

## YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### Summer 2022

### Learning is fun for all at Easterseals Early Learning Center!

We are always amazed by the creativity of children and staff at the inclusive Easterseals Early Learning Center! LEAD Academy Pre-K Room #114 has fun learning with a different Creative Curriculum unit each month. To wrap up their "Wheels, Wheels, Wheels" unit, these 4- and 5-year-olds created a wall sculpture using hoops and t-shirt material (top left). To top off the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" unit, they collected plastic caps and created a unique mosaic (above right), which is now on display in the "Inspiration Through Art" exhibit at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center! ●



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



**Win a 2022 Nissan Versa SV CVT or choose \$20,000!**

2nd Prize \$5,000 • 3rd Prize \$1,000

Enter by 5pm July 20! Details & order form inside!

**812.437.2600**

**WildWheels Offer!**

Buy tickets by July 15 for your chance to win 7 extra tickets!



IN Raffle #002228

## ***“I believe in Believe.”***

Since March of 2020 and the beginning of the pandemic, the focus has been on how to get back to pre-pandemic norms. With the health crisis extending far beyond what any of us could have imagined two years ago, it's become clear that things may never be the same as before. So now what? It would be easy to feel stuck in a cycle of negativity that seems to be gripping the whole world.

**From an organizational standpoint, Easterseals' Leadership Team is taking a step back and charting new paths.** We cannot persevere on the past. As an avid Ted Lasso fan, I'm reminded of my second-favorite Ted Lasso quote: "You know what the happiest animal on Earth is? It's a goldfish. Got a 10-second memory. Be a goldfish." We have to literally "forget" that we are responding to a crisis. After steady analysis of where we are and our strategic plan for moving forward, we realize that we've become too reactive and much of the negativity that exists is due to our lack of control. So, we're taking control of what we can—our own attitudes—and developing plans to do more than respond to whatever crisis or barrier pops up this month.

**It's funny how this "reset" and shift in attitude can change your whole outlook.** It's like a weight has been lifted. We're asking ourselves how we can be better. Better at providing services, better at recruiting, better at staff retention (especially of direct care positions), better at listening, and better at problem-solving. Two questions I keep asking: "How can we see more people?" and "How can we see them faster?" We struggle with the waiting times for psychology services and have been working to add an additional Clinical Psychologist to further expand the impact. Despite the pandemic, services in other clinical areas held steady, but we are starting to see longer waits in those areas as the demand increases. To address this, we have just hired another Speech Language Pathologist and we are currently seeking an Occupational Therapist and an Audiologist. We just expanded our Assistive Technology team to meet the growing demand for wheelchair seating and mobility devices and drivers rehabilitation. At the Easterseals Early Learning Center, we are working to open two new classrooms in the fall and we are currently seeking staff to work in various positions in that program. We're continuing to explore several partnerships that may allow for additional expansion of services to see more people and see them faster. It's exciting.

**We're also moving forward with some of the initiatives** we started in 2017 and 2018 to better recognize staff at all levels of the organization for the commitment they make to the people we serve and the great work they do every day. We just celebrated Teachers' Appreciation Week with lots of activities at the Easterseals Early Learning Center and we thanked our administrative staff with a lunch outing for Administrative Professionals Day. We're looking forward to getting back to some of the cookouts and other activities for various staff groups and we're planning fun events for Direct Support Professionals in the fall. We're so thankful this year to celebrate face-to-face and to recognize so much hard work!

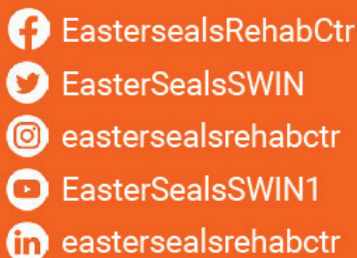
**It feels good to re-focus on the positives and create more forward momentum.** Which reminds me of my favorite Ted Lasso quote: "I believe in Believe." Being part of Easterseals is a great place to be if you want to Believe. We see the positives every day and we are so appreciative of the support from so many of you in our community.

**Life is good. ●**



Kelly Schneider, President/CEO

***Like & follow us on social media!***



***www.eastersealsrehabcenter.com***

***812.479.1411***

**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.**

# First-ever “Easterseals Telethon Friday” on ABC25/CW7 highlights mission, recognizes supporters, raises funds.

The 2022 Easterseals Telethon made history on April 8th, reaching Tri-State viewers with a brand new format on ABC25/CW7. For the first time ever, the show aired on a Friday instead of a Sunday and included multiple segments on Eyewitness News newscasts. A “final tote” of \$905,433 was revealed at the end of the show, reflecting an entire year of generous community support.

**It was the 45th consecutive year that ABC25/CW7 donated 100% of Telethon production and air time.** That commitment allows all funds raised to provide inclusive early education and essential therapies.

The Telethon aired live from the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center and was hosted by Eyewitness News team members Brad Byrd, Shelley Kirk, Wayne Hart, Ange Humphrey, and Ron Rhodes. **Viewers met Child Ambassador Charlie Joyner and Adult Ambassador Rett Larimore** and saw compelling video features created and donated by Direction by Newman, ABC25 and CW7.

Volunteers answered phones and groups “competed” in the Dialin’ and Duelin’ call center. Pacesetters presented donations raised before the show. Donors gave at the Kaiser Aluminum “fishbowl.” Outside, E’ville Iron hosted their annual Cruise-In.

Several generous supporters received Mayor’s Awards. Mayor Lloyd Winnecke joined in recognizing ABC25/CW7 and Stan Newman for their commitment to all 45 local Telethons.

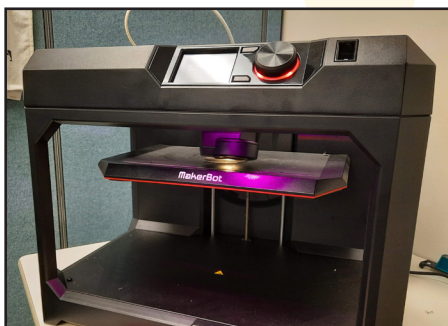
We thank everyone who was a part of Easterseals Telethon Friday! **Event photos are available for free viewing and downloading, thanks to Roebling Photographics.** Visit [www.myphotographyevent.com/Events/Easterseals/Easterseals 45th Telethon 2022](http://www.myphotographyevent.com/Events/Easterseals/Easterseals45thTelethon2022). ●



*Above left: Shelley Kirk interviews 2022 Child Ambassador Charlie Joyner and his parents, Libby and Randy. Above: Wayne Hart speaks with 2022 Adult Ambassador Rett Larimore. Left: Brad Byrd catches up with 2021 Child Ambassador Evan Carter.*

## *In our next issue...Easterseals honors IBEW and Paul Green.*

Exceptional supporters IBEW Local 16 and Paul Green were honored at Easterseals Tribute on June 8! Watch for a report in our next newsletter and see photos at [myphotographyevent.com/Events/Easterseals](http://myphotographyevent.com/Events/Easterseals).



## *Easterseals adapts equipment using 3-D printer from Vanderburgh Community Foundation.*

A 3-D printer funded by Vanderburgh Community Foundation is making a difference for local people with disabilities. Using the printer and special software, Easterseals Rehab Technologist Joe Ulrich creates one-of-a-kind plastic pieces and parts to adapt essential equipment.

Imagine that you use a wheelchair. You need the chair’s lights on for safety at night, but you can’t reach the light switch; a unique bracket that repositions the switch is the answer. You need to stay hydrated, but there’s no place to carry a drink while using your chair; a one-of-a-kind cupholder solves the problem. Maybe you are uncomfortable because the chair’s footrest is unstable; a customized support bar is the solution. Perhaps the buckle on your wheelchair harness has broken; a duplicate buckle (shown in bottom photo) keeps you safe.

These are just a few solutions that have been created in recent weeks using the 3-D printer. Many thanks to Vanderburgh Community Foundation for the generous grant, which is empowering local people to live independently and pursue their dreams! ●

# Mark your calendar for coming events!

Find more details at [www.EastersealsRehabCenter.com](http://www.EastersealsRehabCenter.com), have fun, and make a difference!

**FRI.-SUN., AUG. 26-28: E'VILLE IRON STREET ROD CLUB "FROG FOLLIES."** Vanderburgh Co. 4-H Center. Fri.-Sat. 8am.-4:30pm, Sun. 8am-2pm. \$5 per person (kids under 12 free). Thousands of pre-1948 street rods, a craft show, swap meet and concession stands. E'ville Iron generously donates a portion of Frog Follies admission proceeds to Easterseals! Also enter the half-pot raffle at the Easterseals tent for just \$5 per chance!

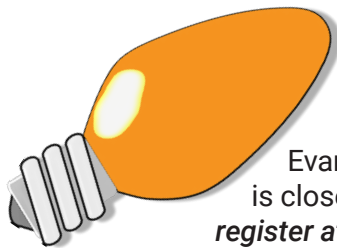
**Volunteer with Easterseals at a t-shirt booth or half-pot tent! Contact Cydney Quinn, 812-437-2609 or [cquinn@evansvillerehab.com](mailto:cquinn@evansvillerehab.com).**



**THUR., SEPT. 1: EASTERSEALS GOLFING FORE KIDS! NEW LOCATION! CAMBRIDGE GOLF COURSE!** Join us for this fun scramble. DOUBLE SHOTGUN! 8AM OR 1PM! Reserve NOW while sponsorships, teams and individual spots are still available. **Contact Carolyn Franklin, 812-437-2607 or [cfranklin@evansvillerehab.com](mailto:cfranklin@evansvillerehab.com).**



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**WED., DEC. 7, 5-9PM: BRIGHT LIGHTS FOR EASTERSEALS 5K/1-MILE WALK:** Run or walk through Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights in Evansville's Garvin Park! For this night only, the "magical mile of holiday lights" is closed to vehicles and open for a festive run/walk experience. **Find details and register at [www.runsignup.com/brightlights](http://www.runsignup.com/brightlights).**

## Holiday World hosts 30th annual "Play Day" and donates to Easterseals!

Many thanks to Holiday World for welcoming more than 2,200 children with disabilities, their teachers and assistants, to the 30th annual Holiday World "Play Day!" on May 18. The park also generously donated approximately \$25,000 in proceeds from the special day to Easterseals! Play Day is a highlight of the year for many area kids with disabilities. School groups receive discounted admission, Holiday World team members provide extra attention, and children can enjoy the experience at their own pace. Since 1993, Holiday World has hosted an estimated 69,500 Play Day guests and donated a cumulative total of approximately \$578,000 to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center!

## THANK YOU, WELLS FAMILY!

Thanks Abby, Amy, Mark, PJ, Noah, and friends for an amazing 26th annual LemonAid Stand for Easterseals!

Funds raised at your June 2nd event are already changing lives!





United Way honoree Wayne Kinney (center) is congratulated by Easterseals Rehabilitation Center President/CEO Kelly Schneider and Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke.

## Congratulations, Wayne Kinney!

United Way's Day of Caring on April 22nd featured a surprise presentation to Wayne Kinney, an exceptional friend of the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke presented the McGary Jones Visionary and Humanitarian Award to Wayne. The award was established to honor special citizens who offer distinguished service for the advancement of the city and the region. Not only is Wayne a generous Easterseals supporter, previous Easterseals Tribute honoree, and former Easterseals Board Chair, he is an advocate, philanthropist, and champion for the entire Evansville/Tri-State community. Congratulations to Wayne on this well-deserved honor! ●



  
**COOL CAR CASH**  


- **CALL 812.437.2600, M-F, 8am-5pm** to pay with debit or checking information.
- **MAIL check** with completed form.
- **IN PERSON** at Easterseals Rehab Center using cash, check or debit card.

**ENTRY DEADLINE July 20, 2022\***  
**DRAWING July 22, 2022\***  
 NO credit cards accepted.


**Win a 2022 Nissan Versa SV CVT**  
**or choose \$20,000!**  
 2nd prize \$5,000 • 3rd prize \$1,000  
**WildWheels Offer ends July 15!**  
**Enter by JULY 15 for a chance to**  
**WIN 7 EXTRA TICKETS!**  
 \$50 per ticket or 3 for \$100! Only 3,000 tickets available.  
 Proceeds fund early education and therapy  
 at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center.  
 INDIANA LICENSE #002228

\*Deadline and drawing MAY be extended if tickets still available. TurboBoost Offer winner will be drawn prior to grand prize drawing. For a full list of rules, visit [eastersealsrehabcenter.com](http://eastersealsrehabcenter.com)

**TO ENTER BY MAIL:** Send completed form with check, money order, or debit card info to Easterseals, 3701 Bellemeade, Evansville, IN 47714-0136 **BY JULY 15 & YOU COULD WIN 7 EXTRA TICKETS!** Must be at least 18.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Debit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many tickets? (\$50 each or 3 for \$100) \_\_\_\_\_ NEWS22

## *United Way Day of Caring volunteers make a difference for Easterseals!*



United Way of Southwestern Indiana held its 2022 Spring Day of Caring on April 22, mobilizing hundreds of volunteers to give their time at area nonprofits. The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center is grateful to volunteer teams from **Ascension St. Vincent Evansville, Capital Electric, and Koch Enterprises** for making a big difference on that special day. The hard-working teams painted outdoor play equipment, washed our fleet of transportation vans, and assisted children participating in the Easterseals Early Learning Center's "Day of Caring Olympics." Many thanks to all the volunteers, their participating companies, and United Way! ●

