

## YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Spring 2022

### People of all abilities achieve goals, thanks to generous support of pool.

Individuals of all abilities benefit from the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's full-size warm-water therapeutic pool at 3701 Bellemeade Ave. People of all ages reach goals in aquatic therapy. Children of all abilities learn to swim. Adults improve their mobility, health and fitness with aquatic exercise.

Maintaining the facility and ensuring that it is accessible for everyone is a big job and a huge investment. That's why Easterseals is extremely grateful for recent grants that funded essential pool upkeep and equipment.

**"Thanks for allowing everyone the opportunity to move!"**  
**Anne Greenfield**

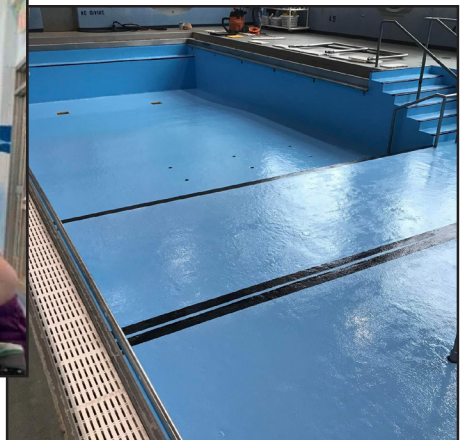
Many thanks to the **Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation** for funding a new motorized wheelchair-to-water lift. It replaces the previous lift (funded by the Reeve Foundation in 2008) that had surpassed its expected lifespan. The new lift empowers people of differing abilities, including those with paralysis, to safely access the pool.

Thank you to **Holiday Management Foundation** for funding professional repainting of the entire pool. The highly specialized process was crucial due to deterioration of old paint. Holiday Management Foundation's generosity made the essential project possible.

For details on aquatics programs, contact Molly Mackey, 812-474-2365 or [mmackey@evansvillerehab.com](mailto:mmackey@evansvillerehab.com).



Above: A wheelchair-to-water lift funded by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation empowers Anne Greenfield and other local people to access the pool. Also shown is pool manager Molly Mackey.



Above: The pool surface looks new again, thanks to a crucial professional repainting project funded by a generous grant from Holiday Management Foundation.

# You could win \$50,000!

or \$25,000!

or \$10,000!

IN Raffle License #002228



Enter through March 9!

Tickets \$100 each. Max of 3,000 tickets available.

Enter by Mon., March 7, for your chance to win 5 extra tickets! Call 812.437.2600

More entry options and details inside!

# Let's make 2022 a year of kindness.

*"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees." –Amelia Earhart*

On February 17th we celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Day. In these turbulent and uncertain times, it is more important than ever that we take care of ourselves and take care of each other. Acts of kindness and compassion change lives. Send an encouraging email, gift an inspirational book, cook your family's favorite meal, be kind to your server, learn something new about a coworker.... The possibilities are endless. Practicing random acts of kindness will help you at least as much as it will help those you are trying to impact. Let's be kind throughout 2022!

Currently our community and our world are experiencing a mental health crisis. If you need help finding services, call the Easterseals Mental Health Resources number at 812-426-2640, and if you or someone you know is in crisis, call the 24-hour Southwestern Crisis Line at 812-422-1100. Help is available.

As we focus on our individual health needs it is also important for us to continuously assess the health and effectiveness of Easterseals programs locally. For more than 30 years we have provided residential services through two programs: Group Homes and Community Living Services. Adults served through Community Living receive services in an apartment or home setting and often live with one or two roommates. Currently about 30 individuals receive this Medicaid Waiver-funded service through Easterseals. As we have continued to navigate the challenges of the coronavirus and now the extra challenges created by staffing shortages, we have found ourselves in a position to re-evaluate this service. After careful review in 2021, we made the decision to stop providing this service and assist clients and staff of that program in transferring to other community providers. These services will end in March. Our ongoing focus will be on stabilizing our group home program and maintaining the highest quality services there. Although we are disappointed to no longer be working directly with some of these clients on a day-to-day basis, we will continue to provide employment supports, clinical therapy services and adaptive equipment if needed, and will work closely with their new providers to ensure that their needs are met.



*Kelly Schneider*

Kelly Schneider, President/CEO

## let's connect!

812.479.1411

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The **MISSION** of the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center 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.

# The sky's the limit for Phoenix!

Phoenix was born more than three months early, weighing just 2 pounds. He spent 178 difficult days in the NICU before going home. Phoenix faced serious medical issues, developmental delays, and was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

At 16 months, Phoenix still wasn't walking, eating solid food, or reaching other milestones. That's when he began attending Evansville's only fully inclusive early childhood program—the **Easterseals Early Learning Center**.

**"The Early Learning Center is filled with kindness, inclusivity, and caring from the minute you walk through the door,"** said Angie Black, Phoenix's mom. With help from

Easterseals teachers and therapists, Phoenix learned to eat table food, drink milk, walk, speak, and play with classmates of all abilities. **Now Phoenix is a determined 5-year-old**, preparing for kindergarten next year!

He's learning to recognize letters and numbers, print his name, express his feelings constructively, and more!

At the Easterseals Early Learning Center, children of all abilities are empowered to achieve their own unique goals and dreams. Now the sky's the limit for Phoenix! ●



Want to make a difference for kids like Phoenix? **The Easterseals Early Learning Center is hiring Teacher Assistants!** Contact Laurie Seals, 812.474.2244 or [LSeals@evansvillerehab.com](mailto:LSeals@evansvillerehab.com)

**Many thanks to our volunteer Board of Directors for guiding, governing, and supporting Easterseals.**

#### 2022 Board Chair

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- Brian Williams (Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn)

## SAVE THE DATES!



**THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 11AM-1PM**

Join Abby Wells & family at the Easterseals Rehab Center for goodies like burgers, BBQ, ice cream, a silent auction, and of course - lemonade! All proceeds donated to Easterseals!



Sponsored by **Winkler**

parent company of Holiday Foods & Wesselman's

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 1, NEW LOCATION!  
CAMBRIDGE GOLF COURSE!**

DOUBLE SHOTGUN! 8AM OR 1PM! Reserve NOW! Sponsorships, teams & individual spots available. Contact Carolyn Franklin, 812-437-2607 or [cfranklin@evansvillerehab.com](mailto:cfranklin@evansvillerehab.com)

# Meet the 2022 local Easterseals Ambassadors!

## Charlie Joyner Henderson KY

Charlie Joyner's joyful outlook is contagious. "He never has a bad day," said his mom Libby. That positive attitude is one reason that cerebral palsy can't stop Charlie from reaching his goals.



When Easterseals entered Charlie's life at age 3, his muscle tone was similar to an infant's. He needed special equipment just to stand upright. Now, 7-year-old Charlie walks—and even runs—using a walker! He's learning to use canes, the next step toward walking independently.

Easterseals is also teaching Charlie to grasp a pencil and increase hand strength, button his shirt, and print his name. "His progress has been absolutely amazing!" Libby said.

All of these skills are helping Charlie succeed at Spottsville Elementary School, near the family's home in Henderson KY.

"It is well worth the drive (to Evansville) for therapy because of the progress we have seen," Libby said. "Easterseals turned out to be exactly what we needed. He loves it there and so do I! There's no other place I'd rather take him." ●

## Rett Larimore Evansville IN

Ask Rett Larimore why he's so involved in the community and he'll say, "I love to give back!"

Rett has been a resident of Easterseals Rehabilitation Center Group Homes since 1987.



That program and other Easterseals services empower Rett to achieve goals for independence and pursue his passion—helping others!

Because he has spina bifida, Rett uses a wheelchair, and the Easterseals transportation service helps him keep up with his busy schedule. Rett enjoys staying active at Easterseals Aspire day services. He also participates in community activities, including worship at Crossroads Christian Church and meetings of the Green River Kiwanis Club.

Rett is a dedicated volunteer for Easterseals. He raises funds for the annual Telethon to help other people receive therapy services. He advocates for his fellow Group Home residents and is an assistant recruiter at Group Home job fairs.

Rett said, "I just feel very blessed that I'm part of the Easterseals crew." ●

## More than 14,500 vehicles visited Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights!

The 2021 Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights hosted 14,511 vehicles and raised approximately \$223,140, including more than \$30,400 in extra donations from visitors! Proceeds are expected to provide up to 4,462 therapy sessions!

**Thank you** Ritzzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Electrical JATC, Teamsters Local 215, IUPAT DC9, IUOE Local 181, Tools 4 Teaching, ABC 25/CW 7, 104.1 WIKY, HOT 96, 93.5 The Lloyd, 107.5 WABX, Evansville Living, Lamar, Kenny Kent Chevrolet, display sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who attended and donated! Special thanks to Evansville Department of Parks & Recreation for their continued support of Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights in Garvin Park.

**Mark your calendar for the 2022 Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights!** The "magical mile of holiday lights" will be open nightly from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. ●

## Register or volunteer for "iCan Bike!"

Individuals with disabilities, age 8 and up, can learn to ride a regular two-wheeled bicycle at **iCan Bike, Mon.-Fri., June 6-10.**

Each "camper" attends the 5-day "bike camp" for 75 minutes daily. They progress through a series of adapted bikes while receiving individual assistance. Most participants are successfully riding a bicycle with no adaptations by the end of the week! They also receive their own safety helmet and an iCan Bike t-shirt.

iCan Bike is held at Evansville's National Guard Armory. Spots are limited! **PLEASE REGISTER BY MAY 16!** Cost is \$200 per person. Scholarships are available through support from generous donors.

**Volunteers are needed** and must be at least 15, able to walk/run beside an individual on a bike, and available June 6-10, 8am-12:30pm OR 1-4:30pm (or both).

**To register or volunteer for iCan Bike—or if you're interested in financially sponsoring a participant—**contact Patty Balbach, 812-479-1411, ext. 268, pbalbach@evansvillerehab.com. ●



Successful 2021 iCan Bike grad Evan Carter celebrates with volunteers Chloe Boardman (left) and Maggie Fowler.

# Easterseals honors state leaders as Outstanding Advocates.

The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center recently teamed up with Easterseals Crossroads and Easterseals Northern Indiana to honor six state leaders as Outstanding Advocates for People with Disabilities. Awards were presented Jan. 11 at a Legislator Appreciation Lunch in Indianapolis. Two leaders from Evansville were among those receiving recognition:

- **Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch**, an Evansville native, was honored for her work as chair of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Task Force and for her enduring commitment to promoting inclusion in our Hoosier communities.

- **Sen. Vaneta Becker**, who represents State Senate District 50, was honored for consistently championing issues that impact people with disabilities and for serving on the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Task Force.

Other award recipients were Kim Opsahl, director of Indiana's Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services; Rep. Christopher Judy of Fort Wayne; Rep. Gregory Porter of Indianapolis; and Sen. Ryan Mishler of Bremen. ●

## ● Thank you for year-end support!

- Easterseals is grateful to everyone who responded to our need for support at the close of 2021. Your gifts to our year-end appeal exceeded \$50,000, helping to provide as many as **1,000 therapy sessions!** Thank you for empowering people like Charlie Joyner, 2022 Child Ambassador, to achieve their goals and dreams! ●



Pictured at the Legislator Appreciation Lunch (l. to r.) are Easterseals Rehabilitation Center President/CEO Kelly Schneider and honorees Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch and Senator Vaneta Becker.

# Enter to win \$50,000! or \$25,000! or \$10,000!

- **Mail** order form to Easterseals to pay with check or debit card (NO credit cards)
- **Call 812.437.2600** M-F, 8AM-5PM to use checking or savings account or debit card (NO credit cards). Must be physically present in the state of Indiana to purchase by phone.
- **Buy in person** at Easterseals, 3701 Bellemeade Ave., M-F, 8am-5pm, with cash, check or debit card (NO credit cards)

**Enter by March 7 for a chance to win 5 extra tickets!**  
**Deadline Mar. 9! Drawing Mar. 11!**

Sponsored by:



IN Raffle License #002228

**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 7** & **YOU COULD WIN 5 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) \_\_\_\_\_



Easterseals Rehabilitation Center  
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## Introducing “Easterseals Telethon Friday!” on ABC 25. Tune in April 8!

For the 45th consecutive year, ABC 25 will present the local Easterseals Telethon—and this year brings exciting changes! The show has traditionally aired on a Sunday afternoon, but for the first time ever, the Telethon will be an ALL DAY BROADCAST AIRING ON ABC 25 FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 8AM-7PM! Plan to watch as Eyewitness News anchors host **Easterseals Telethon Friday!**

The show will feature special coverage during newscasts, live interviews, appearances by friends of Easterseals, and compelling video stories donated by **ABC 25** and **Direction By Newman**.

**Again this year, ABC 25 will donate 100% of production and air time**, allowing all Telethon proceeds to fund inclusive early education and essential therapy!

**Generous area businesses will match ALL donations made during the show!** Plan to call special numbers on the screen, text TRANSFORM to 243725, or donate at [eastersealsrehabcenter.com](http://eastersealsrehabcenter.com). Follow EastersealsRehabCtr on Facebook for *Easterseals Telethon Friday* updates!



*ABC25 donates ALL production and air time! ALL donations stay LOCAL!*

*Special coverage on Eyewitness News throughout the day!*

*Sponsors match ALL pledges made during the show!*

*Meet Easterseals Child Ambassador Charlie Joyner (above), Adult Ambassador Rett Larimore (right), and other local people who are achieving their goals and dreams.*

