



Serving individuals with disabilities and their families from Southwestern Indiana, Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky

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

Winter/Spring 2020

Generous community partner ABC 25 presents Easterseals Telethon April 5th!

See how the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center changes lives—and how you can help—by watching the Easterseals Telethon on ABC 25 Sunday, April 5, 12 noon-6 p.m.!

For the 43rd consecutive year, ABC 25 will donate 100% of production and air time. This exceptional commitment allows all pledges to fund *life-changing* therapy services!

The Easterseals therapy gym at 3701 Bellemeade Avenue will become a TV studio for the live show. Tune in to meet local people who are achieving goals for independence. Join us in person to see the hosts from Eyewitness News in action!

Outside from noon to 4 p.m., enjoy the E'ville Iron "Cruise-In" plus games and food when you donate at the fishbowl.

For the past eight years in a row, the Telethon has raised more than \$1 million. *Help Easterseals achieve that goal again! Generous area businesses will match ALL pledges made during the show!* Help us change lives for nearly 5,200 local kids and adults with disabilities. Make your pledge during the 2020 Easterseals Telethon on ABC 25! ●



Local Easterseals Ambassadors Sandy Ford (left) & Ellie-Jane Pfingston will share their stories on the April 5th Telethon on ABC 25. (Photo by Erik Photographic Studio)

Win \$50,000!

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

WIN 4 EXTRA TICKETS!

"MAKE A DIFFERENCE" OFFER
Enter by March 9, 5pm!

Say "NEWSLETTER" when you purchase!

See page 5 for details.

Value of \$400! Enter individually OR with a group. Change lives for kids like Sam!

2020

EASTERSEALS

ALL CASH

RAFFLE

IN Raffle License #002228



All-volunteer Board of Directors plays integral role in Easterseals mission.

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

2020 Board Chair

- Brian Hape (United Leasing, Inc.)

Executive Committee Members

- Paul Green (IBEW Local 16)
- Brian Hape (United Leasing)
- Denny Hargett (Easterseals Posey County representative)
- Wayne Kinney (Innovative Consulting Group)
- Sara Miller (Old National Bank)
- Dan Parod (St. Vincent)
- John Raisor (Fifth Third Bank)
- John Schroeder, Director Emeritus (Wabash/Crescent Plastics)
- Scott Schroeder (Wabash Plastics)
- Spencer Tanner (Jackson Kelly PLLC)
- 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)
- Stacy Carr (Toyota Motor North America)
- Todd Chamberlain (Republic Services)
- Katy Gilberg (Community Volunteer)
- Michelle Graham (Harding Shymanski & Co.)
- Chad Grunow (Ritzzy's)
- Carol Hull (Community Volunteer)
- Doug Kanet (Cresline Plastics)
- Dana Myers (Vectren, A Centerpoint Company)
- Bill Norman (Berry Global)
- Ken Smith (Breck Logistics)

Meet two exceptional Leadership Team members!

As promised, I am introducing you to two members of our Easterseals Rehabilitation Center leadership team in each newsletter. This series is in response to comments from last year's donor survey telling us that you don't know the current leadership of the organization. For this installment I have chosen **Lisa Fisher, CCC-SLP, Vice President of Medical & Contract Therapy Services** and **Jackie Smith, LCSW, Vice President of Residential & Community Living Services**.

Lisa Fisher has been with Easterseals since 1990 when she started as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Shortly after starting, she was promoted to Director of the Speech-Language Department. Lisa held this role until 2011, when she assumed responsibility for all therapy departments (Speech, PT, OT & Audiology) as Vice President.

In this role, Lisa has been instrumental in many significant projects. Among these are implementing HIPAA guidelines, establishing the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center as a First Steps Agency when those rules changed in 2011, coordinating equipment upgrades and renovations to the main building at 3701 Bellemeade, implementing Raintree (the billing and medical records system now used by all therapists), and re-introducing the Augmentative & Alternative Communication program.

Lisa currently oversees the directors of PT, OT, Speech, and Audiology, as well as the warm water therapy pool manager and the First Steps contract services program. In total she is responsible for the work of 25 therapists on staff, 22 First Steps contract therapists, and seven additional staff. Lisa's experience and leadership impacts lives every day.



Lisa Fisher

Jackie Smith began her career with Easterseals in 1991 as Behavior Specialist for the then eight group homes. (A ninth home was added in 2005.) During her time with Easterseals, Jackie completed her Master of Social Work degree and became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She has held the roles of Residential Coordinator, Director of Residential Services, Vice President of Residential Services, and now Vice President of Residential and Community Services.

Jackie has been a key player in many important initiatives, including conversion of several children's group homes to adult group homes as the residents aged, start-up of the Adult Day Services program for group home residents, addition of a ninth group home, CARF accreditation of Day Services and Community Living Services, and expansion of the transportation fleet to meet the Group Home needs.

Jackie currently oversees the Coordinators and Nurses of Residential Services, the Coordinator of Adult Day Services, and the Director of Community Living Services. In total she is responsible for the work of 150 employees. Collectively their work improves the independence and quality of life of the people they serve.



Jackie Smith



Kelly Schneider, President/CEO

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Shop, dine, play & support Easterseals at these special events! More on Facebook @EastersealsRehabCtr

● **"Fired Up! for Easterseals"** was at Fired Up! paint-your-own-pottery studio, 2121 N. Green River, Feb. 21-23. Participants decorated pottery pieces & Fired Up! donated all firing fees.

● **Yoga 101 Give Back** On 3 Saturdays in March (14th, 21st & 28th), participate in the 2:30-3:35pm fusion class FREE with donation to Easterseals! 2800 Lincoln Ave. 812-454-0524

● **"Music Makes a Difference"** 5:30 p.m.-3 a.m. Sat., March 28 at Lamasco Bar & Grill, 1331 W. Franklin St., featuring Freddie Bourne, Kenna Elpers, Gregatron, JEB, Cynthia Murray, Sarah Werner, Uncle Fudge, and ZAEDO! \$10/person donation requested. For details, call Lamasco Bar & Grill, 812-437-0171.

● **Party Time Pedalers** pedal-bike outings in support of "Music Makes a Difference" on W. Franklin Mar. 28. Rides available each half-hour between 5pm & 1:30am, MUST book online in advance at PartyTimePedalers.com. Rides are approx. 20 min., pedal-bike holds up to 15 passengers, \$15 per person. 30% of revenue from this evening will be donated to Easterseals.

● **Fiji-A Tour for Easterseals** - Sat., April 4, noon-4pm, UE Phi Gamma Delta house, 227 S. Lincoln Park Dr. Come, play & eat at this mini-golf event for all ages! \$10/person

● **Dialin' & Duelin' for Dollars pledge contest**, Sun., April 5, 12-6pm, Easterseals Rehab Center: Businesses & civic groups compete for pledges during one-hour contests during the Telethon on ABC 25! Sign up at 812-437-2607.

● **Texas Hold 'Em Tournament**, TBD, American Legion Post 200. Open to the public. \$30 per player, \$5 of entry fee goes to the Easterseals Rehab Center!

● **Guns N Hoses** - Sat., April 18, 7pm at Ford Center. Tickets available at all Ticketmaster outlets. Local police officers & firefighters battle it out for charity! Ticket prices TBD.

● **Spring Mini Photo Sessions** Sat., April 25, 11am-3pm, at Evansville State Hospital grounds, for children & families of all abilities. ADVANCE SIGN-UP REQUIRED! Contact Kim Whitehead, 812-479-1411 or kwhitehead@evansvillerehab.com. \$50 per 25-minute session benefits Easterseals! You receive a link to all photos via email. (Rain date Sat., May 2)

● **25th annual LemonAid Stand for Easterseals:** Friday, June 12, 11am-1pm, Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. Join Abby Wells & family for 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 online at smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1087526!

● **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 Chloe Mayer, 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 eScrip 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 Chloe Mayer at Easterseals, 812-474-2348 or cmayer@evansvillerehab.com.



Plan to **DINE OUT** on the second Wed. of each month, when two non-competing restaurants donate a portion of sales to Easterseals!

Jan. 8: Thank you Azzip for kicking off the year!

Feb. 12: El Patron (North Park)
Siciliano's Subs (West Franklin)

Mar. 11: Brew Brothers Tap House (Tropicana)
Additional eatery to be announced

Apr. 8: Prime Time (Newburgh)
Ritzly's (all Evansville locations)

May 13: El Charro (Sonntag) & El Patron (N. Park)
Additional eatery to be announced

Adding more locations daily! Check for monthly Dine Outs on Facebook @EastersealsRehabCtr, at EastersealsRehabCenter.com, and by tuning in to Dine Out sponsor Townsquare Media stations:

99.5 WKDQ, My105.3 WJLT, KISS 106, 103GBF, and News Talk 1280 WGBF-AM

Help us fill the rest of the year! Contact Chloe Mayer 812-474-2348 or cmayer@evansvillerehab.com

Meet the 2020 local Easterseals Ambassadors!

Ellie-Jane Pfingston Evansville

When other children were learning to stand, walk and run, Ellie-Jane could only crawl. She was born with cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus, and spina bifida. But when she started receiving therapy from Easterseals, there was no stopping her!

First Ellie-Jane learned to stand. Then she began taking steps with a walker. She progressed to using two crutches, and finally Ellie-Jane could walk using just one crutch! Now she often walks without any assistance. Sometimes her parents—Thomas and Bronwyn Pfingston—even have to remind her to slow down!

Ellie-Jane always dreamed of dancing. Because of her hard work and YOUR support of therapy services, she achieved her dream! At age 6, Ellie-Jane danced as an angel in the local production of the Children's Nutcracker!

Now Ellie-Jane has a new dream. She wants to learn how to skip like her brother and her friends. She's working harder than ever in therapy at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center! ●



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 pool friends. With YOUR help, she has reached lifetime goals as an RN, homeowner, wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and now as an active retiree. ●



Have you heard?

Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights raised a net total of more than \$180,000, helping to fund up to 3,750 therapy sessions! **Thank you** Ritzzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Electrical JATC, Teamsters Local 215, ABC 25/CW 7, Lamar Outdoor, 104.1 WIKY, HOT 96, 93.5 The Lloyd, Evansville Living, Macaroni Kid, Security Enforcement Division of Comaier Services, display sponsors, volunteers, and all who attended and donated!

Register for Easterseals "iCan Bike" day camp.

Children, youth and adults with disabilities can learn to ride a bicycle **June 15-19**. 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. Registration deadline is May 25 or when a limit of 35 individuals is reached. 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



Join us June 10 to honor the Muehlbauer & Gilberg families.

The 2020 Easterseals Tribute event will be Wednesday, June 10 at 6 p.m. in the Crescent Room at the Easterseals Early Learning Center. This year, we will honor the Muehlbauer and Gilberg families.

Jim and Mary Kay Muehlbauer, Brad and Lynn Muehlbauer, and Katy (Muehlbauer) and Josh Gilberg have a long history of generously supporting Easterseals. By willingly sharing their time, talents and treasure, this family has impacted countless lives, and they continue making a difference today. Please help us celebrate our generous friends!

For details on Tribute sponsorships and reservations, please contact Laura Terhune, Easterseals V.P. of Development, at 812-437-2627 or LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com. ●

"Your life and mine shall be valued not by what we take, but by what we give."

-Edgar Allen, Easterseals Founder

Open House celebrates expanding children's mental health services, renovated space.

Many thanks to generous supporters who are helping our growing Department of Psychology & Wellness meet local needs. We also appreciate all who joined us Feb. 6th to celebrate the recent renovations and ongoing expansion of life-changing services! ●



Chance to WIN 4 additional tickets!

Buy Your Ticket during the **"MAKE A DIFFERENCE"** OFFER now until **5pm March 9** and say **"NEWSLETTER"** to be entered into a drawing **for a chance to win 4 tickets!**

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

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

- Call 812.437.2607 or 812.474.2348 to pay from bank account or debit card (NO credit cards)
 - Stop in or mail 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 MARCH 12 AT NOON*

2020
EASTERSEALS
ALL CASH
RAFFLE

\$50,000 Grand Prize!
\$25,000 2nd prize • \$10,000 3rd prize

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 9** & **YOU COULD WIN 4 EXTRA TICKETS!** Must be 18. IN Raffle License #002228

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

(C) _____

E-mail _____

Debit Card # _____ Exp _____

Signature _____

How many tickets? (\$100 each) _____

NEWSLTR20

5



KEMPER CPA GROUP
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NEWS 25 abc 7
EYEWITNESS

104.1 WIKY **HOT 96.3** **WABX 107.5** **THE 93.5**
EVANSVILLE'S CLASSIC ROCK **THE LLOYD**

THANK YOU for helping kids like Sam achieve their dreams!

*Entry deadline & drawing March 12, 2020 at approx. noon. All ticket winners will be drawn the morning of the grand prize drawing. Indiana Raffle License No.002228. Easterseals reserves the right to extend sales & drawing date. Proceeds help the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center *change lives* for local people with disabilities.



Easterseals Rehabilitation Center
3701 Bellemeade Avenue
Evansville, Indiana 47714-0136
P 812.479.1411 • F 812.437.2634
eastersealsrehabcenter.com

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Join the team from Eyewitness News as the Easterseals Telethon airs LIVE from the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center therapy gym! (Front l. to r.) Local Adult Ambassador Sandy Ford and Child Ambassador Ellie-Jane Pfingston; (Back l. to r.) Hosts Ron Rhodes, Shelley Kirk, Jake Boswell, Brad Byrd, Gretchen Ross, Wayne Hart, and Brandon Bartlett. (Not pictured: Randall Parmley) (Photo: Erik Photographic Studio)

Easterseals Telethon

Watch and pledge
Sun., April 5, 12-6 PM
LIVE on ABC25!

*ABC25 donates ALL
production and air time!*

*Sponsors match ALL
pledges made during the show!*

ALL donations stay LOCAL!

**Here's how YOU can fund
life-changing therapy:**

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