for being lead sponsor for the first 23 years of this scramble and continuing to support the event. This huge team effort has raised more than \$1,101,500 over the past 24 years! Save the date for next year! Join us at Cambridge Thur., Aug. 29, 2024! For details contact Sara McKeehan at Easterseals, 812-437-2609 or smckeehan@evansvillerehab.com. ●

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.

812.479.1411
eastersealsrehabcenter.com



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youtube.com/user/EasterSealsSWIN1



Making memories AND making a difference for 30 YEARS!

Biggest, brightest Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights will shine Thanksgiving-New Year's Day!

Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights—the “magical mile of holiday lights”—returns for its **30TH YEAR**, bigger and brighter than ever before, from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. Drive through Evansville's Garvin Park with friends and family to enjoy **82 DAZZLING DISPLAYS**—the most in the event's 30-year history—including **18 BRAND NEW DISPLAYS!** Make memories and *change lives* for local kids and adults served by Easterseals! Details at RitzysFantasyOfLights.com. **Closed to vehicles on Dec. 6. Join us that night for the Bright Lights 5K Run & 1-Mile Walk!** ●

● Drive through Nov. 23-Jan. 1

Sun.-Thur. 5-9PM • Fri.-Sat. 5-10PM
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 5-10PM
Closed to vehicles Dec. 6

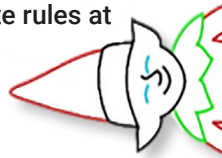
- Cash or card accepted at admission booth during event.
- Advance tickets available during business hours at any Evansville Ritzzy's or Easterseals Rehabilitation Center.

Still the same affordable admission per vehicle!

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

● **NEW!** Where's Andy the Elf???

Find the new “Andy the Elf” display in a different spot in Garvin Park each week! Report Andy's whereabouts correctly & post a photo of his location on the EastersealsRehabCtr Facebook page. **You could win a weekly prize package!** Details & complete rules at RitzysFantasyOfLights.com.



● Quantity discounts

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

● Carriage rides

Horseshoe Bend Carriage Co. will offer horse-drawn carriage rides *weather permitting* EXCEPT Dec. 6 & Jan. 1. \$30 for up to 6 people. Kids 5 & under free. No reservations for carriage rides. Gift certificates available by calling 812.437.2607 or 812.479.1411. Check RitzysFantasyOfLights.com for updates!

“Bright Lights” 5K Run and 1-Mile Fun Walk Wed., Dec. 6, 5:45-8:30PM

One night only—Wed., Dec. 6—Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights will be open exclusively for runners, walkers, and individuals using wheelchairs or other mobility equipment. Experience the magic in Garvin Park during the “Bright Lights for Easterseals” 5K Race & 1-Mile Walk sponsored by The Ford Center and Riverside Capital Management Group. (Use the park entrance off Morgan Ave., under the lighted arches.)

5K Race - Start Time 5:45PM CST

- Registration \$25/person until Nov. 17. Includes a Bright Lights t-shirt!
- After Nov.17 registration \$30, no guarantee of t-shirt. So register early!
- Register now at www.runsignup.com/Race/IN/BrightLights5K.
- Packet pickup will be announced closer to race date.

1-Mile Walk - Start any time between 6:15 & 8:30PM CST (Must exit by 9PM)

- Cost \$5/person (T-shirt not included). Free for children age 2 & under.

For more details contact Volunteer Race Director Rhonda Trail: rhonda_trail@yahoo.com.

Visit RitzysFantasyOfLights.com for details, directions, and updates!

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

Ritzzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Teamsters Local 215, Electrical JATC, IUPAT DC91,
ABC 25/CW 7, 99.5 WKDQ, 105.3 WJLT, KISS 106, 103GBF, WGBF-AM, WBKR,
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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**THANKSGIVING THROUGH
NEW YEAR'S DAY**

in Garvin Park

**Bigger and brighter
than ever before!**

DETAILS INSIDE!

These stories and more inside:

- **Daly is finding his voice!**
- **Day of Caring volunteers make an impact.**
- **The Kinneys are passionate supporters of mental health.**

