

## Why Easterseals Louisiana?

**Easterseals Louisiana is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities achieve independence. It is our vision to be recognized as an organization that transforms communities and engages all members through quality service, knowledge and compassion.**

- Founded in 1951, Easterseals Louisiana has served thousands of individuals with disabilities. In 2015 alone, Easterseals Louisiana provided support to over 10,000 Louisianans. We strive to offer the best services and programs available to assist children and adults with disabilities and special needs achieve independence in their lives and their communities. We change the way the world defines and views disability by making profound, positive differences in people's lives every day and by helping our clients build the skills and access the resources they need to live, learn, work and play. Our primary services include: Support Coordination Services for Infants & Toddlers, Children, Adults, and Seniors; Mental Health System Point of Entry (SPOE)/Early Development Screening; Camping & Recreation; and our Specific Assistance Program.
- 1 out of 5 children and adults are living with a disability and Easterseals is able to serve them. We not only assist them with their disability, we give them the tools that they need so that they can learn about their abilities and provide support to their families and caregivers.
- We benefit anyone - children, adults, veterans, seniors, and their families, who have any type of physical or intellectual disability. We are committed to caring for those with physical and mental disabilities and special needs resulting from any cause -- whether diagnosed at birth or incurred through disease, accidental injury or the aging process.
- Each dollar raised helps people living with a disability. Ninety-six cents of every dollar raised at events or donations through organizations, corporate partners, or churches are used for local services.

**-How?** We offer direct services to those in need. This fiscal year we distributed over \$55,000 dollars in equipment needs such as wheelchairs, walkers, ramps, hearing needs and more.

-We assist the homeless with a place to stay, shower, clean clothes, and eat hot meals.

-We assist people with disabilities who are having trouble paying their rent or receive a cut off notice on their utilities.

-Last year we sent 35 campers to Camp, and are working to send even more next year.

-We house 13 men and women with behavioral problems. They can stay in our facility as long as they need as we assist them in getting back into their community, attaining a job, and having a normal life.

Easterseals is so thankful for every dollar that we receive and we put those dollars to work, helping those who need us. It is hard to see a child in a wheelchair knowing they may never walk or run and play with their friends, but it is the good times that make it all worth it. Raising funds so that they can attend camp and play games with their new friends, laugh, smile, and still enjoy themselves despite their trials and tribulations in life make it all worth it.