



Transforming lives since 1946

Empowering children and adults with disabilities and their families to pursue their own goals and dreams. Serving individuals from Southwestern Indiana, Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Fall 2024

Leola stays active with a daily dose of Easterseals aquatic exercise.

There's no age limit on a healthy, active lifestyle, especially with aquatic exercise in the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's therapeutic pool. Just ask Leola Ahrens, age 96, of Evansville. You'll find Leola exercising in the pool every weekday morning before 8am!

Leola's doctor first recommended the pool after a spinal fusion caused debilitating pain. **The warmth and buoyancy of the water makes movement much easier, offers a safe low-impact workout, and promotes pain relief.** Swimming ability is NOT required! The independent exercise times are perfect for Leola and several "pool friends" who join her. Individuals with mobility limitations may consider an assisted exercise option, accompanied by an Easterseals staff member.

The fully-accessible pool is also utilized for therapy sessions, swim lessons, and group exercise. It features non-slippery deck flooring, easy-entry steps, a wheelchair ramp, a motorized wheelchair-to-water transfer lift, grab bars, four water levels (1.5 to 4.5 feet deep), and adjustable parallel bars.


Leola encourages other seniors to give the pool a try. She advises that the benefits of her daily routine are not only physical, but also social and emotional. "You have to have a purpose in life. That's what keeps you going." She laughed and said, "I would tell people to get up, get out, and get with it!"

To learn more about the Easterseals therapeutic pool and all of its programs, call 812.474.2365 or visit the therapeutic pool page at www.EastersealsRehabCenter.com.



ANDY RETURNS! Find Andy the Elf in a new spot each week for a chance to WIN PRIZES!




Nov. 28-Jan. 1 in Garvin Park
A holiday tradition for more than 30 years!
86 elaborate light displays (the most ever!)
including 16 BRAND NEW DISPLAYS!
\$7 per vehicle with up to 6 people


Bright Lights 5K Run/1-Mile Walk!
CLOSED TO TRAFFIC ONE NIGHT ONLY!
Join us WED., DEC. 4!
Details inside!

Easterseals locally and nationally: The best of both worlds!

Our local Easterseals Rehabilitation Center was recently honored to host a visit from Kendra Davenport, President/CEO of Easterseals, Inc., the National Easterseals organization based in Chicago. Kendra stepped into her role 2 ½ years ago, after three decades in development and marketing with several national and international nonprofits. To my knowledge, this was the first time the National Easterseals CEO visited us here in Evansville.

As you can see below, it was fun and gratifying to show Kendra the reach and impact of our local Easterseals services. We enjoyed two days of introductions, tours of our buildings and programs, and a reception with our leadership team and a few key donors. Kendra was very impressed with everything we do to serve our local community.

As I've talked about this visit, I've gotten a lot of questions about the relationship between our local Easterseals Rehabilitation Center (ESRC) and Easterseals, Inc., the national headquarters. Easterseals, Inc., is a national organization with 70 affiliates across the country. Each affiliate is different, with services and programs designed to meet the unique needs of their communities. Affiliates vary in size from small organizations (with budgets under \$2 million), to medium size organizations like ours (with a budget of \$17 million), to a few large and very large affiliates (serving larger areas and populations).

Like all Easterseals affiliates, our local ESRC is a private not-for-profit that is controlled and governed by a local board of directors. Money raised locally stays right here to help our friends and neighbors with disabilities. Decisions about which programs and services to offer are made autonomously by our leadership team and local board. This explains why no two Easterseals affiliates are alike. Each one strives to meet the needs and fill the gaps in their own communities.

So, what's the role of Easterseals, Inc., the national organization? The National office is a resource hub for us as an affiliate. They offer training, networking opportunities, and other expertise. They help us bring best practices in fundraising, services, and programs from across the country to our local community. The National office also advocates for individuals with disabilities at the national level.

Our partnership with the National office provides resources to support our mission and the impact we make in our own community. We benefit from their support while still maintaining full autonomy locally. It's the best of both worlds!

A blue ink handwritten signature that reads "Kelly Schneider".

Kelly Schneider
President/CEO





Congratulations and thanks to ABC25 / CW7!

The Indiana Broadcasters Association recently presented a 2024 Cardinal Community Service Award to ABC25 / CW7 for their significant service contributions to the Tri-State area. The stations were specifically honored for their exceptional support of our local Easterseals Telethon, which they produce and air at absolutely no cost to Easterseals! Congrats for this well-deserve recognition, and THANK YOU from Easterseals! ●

What a difference an hour makes!



- Did you know that 800 clients a week enter the doors of our Bellemeade Ave. location?
- They come for a variety of services, and their appointments are usually around an hour. Some are learning to walk, others are learning to speak more clearly, some are in rehab for an injury, and some are coping with a new diagnosis.
- Although there are lots of financial variables involved, in general terms, each hour of therapy is around \$100. As we kick off our End of Year appeal for 2024 we'd like to invite you to **"Make an Hour Happen!"**
- Could you consider making a gift this year that funds an hour of therapy? Every day, transformational moments happen because of generous people like you. And there are so many ways to make a gift!
- You can give online at eastersealsrehabcenter.com, or mail a check to 3701 Bellemeade, Evansville, IN 47714. If you have an IRA with a required distribution this year, you can direct some of that to a charity like Easterseals! If you are planning ahead for your estate, you can leave some portion to Easterseals to fund therapy.
- There are so many creative ways to support the work that **changes lives** for local children and adults with disabilities. If you have questions about charitable giving, or if you need assistance, please contact Rob Henson, VP of Major Gifts and Planned Giving, at 812-437-2629 or rhenson@evansvillerehab.com.



The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center recently presented Physical Therapy Scholarship Awards to six grad students from respected PT programs. Congrats Elise Deeg (UE), Keri Zumbahlen (UE), Daren Glore (IU), Cecelia Ritter (UE), Ellie Malloy (UE), and Claire Reiman (UE). We hope the award spreads the word about ESRC's quality services and encourages future PTs to join our team! Follow us to learn when the next scholarship application period opens! For details about PT positions, email info@evansvillerehab.com

Thank you, United Way volunteers!

Community volunteers made a big difference at Easterseals on Sept. 20. Many thanks to everyone who gave their time on United Way of Southwestern Indiana's annual "Day of Caring!"

At the Easterseals Early Learning Center, volunteers led activities and read to children of all abilities. Other volunteers worked outdoors, washing Residential Services vehicles.

Special thanks to these companies for encouraging employees to volunteer: Lensing Building Specialties, CenterPoint Energy, United Leasing, and Humana. ●

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.



Thanks to everyone who made the 25th annual Easterseals Golfing Fore Kids a big success, especially lead sponsors D-Patrick Ford and D-Patrick Honda! We also thank our friends at Winkler for being lead sponsor for the first 23 years and continuing to support the event. This team effort has raised more than \$1,140,470 over the past 25 years! **Save the date for next year! Join us at Cambridge Thur., Aug. 28, 2025!** For details contact Sara McKeehan, 812-437-2609 or smckeehan@evansvillerehab.com. ●



INARF selects Chad Grunow and the Ritzy's team for Partnership Award.

Each year, one individual or business is recognized by INARF, Indiana's primary organization for disability service providers. The 2024 INARF Partnership Award recipients are Chad Grunow, co-owner of Ritzy's with his father Dan, and the whole Ritzy's team!

The award honors significant contributions to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and the organizations serving them. G.D. Ritzy's, a family-owned business celebrating 40 years in Evansville, has always played an important role in our Easterseals mission.



While their most visible involvement is the lead sponsorship of Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights, Chad, Dan, and their team wholeheartedly support our programs, services, and awareness efforts. Dan previously served on our Board of Directors, and Chad is currently a Board Member serving on the Executive Committee.

Congratulations and MANY THANKS to Chad, Dan, and everyone at Ritzy's! ●





16 additional displays bring the total to 86 - the most ever!

A holiday tradition in Garvin Park for more than 30 years, Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights shines Thanksgiving-New Year's Day!

Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights—the “magical mile of holiday lights”—returns bigger and brighter than ever, from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. Drive through, make memories, and *change lives* for local kids and adults served by Easterseals! Details at RitzysFantasyOfLights.com. Closed to vehicles Dec. 4 for the Bright Lights 5K Run & 1-Mile Walk! ●

● Drive through Nov. 28-Jan. 1

Sun.-Thur. 5-9PM • Fri.-Sat. 5-10PM
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 5-10PM
Closed to vehicles Dec. 4 for run/walk!

- 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

● 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. 4 & Jan. 1. \$30 for up to 6 people. Kids 5 & under free. No reservations for carriage rides. Gift certificates available at the Easterseals Rehab Center 8am-5pm weekdays, or by calling 812.437.2607 or 812.479.1411. Check RitzysFantasyOfLights.com for updates!

● Andy the Elf RETURNS!

He was a hit last year and HE'S BACK! Find our “Andy the Elf” display in a different spot in Garvin Park each week! Report Andy's whereabouts correctly and post a photo of his location on the EastersealsRehabCtr Facebook page. **You could win great prizes** including gift cards and tickets to area activities. One winner each week, plus 10 bonus winners. Complete details & rules at RitzysFantasyOfLights.com.



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, Evansville Living. Special thanks to the EVANSVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION for their exceptional support!

Join us WED., DEC. 4, at BRIGHT LIGHTS FOR EASTERSEALS!

The ONLY night Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights is closed to vehicles and carriages.
OPEN JUST FOR RUNNERS, WALKERS, & PEOPLE USING MOBILITY DEVICES!

5K Race - \$25/person (includes t-shirt)

Race starts at Garvin Park entrance at Morgan Ave. & Main Street!

Walk - \$5/person

Walk begins after the 5K is completed and is open to all ages!

NEW THIS YEAR!

Food Trucks! Costume Contest!

Free ornament for first 200 costume participants. Prizes for top winners!

Details at RitzysFantasyOfLights.com



Scan to register or visit
runsignup.com/brightlights



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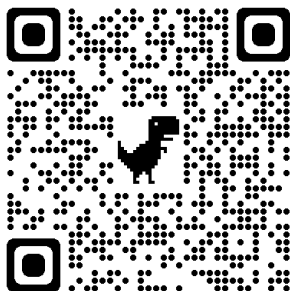
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**THANKSGIVING THROUGH
NEW YEAR'S DAY!**

*A holiday
tradition in
Garvin Park!
Bigger! Brighter!*

**SCAN FOR
DETAILS!**



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Info inside!

