

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

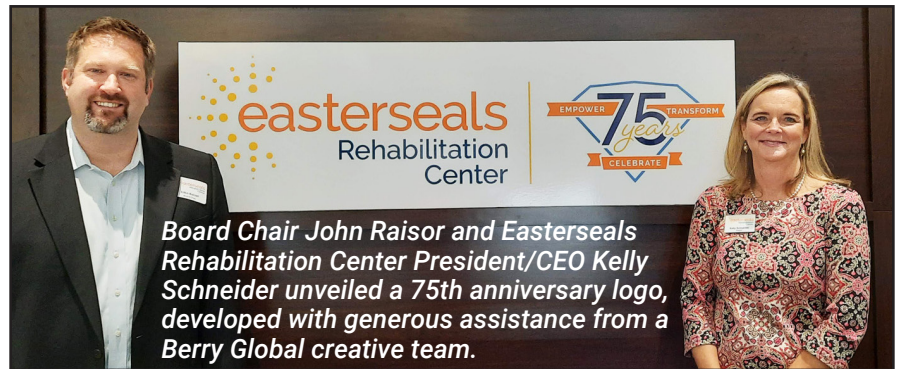
Spring 2021

Happy Diamond Anniversary!

The Tri-State's local Easterseals marked its 75th year of changing lives with a Facebook Live event on Jan. 13. The 75-year milestone is traditionally known as the "diamond anniversary" and the "virtual" kickoff was hosted by loyal Easterseals supporter The Diamond Galleria.

Since 1946, Easterseals has grown and evolved to meet the area's changing needs. Thousands of local children and adults have achieved their own goals and dreams with the help of Easterseals services, made possible by donors, volunteers, staff members, and the entire community.

More anniversary activities will be incorporated throughout 2021 and will focus on three themes: Empower, Transform, and Celebrate! *For more about this special year, see President Kelly Schneider's column on Page 2!* ●



Board Chair John Raisor and Easterseals Rehabilitation Center President/CEO Kelly Schneider unveiled a 75th anniversary logo, developed with generous assistance from a Berry Global creative team.

Coming This Summer! Easterseals Telethon on ABC 25!

The 2021 Telethon is moving from spring to summer. We hope to gather in person for the 44th annual show! *Date to be announced!*

2021
EASTERSEALS
ALL CASH
RAFFLE



Help Easterseals and you could...

Win \$50,000!

\$25,000 2nd Prize! **\$10,000** 3rd Prize!

WIN **8** EXTRA TICKETS!
MAKE A DIFFERENCE OFFER

Enter by 5pm March 5! Call 812-437-2600. Look inside for more ways to enter!

All-volunteer Board of Directors plays integral role.

Board members representing many facets of the community help to guide, govern, and support Easterseals. We thank these committed volunteers for giving their time, talent, and expertise!

2021 Board Chair

- John Raisor (Fifth Third Bank)

Executive Committee

- Paul Green (Community Volunteer)
- Brian Hape (United Leasing)
- Denny Hargett (Easterseals Posey County representative)
- Sara Miller (Old National Bank)
- Bill Norman (Berry Global)
- Dan Parod (St. Vincent)
- John Schroeder, Director Emeritus (Wabash/Crescent Plastics)
- Scott Schroeder (Wabash Plastics)
- Spencer Tanner (Jackson Kelly)
- Matt Theby (Lensing Building Specialties)

Board Members

- Scott Albin (PCI Skanska, Inc.)
- Maurice Berendes (Community Volunteer)
- Rob Bingham (German American)
- Scott Branam (Deaconess Cross Pointe)
- Geoff Gentil (Field & Main Bank)
- Katy Gilberg (Community Volunteer)
- Michelle Graham (Harding Shymanski & Co.)
- Chad Grunow (Ritzzy's)
- Carol Hull (Community Volunteer)
- Doug Kanet (Cresline Plastics)
- Curt Molander (ABC 25/CW 7)
- Dana Myers (Vectren, A Centerpoint Company)
- Ken Smith (Breck Logistics)
- Anne Thrasher Boyd (Anne Thrasher Boyd State Farm)
- Brian Williams (Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn)

Diamond Anniversary Empower, Transform, Celebrate!



I had the pleasure last month of helping to launch the year-long celebration of Easterseals' 75th Anniversary in our community. Very special thanks to Bert Wheat at The Diamond Galleria for hosting the Diamond Anniversary kickoff.

Easterseals was started in 1946 by community leaders who were driven to meet the needs of people with disabilities who could not get services locally. Through their early efforts, physical therapy, speech therapy and preschool services began. In 1957, the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center opened at 3701 Bellemeade Avenue in Evansville, in what continues to be its primary location. It was the first freestanding facility in the U.S. constructed for the purpose of providing outpatient rehabilitation services.

Community support grew, and Easterseals added audiology services and occupational therapy very quickly. Since then, tens of thousands of children and adults have achieved their own goals for independence.

I am excited to embark on this milestone year—of course we're all glad to put 2020 behind us—and I'm also very excited about the anniversary logo, designed by the creative team at Berry Global. The logo introduces three themes for the anniversary: **Empower, Transform and Celebrate.**

Easterseals will continue to **empower** people to achieve their dreams and maximize their independence. It's one of the most important things we do. We will also continue to **transform** as an organization to meet our community's changing needs. In addition to our core programs (PT, OT, Speech, Audiology and therapeutic preschool), we have added programs through the years like wheelchair seating, inclusive early care and education, group homes and residential supports, drivers rehabilitation, warm water aquatic therapy, autism services, adult day services, employment services, and most recently the expansion of our psychology services to include a pre-doctoral internship program for psychologists.

The third theme is the most important and the one I am most excited about. It's time to **celebrate** the accomplishments of children and adults over the last 75 years! It's time to **celebrate** the achievements of the entire community in partnering with us to support the Easterseals Rehab Center mission, as we work to make profound, positive differences in the lives of local people every day, and to change the way the community defines and views disability. But our biggest goal is to **celebrate** the commitment to the future and dare to dream about what we can do in the next 75 years!

These themes will be incorporated in fundraisers and activities throughout 2021, and will be highlighted as part of our LIVE Telethon this year, thanks to ABC 25/CW 7. We also hope to have a big, LIVE event in the fall to pay Tribute to the history and the future of Easterseals locally. Watch for ways you can help us **celebrate** throughout this diamond anniversary year! ●



Kelly Schneider

Kelly Schneider, President/CEO

Make a difference with Diamond Dollar\$ and you could win diamond earrings from The Diamond Galleria!

Be a part of our special 75th anniversary FUNdraiser, Diamond Dollar\$, and you'll make a real difference for local children and adults with disabilities. You could also win a pair of 14K white gold diamond earrings from The Diamond Galleria, with a total diamond weight of .50 and valued at \$1,295!



The concept is similar to calendar fundraisers for sports teams or schools. Volunteers (like you!) will collect donations from \$1 through \$75. Each amount is represented by a box on their Diamond Dollar\$ board. Donors can select more than one box, or can even add a "0" to the end of their amount.

Fill a board of 75 donations before our Diamond Anniversary Tribute Celebration later this year, and you're entered to win the diamond earrings! So why not get started now? We'll provide all the materials you need, including easy instructions and graphics you can post on social media.

Easterseals Special Events Coordinator Hope Mills is available to guide you and share fun ideas to motivate your circle to support your efforts. To sign up or get more details, contact Hope at hmills@evansvillerehab.com or 812-474-2348. All proceeds fund Easterseals early education and therapy services! ●

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66				70
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easterseals
Rehabilitation Center

Diamond Dollar\$
75th Anniversary Fundraiser

Each numbered box corresponds to a dollar amount.
Select the number. Leave a comment. Donate that amount.

Box 1 = \$1, Box 32 = \$32, Box 75 = \$75
Choose more than one box that adds up to the total you'd like to donate!

Increase your donation by 10x - add a "0" to the end of the numbered box you choose!

Box 5 = \$50, Box 41 = \$410, Box 68 = \$680

Donations fund early education and therapy services for local children and adults with disabilities.

Easterseals will provide everything you need to be a part of the Diamond Dollar\$ 75th anniversary FUNdraiser!

Payment Methods:

Cash
Check - Made out to Easterseals Rehabilitation Center.
PayPal - Use QR code or link: <http://tiny.cc/diamonddollars>
Invoice - available for values of \$25 or more

Thank you for your continued support of Easterseals Rehabilitation Center and thank you for helping us celebrate our 75th Anniversary!

Other ways you can help...

- **LemonAid Stand for Easterseals:** Friday, June 4, 11am-1pm, Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. Join Abby Wells & family for goodies like burgers, hot dogs, BBQ, ice cream, a silent auction & of course, lemonade!
- **Amazon Smile** donates 0.5% of your purchases to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center every time you shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1087526. **And now it's available on your mobile device! Setup is easy:** In the Amazon app, tap the 3 lines in the bottom right. Under Programs & Features, click Amazon Smile & turn it on for your phone. Then set Easterseals Rehabilitation Center as your charity!
- **The Diamond Galleria "5+5=Love" Program:** Show your special card from Easterseals each time you shop at The Diamond Galleria, 6245 Vogel Rd. You receive 5% off & Easterseals gets a 5% donation! To get your free card, visit the Easterseals Rehab Center 8am-5pm M-F or call Hope Mills, 812-474-2348.
- **Zeidler's "Helping Hands" Program:** Zeidler's Flowers, Garden & Gifts donates \$2 to Easterseals when you order online at www.zeidlers.com, select the "Helping Hands" pull-down menu & choose Easterseals. OR just mention "Code ESRC" when ordering in person or at 812-421-1234.
- **Participate in the Schnucks eScrip Program** & up to 3% of your bill will be donated to Easterseals. Get an eScrip card at any Schnucks customer service desk, then register at <http://www.schnucks.com> & choose Easterseals as your charity. Each time you shop, swipe your e-Scrip card at checkout.
 - You can also use your existing eScrip registration through the Schnucks Rewards app. Before check-out, choose "Donate" in the app (instead of choosing "Use Your Points").
 - Need an eScrip card or have questions? Visit Customer Service at Schnucks, or contact Hope Mills at Easterseals, 812-474-2348 or hmills@evansvillerehab.com.

Meet the 2021 local Easterseals Ambassadors!

Evan Carter Evansville

When Evan Carter was born with severe to profound hearing loss, his mom Diamond knew exactly where to turn. Diamond had been born with the same condition, and Easterseals was already an important part of her life. She had no doubt that the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center would help Evan, too.

While he was still a baby, Evan received hearing aids, audiology services, and specialized speech therapy from Easterseals. First he learned sign language, and by age 2, Evan was talking. He made even more progress while attending the Easterseals Early Learning Center, where he reached important developmental and educational goals.

Now 9 years old, Evan is outgoing, social, and is an excellent communicator! In his ongoing therapy sessions, he's focusing on advanced language skills to help him succeed in fourth grade and beyond.

"I want him to be successful in his journey like mine," Diamond said. "With Easterseals, we overcome any challenges that come our way!" ●



Sandy Ford Evansville

Sandy Ford's relationship with Easterseals started when she was a 3-year-old with cerebral palsy. Sandy took her first steps at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center and she's been reaching goals ever since.

After surgeries as a teen, Sandy learned to walk *again*. She also gained the confidence to drive, attend college, and become a nurse.

When Sandy was in her early forties, her son was born. She faced extra challenges as a mom with a disability. Easterseals helped Sandy adapt and learn new ways to care for her little boy.

In her fifties, Sandy had surgeries for cancer and back problems, resulting in chronic pain. She discovered the warm-water therapeutic pool at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. She calls the pool her own private heaven.

Sandy enjoys time with her grandchildren, travel with her husband Richard, and exercise with her Easterseals pool friends. With YOUR help, she has reached lifetime goals as an RN, homeowner, wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and now as an active retiree. ●



Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights sets new record.

The 2020 Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights hosted 17,466 vehicles and raised a net total of more than \$240,000, a new record! Proceeds will fund up to 4,800 therapy sessions! **Thank you** Ritzzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Electrical JATC, Teamsters Local 215, IUPAT Local 156, Tools 4 Teaching, ABC 25/CW 7, 104.1 WIKY, HOT 96, 93.5 The Lloyd, 107.5 WABX, Evansville Living, Kenny Kent Chevrolet, display sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who attended and donated!

Register for Easterseals "iCan Bike" day camp.

Children, youth and adults with disabilities can learn to ride a bicycle **June 7-11**. Participants must be at least 8 years old and have some type of disabling condition. This annual "bike camp" is held at Evansville's National Guard Armory. A limited number of individuals can participate. Scholarships are available through support from generous donors. To sign up, for details or to volunteer, contact Patty Balbach, 812-479-1411, ext. 268, pbalbach@evansvillerehab.com.



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.

Connect with us!

eastersealsrehabcenter.com • P 812.479.1411 • F 812.437.2634



“What might have seemed impossible is now being proven otherwise” by Easterseals Early Learning Center staff!

From the onset of the pandemic, the Easterseals Early Learning Center has remained committed to providing quality early care and education services to children of all abilities and their families. That goal continues to be achieved thanks to the exceptional efforts of the Early Learning Center staff.

Throughout these uncertain times, the program has remained in operation, with staff members diligently implementing COVID-19 protocols to ensure that children are learning in the safest environment possible.

“We are blessed with staff that are completely committed to fulfilling our mission while providing children with a sense of normalcy in a very stressful world,” said Laurie Seals, V.P. of Early Childhood Services. “The pandemic has taught us a lot about what we can do for children of differing abilities in unique circumstances. What might have seemed impossible is now being proven otherwise, thanks to a remarkable group of staff at the Early Learning Center!” ●



Early Learning Indiana grants help program “Come Back Stronger.”

The Easterseals Early Learning Center is grateful to Early Learning Indiana—the state’s oldest and largest early childhood education nonprofit—for generous support throughout the pandemic.

The Early Learning Center was fortunate to receive both Round 1 and Round 2 “Come Back Stronger” grants. The funding has helped the program implement extra health precautions, meet new challenges, and continue quality services during the pandemic.

Thank you, Early Learning Indiana, for believing in our mission and the children and families we serve! ●



Only 3,000 tickets available! • \$100 per ticket

Chance to WIN 8 additional tickets!

Buy your ticket in the **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** offer **Feb. 15 to March 8** and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win 8 tickets!

Buy tickets Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm:

- Call 812.437.2600 to pay from your bank account or debit card (NO credit cards)
- Stop in or mail a check to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, 3701 Bellemeade Ave., Evansville, IN 47714 to pay with check, cash or debit card (NO credit cards) ENTRY DEADLINE 5PM (CST) MARCH 10



Raffle entry deadline 5PM (CST) March 10, 2021. Drawing March 12, 2021, at approx. noon. Make A Difference winner will be drawn prior to the grand prize drawing. Indiana Raffle License No. 002228. Easterseals reserves the right to extend sales & drawing date. Must be 18 to buy. Proceeds help the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center change lives for local people with disabilities.

TO ENTER BY MAIL: Send completed form with check, money order, or debit card info (\$100 per ticket) to Easterseals, 3701 Bellemeade, Evansville IN 47714 by **MARCH 8 & YOU COULD WIN 8 EXTRA TICKETS!** Must be 18.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

E-mail _____

Debit Card # _____ Exp _____

Signature _____

How many tickets? (\$100 each) _____

NEWS2021

**Coming this summer!
Easterseals Telethon!**



We're excited to share the 44th annual Telethon on ABC 25 with the community! To get involved, call Carolyn Franklin, 812.437.2607.

Date to be announced!



Even in challenging times, committed staff members at the Easterseals Early Learning Center help kids of all abilities create bright futures. More on Page 5!

Thank you, Ascension St. Vincent!

An amazing community partnership is allowing Easterseals Rehabilitation Center residential clients to receive vaccines against COVID-19.

In Indiana, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in group settings became eligible for the vaccine in early January, along with residents of other long-term care facilities. However, there was no category available for them to register on the state's web site.

A collaboration between Easterseals and Ascension St. Vincent provided the opportunity for individuals served by our Group Homes and Community Living Services to receive vaccines. Thank you, Ascension St. Vincent, for being such a great community partner!

Many individuals with developmental disabilities are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 health complications, but many are not yet eligible for vaccines. Easterseals continues to advocate for vaccination opportunities for all who want to receive them.

Rett Larimore & other residents received the COVID-19 vaccine at their Easterseals Group Homes, thanks to Ascension St. Vincent. ●

