

Our mission: To change the way our community defines and views disability by making profound, positive differences in local people's lives every day.

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

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### Winter/Spring 2019



Local Easterseals Ambassadors Michelle Schmitt & Sam Osborne will share their stories on the 2019 Telethon. Watch WEHT Local Sunday, April 7, to meet them & help other local individuals achieve goals for independence. (Photo by Erik Photographic Studio)

## WEHT Local presents the Easterseals Telethon April 7!

See how the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center changes lives—and how you can help—by watching the 2019 Easterseals Telethon on **WEHT Local Sunday, April 7, 12 noon-6 p.m.!**

For the 42nd consecutive year, WEHT Local will donate 100% of production and air time. This exceptional commitment allows all pledges to fund *life-changing* therapy services!

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

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

For the past seven 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 approximately 5,300 local kids and adults with disabilities. Make your pledge during the 2019 Easterseals Telethon on WEHT Local! ●

"Batter up" for your chance to

# Win \$50,000!

grand prize

Get your \$100 tickets by calling

## 812-437-2607

or at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, 3701 Bellemeade  
Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm • No credit cards  
Maximum 3,000 tickets available!  
Must be at least 18



### BIG PRIZES

for 2nd & 3rd!

**\$25,000**  
2nd prize

**\$10,000**  
3rd prize

IN Raffle License #148801

## DEADLINE MARCH 14 AT NOON!



2019  
**EASTERSEALS HOMERUN SWEEPS ALL CASH RAFFLE**

Thanks to sponsors Kemper CPA Group, WEHT Local, Local 7 WTVW, 104.1 WIKY, 93.5 The Lloyd, HOT96, WABX 107.5

Why enter the Home Run Sweeps?  
There are thousands of reasons!  
See page 5 to find out more.

# All-volunteer Board of Directors helps Easterseals achieve its mission in our community.

Did you know the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center is a local, private nonprofit organization? *All money raised stays local, and our organization is governed by an all-local volunteer Board of Directors.* We sincerely appreciate our board members, who represent many facets of our community and generously give their time, expertise and guidance to help Easterseals achieve its mission.

**Board Chair** for 2019 is Wayne Kinney (Innovative Consulting Group).

**Members of the Board's Executive Committee** are: Ashley Babcock (Vectren), Paul Green (IBEW Local 16), Brian Hape (United Leasing), Brant Kennedy (Harding Shymanski), Dan Parod (St. Vincent), John Raisor (Fifth Third Bank), Sara Miller (Old National Bank), Matt Theby (Lensing Building Specialties), John Schroeder, Director Emeritus (Wabash/Crescent Plastics), and Kim Steele (Easterseals Posey County advisory council).

**Also serving as Board Members are:** 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), Carol Hull (Community Volunteer), Doug Kanet (Cresline Plastics), Steve Link (Gibbs Die Casting), Bill Norman (Berry Global), Scott Schroeder (Wabash Plastics), Ken Smith (Breck Logistics), Spencer Tanner (Jackson Kelly PLLC), and Daniela Vidal (University of Southern Indiana). ●

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

*-Edgar Allen  
Easterseals Founder*

## Register by June 3 for June 24-28 "iCan Bike"

Children and adults with disabilities can learn to ride a bicycle at Easterseals' "iCan Bike" day camp, thanks to generous support from John Oldenburg Bike Fund and other donors.

"Bike camp" will be **June 24-28** at Evansville's National Guard Armory. Registration deadline is **June 3** or when a limit of 35 individuals is reached. Participants must be at least 8 years old and must have some type of disabling condition.

Scholarships are available and no one will be turned away due to inability to pay. To sign up, for details or to volunteer, contact Patty Balbach, 812-479-1411, ext. 268, pbalbach@evansvillerehab.com. ●

## Join us at the June 5 Tribute Dinner to honor the Sean Roy Hilt Foundation.

The 2019 Easterseals Tribute Dinner will be Wednesday, June 5 at 6 p.m. in the Crescent Room at the Easterseals Early Learning Center. This year, Easterseals will honor the Sean Roy Hilt Foundation.

The Foundation is a group of caring friends of Sean Hilt, who died at age 32 from injuries sustained in a car accident. Sean's friends are dedicated to keeping his memory alive through their acts of generosity to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, local individuals with disabilities, and many others in the community.

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

*Zach Martin (left) and Brian Myrick represented the generous Sean Roy Hilt Foundation on the 2018 Easterseals Telethon. Help us honor the foundation at the 2019 Tribute Dinner!*



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Shop, dine, play, and support the Easterseals Telethon by enjoying these special events!  
For details, updates and additions, follow our Facebook page @EastersealsRehabCtr

● **"Fired Up! for Easterseals"** was at Fired Up! paint-your-own-pottery studio, 2121 N. Green River, Feb. 22-24. Participants decorated pottery pieces & Fired Up! donated all firing fees.

● **Shine On Express Car Wash** in Evansville will donate a portion of February & March sales to Easterseals! Hours: Mon.-Sat. 7am-9pm & Sun. 8am-8pm.

● **"Music Makes a Difference"** 5:30 p.m.-3 a.m. March 9 at Lamasco Bar & Grill, 1331 W. Franklin Street, featuring Kenna Elpers, Freddie Bourne, Paul Wiemeier, Zaedo, Big Ninja Delight, and LAYLOW! \$10 per person donation requested. For more information, call Lamasco Bar & Grill, 812-437-0171.

● **Yoga 101 Give Back** - Each Sat. in March (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th) - Participate in the 2:30-3:35 p.m. fusion class FREE with your donation to Easterseals! 2800 Lincoln Ave. 812-454-0524

● **Texas Hold 'Em Tournament**, March 15, 7pm, 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 6, 7 p.m. at Ford Center. Tickets available at all Ticketmaster outlets. Local police officers & firefighters battle it out for charity! Ticket prices TBD.

● **Fiji-A Tour for Easterseals** - Sat., March 30, noon-4 p.m., 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 7, 12-6pm, Easterseals Rehab Center: Businesses & civic groups compete for pledges during one-hour contests during the Telethon on WEHT Local! Sign up at 812-437-2607.

● **24th annual LemonAid Stand for Easterseals:** Friday, June 14, 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](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1087526)!

● **Join Schnucks' eScrip Program** & up to 3% of your grocery bill will be donated to Easterseals. Pick up a card at any Schnucks or call Chloe Mayer, 812-474-2348. Register your card by phone or at <http://www.schnucks.com>.

● **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](http://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.

## WED., MARCH 13



Many area restaurants will donate a portion of **March 13th** sales to Easterseals!

Please mention that you're dining for Easterseals!

Adding more locations daily! Check for additional restaurants on Facebook @EastersealsRehabCtr and at [www.EastersealsRehabCenter.com](http://www.EastersealsRehabCenter.com)

For details, call 812-474-2348

### Dine Outs on Mar. 13 (confirmed before print deadline)

Angelo's	Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
Archie & Clyde's	G.D. Ritz's (Evansville)
Azzip Pizza (East, West, & Newburgh)*	Jeanne's Gelato & More
Bandana's Bar-B-Q*	Mojo's Bone Yard Sports Bar & Grill
Cold Stone Creamery & Rocky Mt. Chocolate Factory (East only)	Orange Leaf
El Charro	Panera (Evansville East, 4-8pm only)*
El Patron	Tap House

### Dine Outs on other dates include:

Buffalo Wild Wings (Pearl Drive) - Feb. 25 & Mar. 6\*  
Chick-fil-A (Cross Pointe) Mar. 12, 4-8pm only\*  
Kanpai - Mar. 10

\*Asterisk indicates locations requiring guests to present a flyer, available on Facebook @EastersealsRehabCtr

Thanks to Dine Out sponsor Townsquare Media!  
99.5 WKDQ, My105.3 WJLT, KISS 106,  
103GBF, and News Talk 1280 WGBF-AM

## Connect with us!

[eastersealsrehabcenter.com](http://eastersealsrehabcenter.com)

P 812.479.1411 • F 812.437.2634

Text "ability" to 27126



Partner Agency

# Meet our 2019 Easterseals Ambassadors!

## Sam Osborne

When Sam Osborne was born with cerebral palsy, doctors weren't optimistic about his future. They told Sam's parents, Cheryl and Andrew, that he might never stand or walk.

When Sam was also diagnosed with a hearing loss, there were fears that he might never learn to talk.

It didn't take long for Sam to prove all of those predictions wrong. It just took help from the caring, skilled staff of the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center.

Now 4 years old, Sam is not only walking and speaking; he loves running, dancing, playing catch with his dad, and chatting with everyone he meets. "Sam never meets a stranger," Cheryl said. "Everyone at Easterseals knows him because he's there almost every day, and he's always talking."

Sam continues making great progress through ongoing audiology services and weekly therapy sessions. A recent accomplishment was zipping his jacket independently for the first time!

Sam is also thriving in the Dan & Nancy Mitchell Therapeutic Preschool at the inclusive Easterseals Early Learning Center. Every day, Sam is reaching goals that doctors thought he might never achieve.

"Sam definitely wouldn't be doing what he's doing now without the help of Easterseals," Cheryl said. Now it seems that the sky's the limit. Sam's next big goal is to start kindergarten when he turns 5, and Easterseals will be here for him every step of the way! ●



## Michelle Schmitt

Michelle Schmitt has always loved being active and spending time outdoors. She was enjoying both in August 2015 when life took an unexpected turn.

Michelle was a passenger on a two-person ATV that crashed, causing a spinal cord injury and partial paralysis.

Michelle could no longer walk, and she faced a long road to regain her independence.

After two years of rehab out of town, Michelle discovered the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center close to home in Evansville. She started working with her Easterseals physical therapist and began achieving new goals. "She's no-nonsense and pushes me with encouragement," Michelle said. The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center also helped Michelle and her husband plan modifications to make their home more accessible.

Michelle is an extremely hard worker and has made significant gains in strength and balance. She can now stand from a sitting position, and can walk more than 400 feet using a walker. She is determined to stand independently without support, and to keep walking farther and faster.

Michelle is also achieving other goals for independence. After two years away from the workforce, Michelle's progress at Easterseals helped her gain the confidence to return to full-time employment. "I now work full time at Old National Bank in marketing, while still going to therapy twice a week!" ●



## Have you heard?

*Ritz's Fantasy of Lights* raised a net total of more than \$163,900, helping to fund up to 3,400 therapy sessions! Thank you Ritz's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Electrical JATC, Teamsters Local 215, WEHT Local/Local 7 WTVW, Lamar Outdoor, 104.1 WIKY, HOT 96, 93.5 The Lloyd, Macaroni Kid, Security Enforcement Division of Comaier Services, volunteers & all who attended & donated! Join us again next season!

*The Easterseals Early Learning Center* was a top prize-winner in a state competition focusing on family engagement to benefit young children. Winners were selected for "innovative practices that engage families," including offering parenting classes, opportunities for families to connect with staff, activities bringing together families to support children's education and development, and providing take-home educational materials that help parents and children connect at home. **The Easterseals Early Learning Center was one of only three programs in Indiana awarded the top prize of \$10,000.** The presenting organization, **Early Learning Indiana**, is the state's oldest and largest nonprofit dedicated to serving children from birth to age five.

## Parents and caregivers of young children are invited to a free Developmental Series.

The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center is hosting a free Developmental Series for parents and caregivers of young children (birth to age 5). Each session is held at the Easterseals Early Learning Center, 621 S. Cullen in Evansville, 4:15-5:00 p.m. Light refreshments are provided. Please call 812-474-2244 to register.

The first session, The Lost Art of Sleep, can be viewed on the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's YouTube channel or at [eastersealsrehabcenter.com](http://eastersealsrehabcenter.com). Parents and caregivers are invited to these sessions:

**Mar. 26: Dealing with Behavioral Challenges** – Pediatric Psychologist Jaime Below, Ph.D.

**April 23: Promoting Early Motor Development** – Easterseals Rehabilitation Center Occupational Therapist Lynn Alling, OTR & Physical Therapist Mary Esche, DPT, PT

**June 25: Thinking & Problem-Solving Skills in Young Children** – Pediatric Psychologist Dr. Jim Schroeder, V.P., Easterseals Rehab Center Psychology Dept.

**July 23: Encouraging Language Development & Social Communication in Young Children** – Easterseals Rehabilitation Center Speech/Language Pathologist Susan Turley, SLP

**Sept. 24: Coaching Your Child into a Healthier Lifestyle** – Neonatologist Aaron Dewees, MD

**Oct. 22: Encouraging the Shy Child** – Pediatric Psychologist Dr. Jim Schroeder, V.P. of Easterseals Rehabilitation Center Psychology Dept.

## MANY THANKS TO ALL who made the sensory garden a reality!

- Children of differing abilities at the Easterseals Early Learning Center can now play, grow, and learn together in an educational, therapeutic sensory garden. An amazing community effort funded completion of the space, which will incorporate new plants and activities through the seasons. **SPECIAL THANKS to Early Learning Indiana, Mattingly Charities, and everyone who raised money and donated to help Easterseals meet the Mattingly Charities grant challenge!**



## Hit a home run with Home Run Sweeps ALL CA\$H RAFFLE!

**BUY your ticket TODAY and you will fund TWO Easterseals therapy sessions instantly!** Plus you'll hit a GRAND SLAM if you are one of the three prize winners taking home \$50,000, \$25,000, or \$10,000 in the next month! Your odds are amazing, so DREAM BIG AND WIN!

**WHY BUY A TICKET?** You will...

- Help a baby with a hearing loss hear her mom's voice for the first time!
- Help a child with cerebral palsy take his first step!
- Help an adult who had a stroke relearn to speak!
- Help a child with autism give her first hug!

We're in our seventh inning stretch and need to sell out tickets, so call 812-437-2607 TODAY, stop by Easterseals, or mail the form below!



**TO ENTER THE HOME RUN SWEEPS BY MAIL:** Send completed form with check or money order (\$100 per ticket) by Mar. 9, 2019, and **YOU COULD WIN AN EXTRA TICKET!** Mail to Easterseals, 3701 Bellemeade Ave., Evansville IN 47714. Must be 18. IN RAFFLE LICENSE #148801

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_



Easterseals Rehabilitation Center  
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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 Child Ambassador Sam Osborne, Adult Ambassador Michelle Schmitt, hosts Ange Humphrey and Amy Mangold; (Back l. to r.) Hosts Ron Rhodes, Brad Byrd, Shelley Kirk, Wayne Hart, Jake Boswell, and Randall Parmley. (Photo: Erik Photographic Studio)

## Easterseals Telethon Watch and pledge Sunday, April 7 12-6 P.M. LIVE on WEHT Local!

*WEHT Local donates ALL  
production and air time!*

*Area businesses match ALL pledges  
made during the show!*

*ALL donations stay LOCAL!*

### Here's how YOU can give to fund life-changing therapy:

- Tune in & call special pledge numbers!
- OR give securely online ANY TIME at [www.eastersealsrehabcenter.com](http://www.eastersealsrehabcenter.com)
- OR pledge in advance by calling Carolyn Franklin at 812.437.2607!