



## THE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016

### *Our sincere thanks for your loyalty and goodwill throughout the year!*

*The holiday season is the perfect time to reflect, spread hope, and give back. For nearly 100 years Easterseals has been the indispensable resource and source of hope for people and families living with disability. This holiday season there are many ways to give back, volunteer at your Easterseals Joliet Region, join our Legislative Action Network by advocating, or donate at [Joliet.easterseals.com](http://Joliet.easterseals.com).*

*It is about both giving to each other and giving back. The most important thing Easterseals clients have in common isn't their challenges...it's you. If you find that you can't give this year, please share this with a friend or relative who like you, understands the power and potential that is unlocked with your generosity. None of this would be possible without YOU.*

*This holiday season, we are looking back with appreciation for your loyalty and looking forward to moving into the New Year together. Thank YOU for standing with us as we take on disability together.*

*Warm wishes for a happy and fulfilling New Year!*

*Debbie Condotti*

*Debra Condotti, President and CEO*



### **Meet Ethan**

Ethan was born with spina bifida, chiari malformation 2 and congenital heart problems. Doctors thought Ethan may never walk, may be blind and might be mentally handicapped. Before Ethan was born, his mother contacted Easterseals and was able to take a tour of the facilities to learn about what Easterseals could provide for Ethan. Since Ethan was six weeks old, he has been a part of the Easterseals family. Ethan began with physical therapy and then started speech therapy at age three. Ethan continues to attend summer therapy sessions at Easterseals and is still involved with Easterseals on a weekly basis. Ethan is always full of energy and always wants to help with any task or chore. Ethan especially enjoys going to school and would rather not miss school for anything. Ethan's various activities including jazz and tap dance class, therapeutic horseback riding and playing soccer. Ethan also loves to ride his dirt bike with his older brother Zander. The services Ethan has and continues to receive at Easterseals have helped Ethan live an exciting and active life.



### Anita's Journey

When Anita was born, she was diagnosed early on with Athetoid Cerebral Palsy and at age four, she was diagnosed with hearing loss. Anita's mother contacted Easterseals when Anita was 16 months old for adaptive equipment to assist in her daily life. After Anita's initial visit, she was able to receive physical therapy and occupational therapy. With determination and hard work, Anita was able to learn to walk assisted and was able to go to grade school and high school. Anita has received various special Olympic medals and continues to enjoy an active lifestyle. Some of Anita's favorite activities are bowling, horseback riding and watching sports. Anita was prominently featured on the Easterseals Metro Chicago magazine and represented Easterseals on a national level. As an adult, Anita is still able to utilize and enjoy Easterseals services.

## Donate Today

- ❖ *A gift of \$50 will assist in paying for one hour of therapy.*
- ❖ *A gift of \$100 will pay for adults residing in an Easterseals home to enjoy a community outing.*
- ❖ *A gift of \$250 will assist in sponsoring children for Easterseals summer programs.*
- ❖ *A gift of \$300 will help to purchase needed supplies and materials for an Easterseals classroom or community residential home.*
- ❖ *A gift of \$500 will sponsor a child for a one week camping experience.*
- ❖ *A gift of \$1,000 will assist Easterseals in purchasing necessary equipment.*




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### I would like to donate:

\$1000    
  \$500    
  \$250    
  \$100    
  Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

### Ways to Give:

- Enclosed is a check payable to **Easterseals Joliet Region (envelope enclosed)**
- Donate on our website [www.joliet.easterseals.com](http://www.joliet.easterseals.com)
- Make a gift by phone at 815-730-2052
- Charge my gift:  Visa    MasterCard    AmEx    Discover

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Annual Meeting

September 2016



The Annual Meeting for Easterseals was held September 22, 2016 at Easterseals Regional Pediatric Center on Barney Drive in Joliet. Wayne Chesson, State Farm Agent from Channahon, presided as Chairman. Edna Brass, Retired Director of Special Services, Joliet Township High School, continues as Vice Chairman. Dr. Michael Cohen, Orthopedic surgeon, continues as Treasurer. Pamela Heavens, Executive Director, Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living, continues as Secretary. New Directors installed are: Jean Bunce, Enrique Cabrera, Deb Schimerowski, Cathy Schley, and Ralph Schultz. Kris Honiotes, President of Joliet Junior Woman’s Club, was installed as Honorary. Continuing board members are Don Theobald, Past Chairman, Christopher Chesson, Joyce Donahue, Timothy Gallagher, Jody Glotfelty, John Greenwood, Debbie Highland, Lyle Hughart, Bryan Kasprisin, Pamela Mott, Robert Narvick, Leslie Newbon, Ronald Szymczyk, and Keith Winfrey. Dave Silverman was recognized for 12 years of service. Easterseals thanked Brian Talley and Cindy Cook for their board service. Don Theobald, Theobald and Associates, represented the Dr. Scholl Foundation in Easterseals dedication of the Autism Family Resource Center.



*Board members: Deb Schimerowski, Joyce Donahue, Jean Bunce, Edna Brass, Cathy Schley and Phyllis Skubic*

### Special Awards:

#### 5 years

- Stephanie Berk
- Dana Christian
- Norma Contreras
- Kristianne Dierkes
- Amy Domingo
- Kristin Kappel
- Lisa Meyer

#### Ashley Nelson

- Lateasha Patrick
- Amanda Schilling
- Michael Towles
- Nicole Underhile

#### 10 years

- Mary Belle Hinton
- Alma Rolon

#### 15 years

- Devita Doss
- Linda Edwards
- Diane Sanchez
- Chrystal Sanders

#### Retiree

- Eunice Jones



### Free Developmental Screenings

Easterseals offers multiple ways for parents to complete a developmental screening for their child. Parents and caregivers can complete a free online screening tool on the Easterseals website which you can find here: <http://www.easterseals.com/mtffc/> If you would prefer for your child to be screened in person by an Easterseals’ staff member, drop by to our Barney location on the second Friday of every month from 9:00 to noon, no appointment required! We will have several staff on hand to complete developmental screenings for children age birth to 5 years old, and Autism screenings for children age 18 months to 18 years old. They will be able to recommend to you whether your child is in need of a full evaluation, and explain how you can set up that process through either Easterseals or other community programs that are available. Contact Karrie if you have any questions about our screenings at 815-927-5471.

# Giving Connection



*Knights of Columbus St. Jude Council #10637 presents a check to Easterseals' summer programs.*



*Caterpillar volunteers paint the fence and plant mums at our Barney location.*



*Knights of Columbus St. Viateur's Council #745 presented a check for \$2000.*



*Volunteers from Chicago Bridge & Iron helping out at our Plainfield residential home.*



*Young Professionals host a summer sizzler at one of our residential homes.*



*Century 21 Affiliated Joliet office wraps presents for our residents and decorates our two offices for the holidays.*



*Knights of Columbus St. Jude Council #10637 presents a check to Easterseals for the holiday season.*

**Taking on disability together.**

# Upcoming Events!

  
Presents...  
**Celebration of Giving  
Regional Telethon 2017**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**Saturday, April 8, 2017**  
**9am - 9pm**

*The Easterseals Celebration of Giving Telethon is an exciting blend of the area's finest entertainment, enlightening segments showcasing Easterseals programs, and recognition of the communities served. The telethon provides a unique vehicle to enhance awareness of the needs, challenges, opportunities, and accomplishments of the Easterseals family.*



**Taking on disability together**

**GFWC-IL**  
**MORRIS WOMAN'S CLUB**  
**SUPERHERO  
RUN**

**Saturday \* April 8, 2017**  
**Race will start and end at the F.O.E.**  
**Come dressed as A Super Hero!**

**Pre-registration \$25.00**  
**Day Of Race registration \$35.00**  
Pre register by March 1, 2017 to be guaranteed a T-shirt

**For more race information** **Proceeds to benefit**  
contact Michelle at   
**815/341-8640**  
**www.morriswomansclub.weebly.com**

**Corvette's Unlimited Club Car Show**  
**Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**   
**Hawk Chevrolet Joliet**  
**A portion of the proceeds benefit Easterseals**

## American Girl Fashion Show

November 2016

### Goodbye, American Girl Fashion Show *Adapted from the Herald News*

For 19 years, Easterseals Joliet Region has brought this showcase of historical and contemporary children's fashion to the community and raised more than \$250,000 to benefit kids with disabilities. But after almost two decades of offering the fashion show as a fundraising event, American Girl has decided to streamline the show and hold it only at American Girl retail locations to support its partner children's hospitals, said Deb Strahanoski, development manager at Easterseals.

"It's an event that's going to be missed," Strahanoski said. Through the years, it's been everything from a nice afternoon out for grandmothers and granddaughters to the setting for birthday parties, Strahanoski said. Strahanoski said she "already has her thinking cap on" to devise ways – maybe another event or more generous donors – to compensate for the loss of the \$15,000 to \$20,000 each American Girl Fashion Show generates for Easterseals after expenses. "I will have to find it somewhere. It's not something we can let go," Strahanoski said. "We need those funds to continue our programming for children, and we develop more and more programming every year." For instance, Easterseals' Autism Diagnostic Clinic is very popular, Strahanoski said. It has a full staff, which includes a pediatrician able to evaluate children from birth to high school on a full range of disorders on the autism spectrum. Easterseals began its fiscal year in September, so Strahanoski has time to develop ideas. "We have to really explore and see what will be the best fit for us," she said.



## Giving Through Memorials

Charitable giving is an important tradition for many people. Making gifts for the benefit of others offers a wonderful way to affirm your values and priorities. Honoring a loved one through charitable gifts is often an especially meaningful act of paying tribute to someone special, while assuring that worthwhile values continue to influence the world around us. Memorial and tribute gifts allow you to thoughtfully remember family members and friends who have been a vital part of your life.

### Memorial Gifts

Rev. Jim Allen  
Patricia Bojarski  
Danny Donohue  
Jack Jacob  
Rochelle Novotny  
Jorge Rosado

## President's Council

Easterseals Presidents' Council was created in 1995 to honor the generous individuals who provide an annual outright gift of \$1,000 or more to help meet the challenges we face. Easterseals' premiere recognition club, the Presidents' Council is comprised of friends who share the belief that everyone with a disability or developmental special need deserves access to quality, comprehensive and compassionate programs and services.

### Empowerment (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

The Estate of William Cheney  
John & Mary Lambert  
(In Memory of)  
Mr. and Mrs. Brent Wadsworth  
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Hughart

### Opportunity (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Mr. Michael Allegro  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Narvick  
Barnes Family Foundation  
Family of Peter Ferro, Sr.

### Dignity (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Dr. and Mrs. Doug Bierma  
Mr. and Mrs. James Bridgewater  
Mrs. Henry Condotti  
Mr. Terry D'Arcy  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Minor

### Ability (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Mr. and Mrs. George Barr  
Mr. Harish and Dr. Renuka Bhatt  
Mr. Joseph Chierigatti  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Cohen  
The Cook Family  
Mr. and Mr. Edward Dollinger  
Robert Duchene Family  
Mr. Timothy Gallagher  
Ms. Rekha George  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Grady  
Mrs. Janet Hickey  
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Hornsby  
Mr. Robert Kegley  
Mr. Michael Leslie  
Ms. Rita Milcarek  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Mott  
Mr. and Mrs. James Roof  
The Scarpace Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Shimanis  
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Strahanoski  
Mr. George Verghese

## Contact us!

### Easterseals Regional Pediatric Center

212 Barney Drive  
Joliet, IL 60435  
815.725.2194  
815.725.5150 Fax

### Easterseals Residential & Social Services

991 Essington  
Joliet, IL 60435  
815.741.5531  
815.741.5537 Fax

### Easterseals Bradley Location

521 East North St.  
Bradley, IL 60915  
815.932.0623  
815.928.7334

### Easterseals Morris Location

1802 N. Division St. Suite 202  
Morris, IL 60450  
815.416.6410  
815.416.6411 Fax



[www.joliet.easterseals.com](http://www.joliet.easterseals.com)

