

Thank you for sharing our vision: A community in which all individuals and families are accepted, valued and included, and have equal opportunity to achieve their goals, dreams and aspirations.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Summer 2020

Therapists continue essential services during the pandemic with dedication, determination, and technology.

When coronavirus restrictions prevented face-to-face therapies, Easterseals Rehabilitation Center staff knew there was a solution—using video and audio technology to provide teletherapy. Children and adults with disabilities were relying on essential therapy services, but they also needed to stay safe at home. There was no time to waste.

The financial commitment to implement telehealth technology was significant, and so was the team effort to make it happen.

“I am so proud of how our staff stepped up to the plate so quickly,” said Lisa Fisher, V.P. of Clinical Services. “Not only did they have to learn the technology, they had to learn a different clinical approach. Many therapists have worked more hours per week than they ever have in their careers. But it’s been worth it!”

Therapists are now conducting approximately 540 teletherapy sessions each week. Young clients are flourishing as therapists “coach” parents to help children learn to speak, walk, or feed themselves.

Technology is nothing without the therapists’ commitment, compassion and expertise. “They go above and beyond to connect with clients and



Physical Therapist Tammy Lockyear helps two-year-old Sophia Encarnacion build her strength and balance.

families,” Fisher said. “They are not just helping to change clients’ skills, but to change their lives. The staff make me proud to be an Easterseals employee.” ■

MORE INSIDE: How the staff continues life-changing services—and how YOU can help.

NEW DATE for Easterseals Telethon: **Sunday, July 19, 12-6PM on ABC 25!**



ABC 25 donates ALL production and air time!
Sponsors match ALL pledges made during the show!
Your donation stays LOCAL!

Watch & pledge to fund life-changing therapy!

- Tune in & call during the show!
- **OR** give securely online ANY TIME at www.eastersealsrehabcenter.com
- **OR** pledge in advance by calling Carolyn Franklin at 812.437.2607!

Please watch our Facebook page for any updates on how this year’s event will be conducted with our community’s health, safety and wellbeing as the highest priority.

Through challenges, uncertainties, and a “new normal”... We are **STRONGER TOGETHER.**

Sometimes it takes being knocked down to realize how strong you truly are.

In the midst of some of the most unusual and challenging circumstances in our lifetimes, I think you would be proud of the resilience and determination of your team at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic’s health threats, despite the hurdles of stay-at-home orders and social distancing warnings, and despite economic struggles, our therapists, direct support staff and staff at all levels have not let fear or disruption stop them. And neither have the children, adults, and families we serve. Through creativity, innovation and heartfelt commitment to the Easterseals’ mission, staff members have carried on, offering help, healing, and hope to our clients.

As is the case for many of you, we’ve had to figure out new ways to deliver our services to those who depend on us. And we’ve had success! Using telehealth techniques and other technology tools, we have developed new skill sets and treatment options we can use effectively even after the coronavirus outbreak ends. The best outcome—parents have been empowered to take a more active role in therapy.

- **Two-year-old Sophia’s mom**, Kandace, credits therapists Lynn and Tammy for Sophia’s progress—she can now sit up independently for more than a minute! “I was so afraid that Sophia would lose skills but instead she has gained them!” Kandace said. “**The therapists have taught me what I can do for Sophia. Now I have the confidence to do it every day.**” Kandace deserves the credit, too! (You can see Sophia in teletherapy on page 1 and in the picture at the bottom of this page.)
- **The mother of a six-year-old** told us she thought she was already really engaged in his occupational therapy. “But since we started telehealth, I’ve been hands-on instead of an observer,” she said. “Our therapist taught me to give him the right step-by-step instructions to dress himself. I am so proud of my son and I’m also proud of myself!”

Stories such as these truly inspire me. They are two of thousands that have made my 33-year career here so very rewarding.

The news is not all good. The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center will not emerge from this national emergency unscathed. It should be no surprise that monetary contributions have fallen. Planned fundraisers have been postponed or cancelled. We have utilized government stimulus programs to partially bridge the financial gap. But there **WILL** be a gap! And the end to the financial pain our business community is enduring is not in clear sight.

Revenues from services are down over \$200,000 due to reductions in Medical Rehabilitation Therapy, Seating and Mobility, and Driver’s Rehab referrals at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, and the temporary closure of facility employment services at Easterseals Posey County.

Expenses have increased by over \$100,000 for the services that have continued with normal operations, including Group Homes, Community Living Services, and the Early Learning Center, due to increased pay for these staff and additional personal protective equipment (mainly masks, gloves, and cleaning supplies).

Fundraising revenue is currently down nearly \$300,000, with revenue reductions for future events expected.

But we will carry on, embrace the “new normal” and make adjustments as we have done throughout this crisis. Our calling remains the same: Provide services to empower clients to be even more independent and offer relief to their families. As always, you can help make us even stronger. That’s what makes our community partnership so special – your support, and our collective passion!



Kelly Schneider, President/CEO



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





Staying at home is a positive experience at Rotherwood Group Home! Learn more on page 4.

Did you know?

CARES Act helps donors support Easterseals during this challenging time.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act has been in the news since it was passed in March. But did you know the legislation can help donors support Easterseals during this time *when your generosity is needed the most*? Be sure to speak with your financial advisor about your own tax situation, but here are some ways the CARES Act may enable you to make an even bigger difference for local children and adults with disabilities:

- **Any taxpayer can take a charitable deduction of up to \$300, whether or not you itemize.** Just imagine the impact if all our friends take advantage of this deduction and give what they can to help Easterseals continue its mission!

- **Cash contribution caps have been lifted for donors who do itemize.** Previously deductible cash gifts were generally limited to 60% of adjusted gross income. This year, donors can deduct up to 100% of their AGI for 2020.

- **Cash contribution caps have been raised for corporations.** This annual limit increases from 10% to 25% of taxable income.

You can make an even greater impact if you give right now, while a generous local supporter is MATCHING cash gifts to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center! Matching funds are limited, so please consider donating today while they are still available to *double your impact!*

You may give online at eastersealsrehabcenter.com or mail a donation to Easterseals, 3701 Bellemeade, Evansville IN 47714. Be sure to mention "matching" when you make your gift! For questions, please contact Laura Terhune, Vice President of Development, at LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com or 812-573-1083. ■

Community Foundation Alliance Rapid Response Grant supports Easterseals teletherapy for essential services.

Many thanks to the Community Foundation Alliance for awarding a Rapid Response Grant to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center.

This funding helped to offset a portion of the significant costs of transitioning to teletherapy during the coronavirus crisis, when in-person services weren't possible.

The \$5,000 grant was made possible by Rapid Response Funds from Community Foundations in Daviess, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties.

By supporting the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center during this challenging time, the Community Foundation Alliance is helping local individuals with disabilities continue reaching for their goals and dreams. ■

Despite pandemic, residential programs continue around the clock, thanks to dedicated staff.

The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's essential Group Homes and Community Living Services never close—not even during the coronavirus pandemic. In fact, the dedicated staff members are even busier than usual. They're making extra efforts every day, around the clock, to make sure clients are safe, healthy, and enjoying life.

Adults served by these residential programs have intellectual or developmental disabilities, and many have physical disabilities and chronic health conditions. They're at greater risk at this time. With off-site programs closed and community outings on hold, staff members have gone above and beyond to make staying at home a positive experience for clients.

At the Rotherwood Group Home, for example, staff built a windmill for a client and helped her create a flower bed. Female residents had an at-home spa day, receiving haircuts and manicures. Clients have enjoyed crafts, scavenger hunts, crossword puzzles, a new picnic table to enjoy the sunshine, and even a 60th birthday celebration!

Community Living Services (CLS) assists individuals in their own homes. Some staff duties have changed and many have worked extra hours, even facilitating clients' telehealth appointments. "CLS is very fortunate to have such hard-working, caring staff," said Angie Higgins, CLS and Transportation Coordinator.

The Transportation staff has also taken on new duties. Instead of driving clients to and from Easterseals ASPIRE day program or community activities, they are running errands and grocery shopping for Group Homes and CLS clients, and even providing bus rides to give clients a change of scenery.

Higgins said, "We really appreciate our staff's positive attitudes and willingness to help our clients get through this difficult time." This team effort is making a difference 24 hours a day for clients of Easterseals residential programs. ■



With a limited number of in-person therapy sessions starting again, face masks are a must! But they can affect communication for individuals with hearing loss who rely on lip reading and for kids learning to talk. Speech-Language Pathologist Courtney Cantrell shows how a mask with a clear plastic insert makes all the difference! Clear plastic "sneeze guards" donated by Garmong Construction Services add even more protection. Thank you, Garmong, for your support!



Join us for our annual scramble on Tuesday, September 22!

- Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus, IN
- SINGLE SHOTGUN at 11:00am
- Limited to 32 teams! Hurry to REGISTER EARLY!
- Lunch & Dinner included, plus TONS OF PRIZES!

Team Registration OPEN NOW!
Sponsorships Available!

Contact Carolyn Franklin
812-437-2607 or
cfranklin@evansvillerehab.com



sponsored by
OLD NATIONAL BANK

POSTPONED

In response to coronavirus concerns, the State of Indiana is revising charity gaming rules and has suspended all activities until revisions are complete. The Easterseals "Cool Car, Cold Cash" raffle sponsored by Old National Bank has been postponed. **WATCH FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT** on Facebook when we're able to kick off ticket sales!

Did you know?

Non-cash gifts benefit Easterseals and donors.

There are many ways you can make a difference for local children and adults with disabilities. One thing you may not have considered is a non-cash gift to Easterseals. In many cases, the contribution can also benefit donors through tax savings.

- **Capital gains taxes are avoided when donating non-cash gifts (such as stocks and bonds).** If stocks with a low cost basis have appreciated, you must pay taxes on the appreciation value. But if those stocks have been held at least 12 months and are donated to a nonprofit, the donor receives a tax deduction on the FULL value.

- **Supporters taking Required Minimum Distributions on their IRAs can donate the RMDs directly to Easterseals** and that distribution will NOT be taxed.

- **Other non-cash gifts include autos and life insurance policies.** If your family is not in need of funds, you can name Easter Seals Southwestern Indiana (EIN #35-0909982) as beneficiary.

Always seek the expertise of your professional financial advisor to learn what information applies to you. For more information, please contact Laura Terhune, Vice President of Development, at LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com or 812-573-1083. ■



During these challenging and uncertain times, mental health services are more important than ever. The Department of Psychology & Wellness has continued serving many clients via telehealth when face-to-face services weren't possible due to health precautions.

The program is also offering short-term emergency psychological care for children and families, regardless of whether they are current clients, and regardless of ability to pay. No one should hesitate to reach out for the help they need.

Do you or a family member need assistance dealing with issues such as anxiety and depression due to the pandemic?

**We are here to help.
Please call 812-437-2633.**

Mark your calendar to make a difference!

Please watch our Facebook page @EastersealsRehabCtr for any updates on how this year's events will be conducted with our community's health, safety and wellbeing as the highest priority.

NEW DATE! **July 24, 11am-1pm: 25th annual LemonAid Stand for Easterseals** at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. Join Abby Wells & family for burgers, hot dogs, BBQ, ice cream, a silent auction and lemonade!

Second Wednesday of each month: "Dine Out for Easterseals!" Each month, different restaurants host "Dine Out for Easterseals" and donate a portion of proceeds. Check our Facebook page for locations!

NEW DATE! **August 12, 6pm: Easterseals Tribute honoring the Muehlbauer family** in the Crescent Room at the Easterseals Early Learning Center. Join us to honor Jim and Mary Kay Muehlbauer, Brad and Lynn Muehlbauer, and Katy (Muehlbauer) and Josh Gilberg. For sponsorships and reservations, contact Laura Terhune at 812-573-1083 or LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com.

August 28-30: E'ville Iron Street Rod Club "Frog Follies." Vanderburgh Co. 4-H Center. Friday-Saturday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. \$5 per person (kids under 12 are free). Thousands of pre-1948 street rods, a craft show, swap meet and concession stands. Enter the half-pot raffle at the Easterseals tent for just \$5 per chance! E'ville Iron generously donates a portion of Frog Follies proceeds to Easterseals. *To volunteer with Easterseals at a concession stand, t-shirt booth or half-pot tent, please contact Cydney Quinn, 812-437-2609 or cquinn@evansvillerehab.com.*



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Make your gift now,
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 while a generous friend
 is matching donations
 up to a total of \$10,000.

Call 812-437-2607;
 mail to Easterseals,
 3701 Bellemeade,
 Evansville IN 47714;
 or give online at
 EastersealsRehab
 Center.com

Children of all abilities thrive, even during uncertain times, thanks to Easterseals Early Learning Center staff.

The world around them was changing, but children found familiar faces of caring staff at the inclusive Easterseals Early Learning Center. As an essential program during the pandemic, the Center has been a haven of normalcy for children and their parents, many of whom are also essential workers in the community.

“We knew we were going to stay open as long as we could to provide this service,” said Laurie Seals, V.P. of Early Childhood Services. With many parents working from home, fewer children have been attending, so program revenues are much lower than usual, but the Center has remained open. “This is mission-minded. For us, it is important that we do what we said we would do—serve our families.”

It has required extra health precautions, including deep cleaning of classrooms, toys, and playground equipment. “The staff have been diligent in their dedication to meeting children’s needs. They have worked extremely hard to keep things as normal as possible for them during a time when things were so uncertain.” ■



Learning is always fun at the Easterseals Early Learning Center. These classmates used jar lids donated by Silgan to design and create a house with trees and flowers.

