

*Annual  
Report  
2020*



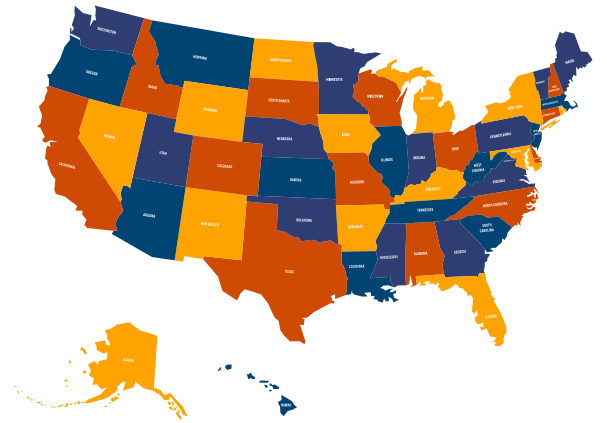
*Empower*  
**MASSACHUSETTS**



[www.eastersealsma.org](http://www.eastersealsma.org)

# EASTERSEALS MASSACHUSETTS

A THRIVING NETWORK AND COMMUNITY.



26%

**1 in 4 adults in the U.S. have  
some type of disability**

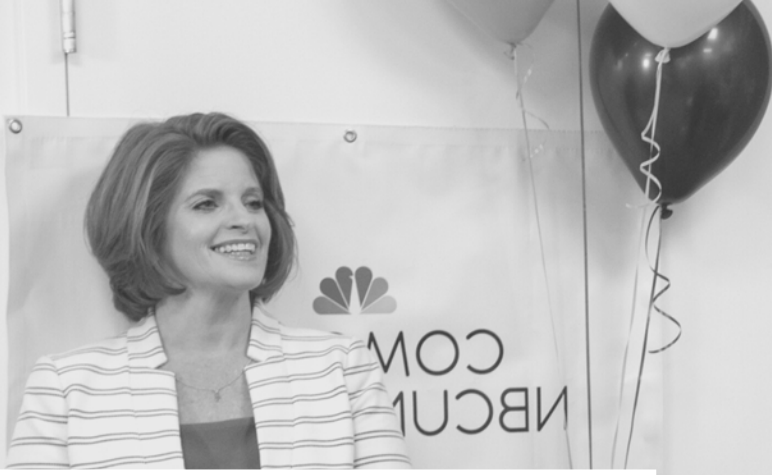
Easterseals greatest strength has always been its commitment from the local community. Our supporters empower us to empower those we serve to reach for, and, realize their full potential.

## WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER

Our vibrant community of friends, board members, and supporters stand with those who face challenges by volunteering, advocating, donating and participating in events that inspire us all and sustain our cause.



*We see the whole person,  
support the entire family, and  
spark real change together  
with our communities.*



## OUR CEO'S STATEMENT

Easterseals has officially entered its second century, and in Massachusetts we are in the final quarter of that journey. Our 75th anniversary year was a busy one as we continue to strive to ensure equal opportunities for people with disabilities to live, learn, work, and play.

***Those four words are so important to everyone involved with Easterseals Massachusetts.*** No matter how you are connected to the organization, you have no doubt heard those words spoken and they probably mean something very specific to you. Whether you've been motivated by someone's use of technology, their ability to access accessible recreation, or something else entirely, you no doubt have a picture of what equal opportunities means. We have chosen some stories to highlight each area, and how our services can impact all aspects of a person's life. Sometimes in ways different than you may expect.

The love for our mission and the variety of our services drove us to launch the ***Empower Massachusetts Campaign*** this year. This has been such a nice opportunity

for people new to supporting Easterseals to choose a specific aspect of the mission they want to champion. They join our amazing group of established volunteers and donors who have made the work we do possible for 75 years.

***It's because of your ongoing efforts and selfless support that we are able to reach further each year.***

Thank you. Nothing in these pages is achieved without this community effort to serve unmet needs.

After reflecting on 2019, I'm looking forward to the 20s and all of the changes they will surely bring. There are many barriers for us to tackle, but it is never as daunting when we do it together. As staff, volunteers, clients, and community partners we will change the way the world views and defines disability. Thank you for being leaders in serving our mission at Easterseals Massachusetts.



## 2019 SERVICES AND OUTREACH

### TOTAL SERVICES

Easterseals Massachusetts provides services for children and adults with disabilities, as well as Veterans, throughout Massachusetts.



### ADULT SERVICES

Our services for adults include assistive technology, augmentative and alternative communication, vocational evaluation & support, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language pathology, veteran services, and behavior analysis.



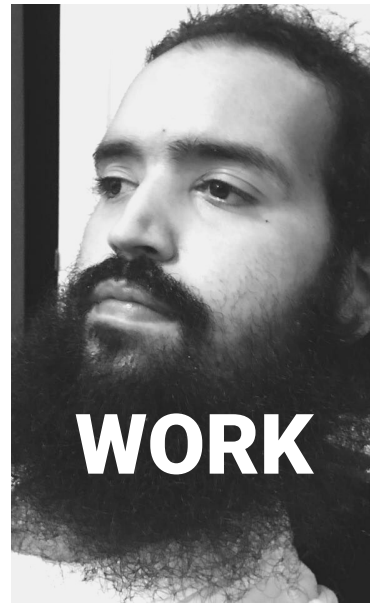
### CHILDREN SERVICES

Our services for children include assistive technology, augmentative and alternative communication, pre-employment services, youth mentorship, recreation, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language pathology, student service aides, and behavior analysis.



# BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO EMBODY THE MISSION



## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO...

Each of these stories will unpack what it means for a person to truly live, learn, work, and play in one's own community regardless of age, setting, or background.

For 75 years, Easterseals Massachusetts has had unrelenting commitment, experience, and leadership in effectively resolving the complex unmet needs of people with disabilities and Veterans in our local communities. All of our programs and services can ultimately be described by the simple themes of live, learn, work, and play. But, bridging the historic gap of equality to these themes is not always simple and often looks different for each individual.

Easterseals prides itself on a strong person-centered philosophy to services, where **OUTCOMES AND GOALS ARE LED BY THE INDIVIDUAL** within the individual's unique setting. Our programs embrace multiple, if not all, aspects of living a full and meaningful life.

Our therapists, as well as our youth, employment, and transition teams are experts in their fields and provide services in a wide range of settings. Easterseals wide scope of expertise makes it the most comprehensive service agency in the state. Services may be offered in an individual's home, in the community, or at our facilities.

## Equal Opportunities to...



When you first meet Jake, you almost can't imagine him being vulnerable with the physique of a professional bodybuilder and the warm affect of your favorite middle school teacher. But, like many Iraq War Veterans, Jake has been **living with significant PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury)** which he acquired in his 12 years of service in the National Guard. Similar to nearly 4.7 million Veterans with a "service-connected disability," or the hundreds of Easterseals clients with an acquired disability, Jake never imagined he would have to heavily adapt his daily experiences due to a disability incurred through unfortunate life experiences. After an honorable discharge, Jake became a police officer hoping to continue a theme of serving and protecting his community, but he experienced frequent complications due to his PTSD and ultimately left the force.

## THE BURDEN OF "RETURNING HOME"

Many people don't realize that despite the existence of many Veteran assistance organizations, rates of suicide, homelessness, and drug overdose continue to skyrocket both locally and nation-wide for Veterans.

Unfortunately, Jake found himself living out of his car due to the inability to work and complications at home due to the associated depression of Jake's PTSD. Indeed,

**Massachusetts has the largest absolute growth in Veteran homelessness when compared to all other states from 2017-2018!** What's more, MA ranks in the top ten for highest rate of drug overdose deaths involving opioids-an issue strongly related to depression and mental health. Jake reports; *"...it was truly terrible. I was scared. I honestly had no self-worth; felt no purpose with life other than my children."*

## SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Jake first encountered Easterseals Military & Veteran Services after his wife found the "Household Budgeting" class on the **Veterans Count Facebook Page**. After meeting **Adam Costello, Veteran Services Coordinator**, Jake was offered Easterseals emergency financial assistance, in which Adam helped Jake resolve some outstanding car payment issues. Adam also challenged him to pursue a job at a new local gym, Impact Fitness (Auburn, MA). Jake is very happy and engaged as customer relations coordinator at Impact Fitness. **Jake comments...**

*"... Adam helped me get over that first barrier, and then made me realize that, although my career worsened with my PTSD, I can still help people/veterans in other ways." -Jake, Veteran*

## VETERANS COUNT CHAPTER

Once Jake was back on his feet and at home, he decided to join the Central MA Veteran's Count Chapter as a volunteer. The chapter meets once a month, where various business owners, volunteers, and Veterans get together to not only plan fundraising events, but to simply enjoy each other's company in interactive social settings, like the Black Ale Project at Wormtown Brewery. Adam emphasizes the importance of social bonding as he believes social isolation is the biggest driver of Veteran depression and ultimately suicide. The importance of this can't be overstated with **Veteran suicide in MA nearly doubling from 2006 to 2016!**

Jake eventually helped facilitate an awesome fundraiser for Easterseals at Impact Fitness, **"The 500/1000 lb challenge"** which was a friendly competition among Veterans, Civil Servants, and gym members to use training and fitness as a platform for Veteran awareness. Both Jake and Adam, loved the idea of using a community to embrace physical achievement and wellness to engage the public and Veterans around their "Live" theme.

“I WANT TO SHOW PEOPLE THAT YOU CAN LIVE, AND BE SUCCESSFUL WITH PTSD. AND, THAT THERE ARE POSITIVE WAYS TO CANCEL THE NEGATIVITY BROUGHT ON BY IT, AND THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU’RE FEELING LOW, DOESN’T MEAN YOU STILL DON’T HAVE PURPOSE.”

- JAKE



VETERANS COUNT CHAPTER MEETING



## TEAM LIVE

\$10 a month helps directly support weekly Military & Veteran seminars for local Massachusetts Veterans and their families. [live.eastersealsma.org](http://live.eastersealsma.org)

## Equal Opportunities to...



Darnell Younge, better known as “DJ” by his friends and family, is 8 years old and currently in the second grade at the East Taunton Elementary School system. He was born with congenital fiber-type disproportion; ventilator and g-tube dependent. DJ was evaluated by Easterseals in June of 2018 **AT (Assistive Technology)** and in November of 2018 for **AAC (Augmentative & Alternative Communication)**. He was referred by his school team, who recognized his abilities and wanted assistance with maximizing his school participation and success.

*"Our strength is the fact that we [Easterseals] work on-site at the school so we are able to work in conjunction with the people who see the students every day."*

**-Kristi, DJ's AAC Specialist**

### AT & AAC | A STELLAR TEAM

DJ was seen by two Easterseals specialists: Catherine Fradenburg, AT Specialist and Kristi Peak-Oliveira, Speech Language Pathologist and AAC Specialist. Catherine recommended the Microsoft Surface Pro, Surface Pro Pen, as well as other wireless devices. Kristi recommended an iPad with the Touch Chat with Word Power communication app, along with a custom made mount from **Rehadapt** that allows DJ to use his iPad even when seated at a desk. Kristi and Catherine say that part of the reason they feel Easterseals is such a leader in disability services has to do with its focus on effectively collaborating across Easterseals service lines as well as other institutions like public schools.

### INCLUSION

DJ required AAC and AT to participate fully in class. He can't use his hands to access the curriculum which is why Catherine recommended the Surface Pro tablet, etc. DJ can mouth words, but it can be very difficult to understand him. That's why he received an iPad with an AAC app. Some agencies only practice a therapy within an isolated context - the plan might not be successful outside of these conditions.

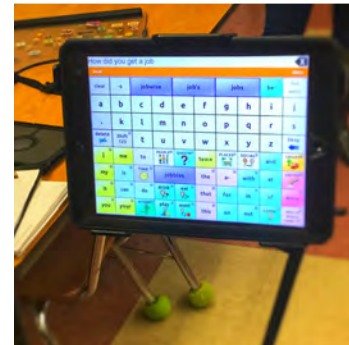
The school reported during his site check visit with Kristi that DJ has become a leader in his class, and shared a story about a visit from a local firefighter. The firefighter was visiting the classroom and looking for questions. One of DJ's teachers said:

*"The class was overall being very shy, but DJ used his iPad to ask questions, and the other students began to feel more comfortable about speaking as well!"*



"THE SCHOOL TEAM IS WONDERFUL. THEY HAVE SUPPORTED DJ'S USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR COMMUNICATION AND ACADEMICS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, ADVOCATING FOR HIM AND MAKING SURE HE HAS WHAT HE NEEDS."

-KRISTI PEAK OLIVERIA, AAC SPECIALIST



## TEAM LEARN

\$10 a month allows a student with a disability to receive services for one week in our College Navigator program. [learn.eastersealsma.org](http://learn.eastersealsma.org)

Equal Opportunities to...



At a young age Cesar Rodrigues was diagnosed with **Spinal Muscular Atrophy** which affects the skeletal muscles responsible for movement caused by a loss of motor neurons. Because he was an artist who originally used typical paint brushes and pencils, symptoms of his condition became an obstacle. After becoming unable to use both of his hands for painting, **he needed another solution to continue his work**; that's where Easterseals Massachusetts (ESMA) came into the picture.

## WE ARE THE EXPERTS

Originally, Cesar was utilizing ESMA services to acquire an adaptive bed control. But, during installation of the bed, Cesar had expressed to his ESMA Assistive Technology (AT) therapist, Tom Quattrociocchi, how much he missed being able to paint during the installation of the adaptive bed. After sharing his preliminary design ideas for handling the canvas and pouring the paint, the team at Easterseals built Cesar a custom painting box. Tom, an engineer and assistive technology expert, used the basic concept of the design and modified it based on available materials, the method of control he required, flexibility and versatility of use. **Tom explained:**

***"I wanted to make [the box] easier to build, maintain and move," for him. The box uses Bluetooth technology, through which Cesar can pour paint from a cup attached to a linear actuator. Next, he can tilt the canvas in various directions to spread the paint around into the mysterious terrains or roads that his style commonly depicts."***

Easterseals' AT services are unique because they are provided in someone's home, in their school, or more importantly; in the real environment that the technology or devices will be used. Eric Odelfieson, VP of AT services, emphasizes performing

evaluations in a non-institutional or clinical environment, wherein the client inevitably faces complications or hardships implementing the prescribed services at home. ***"Our clinicians are not only experts in their technical skill set, we are experts in facilitating people's individual goals in unique contexts. In fact..."***

***...we're not trying to create skills, the skills exist, we're circumventing a problem and getting people there!"***

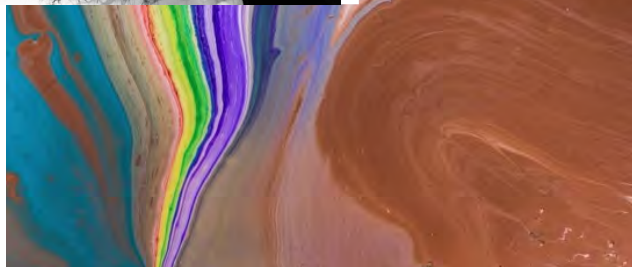
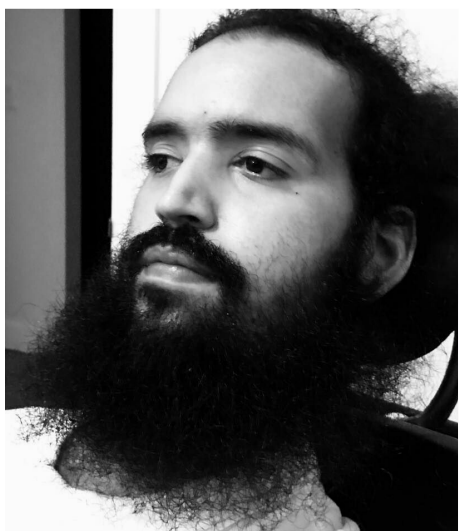
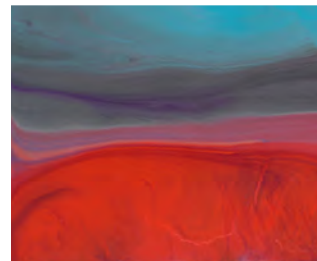
Cesar was only in search of a bed control when he realized through conversation with the therapist that Easterseals may be able to help him devise a piece of technology to help him start painting again- a passion he feared would just inevitably fade away. Easterseals was able to help Cesar not only delve back into his passion but maintain his livelihood as a professional artist. His independence is greatly restored with the use of technology.

## ACCESSIBILITY = EQUITY

Cesar's story exemplifies the importance of ESMA's Assistive Technology Program while also demonstrating how limitless the possibilities are in this ever-evolving field. Cesar's work has now been featured in ***Agora Gallery, Dzian Gallery, Arts Worcester, and the Sprinkler Factory.***

"LIFE CAN TAKE YOU IN MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. NOT EVERYTHING ENDS UP HOW ONE MIGHT EXPECT, BUT THE BEAUTY OF LIFE IS IN THE POSSIBILITIES OF THOSE DIFFERENT ROUTES." ARTIST CESAR RODRIGUES CONVEYS THIS IDEA IN HIS WORK, STATING HIS PAINTINGS, "...TAKE YOUR MIND IN MANY DIRECTIONS, LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR CONVERSATION."

-CESAR



## TEAM WORK

\$10 a month provides an assistive technology training session to a child or adult with disabilities in need. [work.eastersealsma.org](http://work.eastersealsma.org)

## Equal Opportunities to...



### PEER TO PEER EMPOWERMENT

Meet Lenny Cournoyer from Holden, MA! He's been a successful student in our Accessible Martial Arts Worcester, where people with and without disabilities can learn exciting self-defense techniques in a fun, supportive environment. He became involved with Easterseals about 4 years ago after joining the YLN (Youth Leadership Network), a program recommended to his family through *Parents Advocates*- a program adults with disabilities turning 22. Lenny's mom, **Sharon**, comments;

***"Sometimes, disability programs treat the individuals as children. The YLN stood out right away because it was truly a place of peer to peer activities with people treating each other with full respect and dignity."***

### DISABILITY AND WELLNESS

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), **adults with a disability have obesity at a 1.5x higher rate, heart disease at 3x the rate, and diabetes at 2.3x the rate, than people without disabilities.** Furthermore, in Massachusetts, nearly 50% of adults with disabilities do not meet basic aerobic physical activity as compared to only 21% of people without disabilities. Even if the motivation and knowledge of fitness is present for a person with a disability, most fitness centers lack accessibility and/or adaptive programming compounding existing health risks for this population. Easterseals keeps class fees very low and offers scholarships to students who are in need.

### EXERCISE | A WELLNESS ELIXIR

Fortunately, Lenny accomplishes his monthly exercise and movement goals while feeling empowered in our classes. It's important to note that self-confidence and exercise is not just a subjective experience. There is scientific consensus on the connection between exercise as a metabolic and molecular anti-depressant, which strongest with aerobic exercises like the ones structured in Accessible Martial Arts. A 2018 study at Harvard Medical School confirmed ***"exercise supports nerve cell growth in the hippocampus, improve nerve cell connections, which helps relieve depression."*** Lenny's parents are grateful that Accessible Martial Arts has increased to bi-weekly classes because it is a meaningful social and fitness focused activity in their own community.

Lenny brings great energy to the Accessible Martial Arts classes with his booming "HIEYAS" and has made many friends, with and without disabilities, since attending the program. It's a fact that when you exercise, your body releases endorphins that energize your mood, relieve stress, boost your self-esteem, and trigger an overall sense of well-being. Sharon says;

***"Lenny will go home and practice the techniques. It's a self-esteem boost, he says to himself 'I can do this' and then displays a positive self-image. That's a big step for people with disabilities. They always hear what they can't do, not what they can do. The classes are great for self control; emotional, mental, and physical."*** - Sharon, Lenny's mom

"I LOVE BREAKING THE BOARD WITH PAUL. IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING!"

-LENNY



## TEAM PLAY

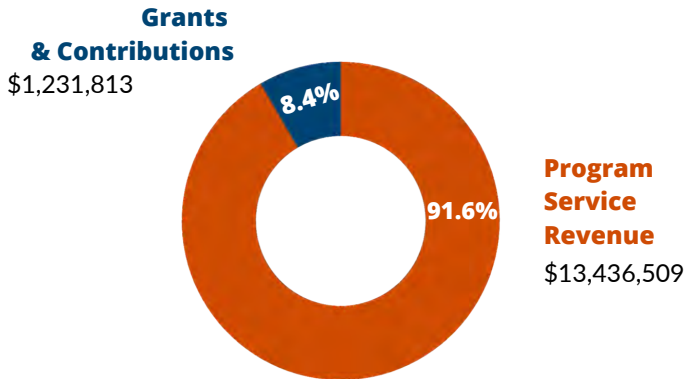
\$10 a month allows an individual with disabilities to attend 24 Accessible Martial Arts classes a year. [play.eastersealsma.org](http://play.eastersealsma.org)

# Financials

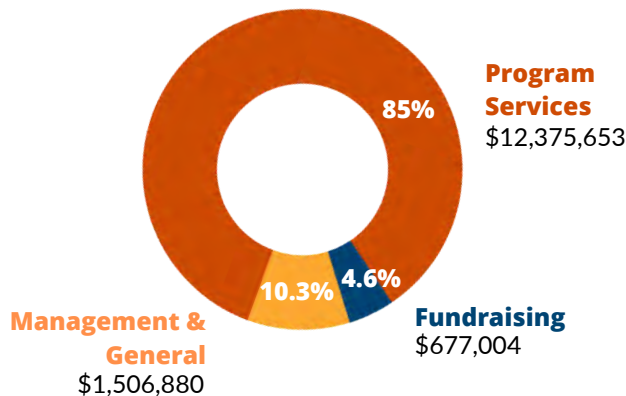
As of August 31st, 2019



## Revenue



## Expenses



Program Service Revenue	13,436,509
Grants & Contributions	1,231,813
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$14,668,322</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$14,559,737</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets from Operations:</b>	<b>\$108,585</b>

Non-Operating Revenue	248,569
Extraordinary Item:	(513,017)
Change in Pension Obligation:	
<b>Change in Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$(155,863)</b>

Net Assets Beginning of the Year:	\$4,473,413
<b>Net Assets at End of Year Fiscal 2019:</b>	<b>\$4,317,545</b>

## Assets

Cash	472,523
Program Fees Receivable, net allowance for doubtful accounts	1,769,212
Contributions receivable	105,412
Prepaid expense and other	60,813
Restricted Cash	507,746
Investments	5,707,734
Assets held for others	618,384
Property & Equipment, net	149,768
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$9,391,592</b>

## Liabilities

Accounts payable & accrued expenses	829,727
Notes Payable	528,879
Pension Benefit Obligation	2,507,717
Assets held for others	618,384
Deferred revenue	589,340
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>\$5,074,047</b>

## Net Assets

Operating	2,386,190
Property & Equipment	147,644
Board Designated	260,000
Total without donor restriction	2,793,834
With donor restriction	1,523,711
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>	<b>4,317,545</b>

Our full audited financial report is available online at [financials.eastersealsma.org](http://financials.eastersealsma.org)

# Board of Directors

## Chair

James Dennison

## Vice Chair

David S. Hoffman

## Vice Chair

Michael Oxton

## Treasurer

Kathy Kittle

## Assistant Treasurer

Miranda McCarthy

## Secretary

Anissa Battaglino

## Officers

Sabrina Beach

Amanda Border

Collin Bray

Kara Cronin

Patricia Davidson

Gibson Donohue

Avery Gray

Pauline C. Hamel

Daniel Hinckley

Maura Daly Iversen

Buzz Knight

Leslie M. Leslie

Peter Mahoney

Adriana Mallozzi

Thomas P. O'Reilly

Chuck Rodman

Harry E. Salerno

Dawn Seiple

David Yas

## Honorary Life Members

Roy D. Brazelton

Alison A. Coady

Caroline H. Larson

Walter Zagrobski

Dick Hoyt

Rick Hoyt

Steve Grogan

## Immediate Past Board

### Chair

Kathy Kittle



**Board Retreat & 5 Year Strategic Plan**



**ATRC Worcester Board Tour**

# Regional Board of Directors

## Western

### Co-chairs

Kristi Tessier

Joe Bonafilia

Dominic Mondon-Poirier

Jill Flanders

Kerri Tichy

Nick Benoit

## Central

### Chair

Chris Lazzaro

Brad Osbourne

Jen Hanson

Katie Shea

Neil Callahan

## Boston

### Chair

Annalisa Specter

Patrick Mahoney

Alexandria Richard

Danielle Dimond

Jordan Bray

Matthew Jameson

Shaun Crimmins

**SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO WESTERN REGIONAL BOARD MEMBERS!**

**\$26,000 raised!**

from Western MA events and sponsorships





# EASTERSEALS EVENTS

BOSTON  
WORCESTER  
NORTHAMPTON



WESTERN MA  
GREATER BOSTON  
CENTRAL MA





### 500/1000LB CHALLENGE

Since 2018, Veterans fundraisers have brought in **\$220,468 in donations and grants**. This new event created an important community partner in Impact Fitness and attracted an entirely new cohort of Easterseals supporters in the Veteran & Fitness community.



**\$11,100 raised!**  
**67% revenue increase!**  
**250% sponsor increase!**

### ADAPTIVE SWIM

Our 3rd year running a swim program with DCR at Bennett Pool in Worcester for children and teenagers with disabilities has been a major success. Our participation increased greatly in 2019 with the first session at capacity and a waiting list for our second session.



### TEAM MIT vs. TEAM HARVARD

### EASTERSEALS SOFTBALL, A 19 YEAR TRADITION!





**CONRAD WETTERAU**  
TEAM HOYT AWARD



**RICK & DICK HOYT**  
EMPOWERMENT AWARD



**ADRIANA MALLOZI**  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AWARD



**PREMIERE SPONSOR**  
QUALITY BEVERAGE

**EVENING OF EMPOWERMENT** **\$195,685 RAISED**





**\$460,546 RAISED**

**FUNDRAISING & COMMUNITY EVENTS**



# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY REGIONAL CENTERS



**Easter Seals delivers independence through PROJECT TECH.**

PROJECT TECH Director Nancy Kellogg watches while Bill McHale, Northeastern Regional Sales Manager for Digital Equipment Corporation, shows Kara Johansen, age 7, how to use her new DEctalk.



## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT (TECH ACT)

Congress to increase access to, availability of, and funding for AT through state efforts and national initiatives. It forms the basis for the Assistive Technology Act, signed into law in 1998 (amended 2004). **This law affirms that technology is a valuable tool that can improve the lives of Americans with disabilities.**

## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

ADA is signed designating people with disabilities as a protected group and thus creating constitutional recourse for many inequalities. Specifically, it created concrete legal language and a basis for accessibility accommodations.



1989



1999

1988

[ATRC.EASTERSEALSMA.ORG](http://ATRC.EASTERSEALSMA.ORG)

1990



## PROJECT TECH IS LAUNCHED

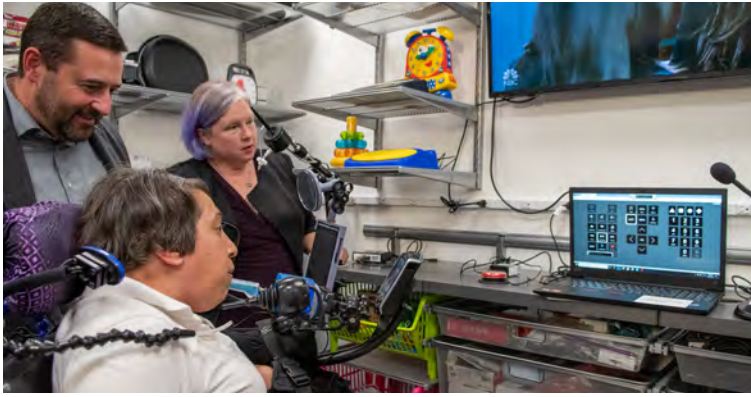
Key corporate support from Digital Equipment and Mass. Rehab got Easter Seals Assistive Technology kick-started. Easter Seals becomes the first to emphasize access to computer technology as part of disability accessibility.



## LEADERS IN EXPERTISE

By end of decade, the **key driver for Easterseals is expertise**, not hardware and software. Sharing expertise makes Easterseals the leader in assistive technology in the state of Massachusetts.

# A HISTORY AND CELEBRATION OF ACCESSIBILITY



Adriana Mallozzi dazzles Comcast executives by cable surfing without use of hands using the new Xfinity Accessible Remote.



## COMCAST COLLABORATION (2019)

Comcast teams up with ESMA to set up broadband cable/internet for clients to test out the new hi-tech **Xfinity Accessible Remote**; clients can control it with eye-gazing among other types of accessibility features.

*"I've been coming to the Boston ATRC for years and years. Unless you actually try it, you don't know if it's going to work for you."*

*- Adriana Mallozzi, ESMA Board Member*

## FEDERAL GRANT

Federal grants help open **Mass Match Technology Centers** operated by Easterseals in Boston (2003) and Worcester (2017).

## 2019 | BOSTON ATRC GRAND REOPENING

Boston Assistive Technology Regional Center was redesigned to better match the **hands-on experience** at the Worcester ATRC.

The new design is conducive for demonstrations for educators, schools, therapists, and people with disabilities. The ATRC makes it possible for people to easily borrow or learn about hi and low tech equipment without investing substantial income.

2003 -  
2017



*"We learned about and celebrated not only new accessible technologies but more broadly the vital role programs like ours can have to empower and inspire a new generation to innovate."*

*- Ann Shor, Director of Independent Living & AT at Mass Rehab Commission*



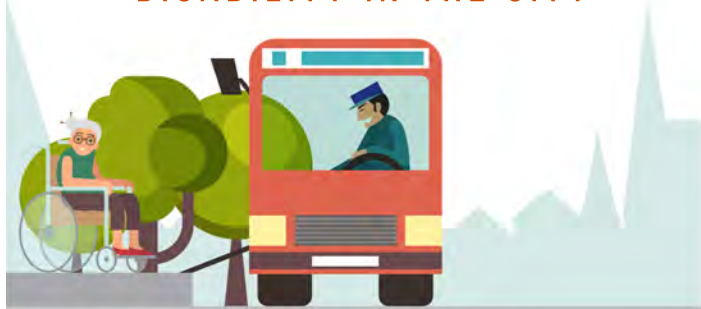
**NBC 10 Boston** visited the office to cover the grand reopening and celebrate the last decade's advancements and new collaboration with Comcast. Find the full live stream on Facebook or the official Comcast PSA video at [atrc.eastersealsma.org](http://atrc.eastersealsma.org)

WE MAKE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

# COUNT

2019 was a busy year for *Public Affairs, Youth Services, and Recreation*. From transportation grants to retreats and camps, our programs flourished in participation across the state!

## DISABILITY IN THE CITY



47 youth attended mentorship retreat weekend!



10 youth sent to Camp Sno-Mo!

## \$70K PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### TRANSPORTATION GRANT

To improve the transit system accessibility in Worcester and to have people with disabilities fill decision-making roles in local transit policy.

## \$75K YOUTH SERVICES

### LEVEL CONTRACT

The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission will be contracting again with us to run the Youth Leadership Network Program at the \$75K level. We are signing an MOU with Bridgewater State University which we hope will increase the attendees in our SE area.

## 30% RECREATION

### ACCESSIBLE MARTIAL ARTS

Our popular Accessible Martial Arts program has been running for almost 3 years and we have increased our participants for our Boston session by more than 30% this year. Easterseals is currently raising money to open a new location in Brockton MA!

[play.eastersealsma.org](http://play.eastersealsma.org)



42 school districts  
Partnered with  
Easterseals MA for  
Student Service  
Aides

**142** REHABILITATION SERVICES &  
APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

**TOTAL CONTRACTS**

This year marks continued growth for these programs partnering with **over 142 organizations**. This team of clinicians supported schools districts, day habilitation programs, skilled nursing facilities, early intervention programs, and home health services.

**135** STUDENT SERVICE AIDES &  
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

**TOTAL EMPLOYEES**

This is the largest scope of Student Service Aides and Community Programming that has been provided in schools districts and in collaboration with Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children. **Over 135 employees** provided services for children and young adults to be able to equally access educational and community programs.

**108** BOARD CERTIFIED THERAPISTS

**TOTAL THERAPISTS**

Our team of certified therapists continues to grow allowing for an impressively wide scope of services throughout the state of Massachusetts. **Over 50 staff members donated/participated** in various events and volunteer opportunities throughout the year!



2019 was a year of tremendous growth for *Rehabilitation Services, Applied Behavior Analysis and Student Service Aides*. These services are essential to providing equal opportunities for children and adults to learn in all settings!



Easterseals MA now  
provides Applied  
Behavior Analysis!

# President's Council

*Our President's Council recognizes annual gifts of \$1,000 and above. Over the years these generous individuals and families have helped sustain Easterseals MA programs and services and those who count on them.*

## Gifts of \$100,000+

Roy & Diane Brazelton  
Barry & Judith Bronstein  
Estate of Elaine & Sherman  
Olson  
George & Sybil Fuller  
Foundation

## Gifts of \$50,000+

Paul F Lavallee

## Gifts of \$20,000+

Ladd & Tammy Lavallee  
Team Hoyt

## Gifts of \$10,000+

Dawn and Robert Seiple  
Walter S. & Anna  
S. Skrobot in Memoriam  
Jay White  
The Zagrobski Family

## Gifts of \$5,000+

Patricia L. Davidson  
Meredith and James Dennison  
Kirk and Sheila Joslin  
Paul and Jennifer Medeiros  
Peter A. Roque  
Harry and Debra Salerno

## Gifts of \$2,500+

Anissa Battaglino  
Youcef (Joe) and Linda Long-  
Bellil  
Alexander Bosworth  
Eric H. Burt  
Alison Coady  
Vic & Karen DiGravio  
Caroline Larson  
Phyllis Rubin  
Jay Shields  
T. Conrad Wetterau

## Gifts of \$1,000+

Patricia Abruzese-Johnston  
Amanda Border  
Margot H. Brickelmaier  
John and Jean Childs  
John and Maura Cleary  
Adriana Corinaldesi  
Sevan Demirdogen  
Jim Devins  
Raymond and Paula Doherty  
Stephen J. Doherty  
Jill Falconi  
Sean and Susan Flanagan  
Thomas and Diane Foley  
Paul Foley  
John C. Fort  
Ivor W. Freeman  
John and Linda Freeman  
Janice and Mark Fuller  
Marcel Gaudreau  
Nancy Gibson  
Dr. Pauline C. Hamel & Dr. Tobe Berkovitz  
Michael Heberlein  
Daniel Hinckley  
Tom & Kelley Hippler  
Kathy and David Hoffman  
Richard and Tracy Joslin  
Katherine I. Kittle  
Marilyn K. Kucharski  
Leslie M. Leslie  
Harry Lohr and Judy Karp  
Diane Macdonald  
Brian and Sandra Mahoney  
Kathleen McDermott  
Susan R. Mitchell  
Suzanne and Andrew Murray, Jr.  
Michael and Samantha Oxton & Family  
Louie and Lisa Psallidas  
Thomas and Jan Racca  
Owen Richardson  
Charles Rodman

## Gifts of \$1,000+

Ken and Diane Saleski  
Audrey Schuster  
Susan Scully-Hill  
William Serjak and Betsey  
Blackmer  
David Slozak  
Kimberly Sokol  
Robert and Susan Soldani  
Debbie and John Stevens  
Savithri Subramanyam  
Gregory Summe  
Michael L. Waitukaitis  
Scott and Susan Whitlock  
David Yas  
Nafisa Zafar  
Mary Zupkus



# Stewards of Empowerment

*These donors go above and beyond, not only are they generous individually, but also do the vital work of convincing others to support the Easterseals Massachusetts mission.*

## Independence Level

(Gifts of \$25,000+)

Roy & Diane Brazelton  
Meredith & James Dennison  
Cindy Hanam  
Adriana Mallozzi

## Empowerment Level

(Gifts of \$10,000+)

Ted Audet  
Alison Coady  
Peter Roque  
William Wagner  
The Zagrobski Family

## Opportunity Level

(Gifts of \$5,000+)

Stephen Connulty  
John Cleary  
Kara Cronin  
Kirk & Sheila Joslin  
Miranda McCarthy  
Robert & Susan Soldani

## Dignity Level

(Gifts of \$2,500+)

Patricia Abruzese-Johnston  
Stephen Bosworth  
Patricia Davidson  
Stephen Murphy  
Michael Oxtan

## Ability Level

(Gifts of \$1,000+)

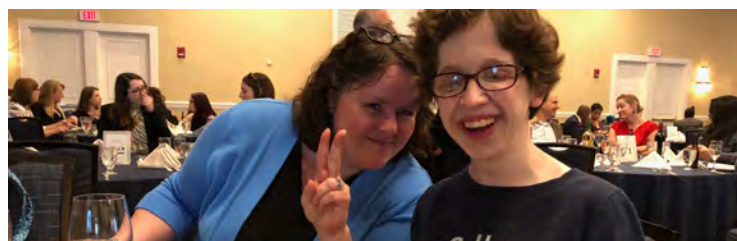
Joseph Andrews  
Meagan Barrett  
Jordan Bray  
Paul Foley  
Pauline Hamel  
Randy Johnson  
Tim Jones  
Karim Lakhani  
Harry Lohr  
Jennifer Medeiros  
Susan R. Mitchell  
David Slozak

# Legacy Society

*Easterseals Massachusetts Legacy Society recognizes donors who have established planned gifts through their estates and gifts that create income and other financial benefits. Deep gratitude is extended to all of our Legacy Society members and their families for leading the way for others in support of Easterseals Massachusetts' mission.*

Herbert S. Alexander  
Carl H. Allen  
Jeffrey Becker  
Youcef J. Bellil  
Roy D. Brazelton  
Claire Carvalho  
Martha K. Chase  
Alison A. Coady  
Meredith & Jim Dennison  
Peter W. Evans  
Judith H. Fleming  
Kirk N. Joslin  
Kathy I. Kittle  
Selma & Paul Kwasnick  
Caroline H. Larson  
Philip A. Lemere

Cheryl Lonsdale  
John McKay  
James H. McLaughlin  
Susan R. Mitchell  
Cheryl E. Mongell  
Henry J. Newell  
Daniel Pitts  
Judith Poole  
Phyllis Rubin  
Daniel C. Sacco  
Susan & Robert W. Soldani  
Pang-Ling Ting  
Ronald V. Waters  
Jay A. White  
John E. Winske



# #TeachDisabilityHistory

## -2009-

A group of students with disabilities from Easterseals MA advocated for disability history to be recognized by local government resulting in **General Laws.**

**Section 15L** - "The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the month of October as Disability History Month to increase awareness and understanding of the contributions made by persons with disabilities. Appropriate state agencies and cities and towns and public schools, colleges and universities shall establish programs designed to educate and promote these objectives."

## -2019-

The Easterseals Youth Leadership decided to create a **#TeachDisabilityHistory** campaign focused on educating, inspiring, and empowering people with and without disabilities to build the most inclusive future.

**The ultimate goal of the campaign is to mandate disability education for Massachusetts public schools through the documentary;**

**"The Great Fight For Disability Rights."**

## ADA 30th Anniversary

July 26th, 2020 will mark the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) being signed into law, prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities. This important piece of legislation is a crucial piece of teaching disability history. The YLN plans to build momentum for a public celebration through the social media campaign.

**"It was a day that you saw us as your peers, and not as someone you needed to help." - The Great Fight for Disability Rights**

THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PAST, THE BETTER PREPARED YOU ARE FOR THE FUTURE





# #TeachDisabilityHistory

## Get Involved!

The campaign not only makes people aware of the available curriculum, but encourages a broader audience to see the importance that teaching disability history will have on society.

Join us in spreading the word about teaching disability history by sharing why you think it is important to **#TeachDisabilityHistory** on social media.

STAY CONNECTED AND TAG  **@Easterseals Youth**

[disabilityhistory.eastersealsma.org](http://disabilityhistory.eastersealsma.org)

*"Increased disability history education and awareness will decrease stigma towards disability."*

- Desi Forte, ESMA Youth Program Manager



# JOE BELLIL

## Employee Service Award

### FROM CLIENT TO ADVOCATE

Joe Bellil started his relationship with Easterseals Massachusetts nearly 50 years ago as a participant in Easterseals adaptive swimming programs. Born in Africa to a U.S. missionary mother, Joe contracted polio when he was just 8 months old, in which he grew up using braces and crutches for mobility. Joe eventually moved back to New England grew up a local kid in Worcester earning his BS at Worcester State University with an eventual MBA from Anna Maria College. In 2004, Joe was hired at Easterseals to oversee Public Affairs and eventually youth programming. Bellil's role requires he takes on a wide range of issues related to transportation, employment, healthcare, and accessibility.

In October of 2018, Joe was awarded for his outstanding contribution to the disability community and, in October 2019, 15-year tenure as an Easterseals employee! Many Easterseals supporters are familiar with Joe due to his powerful work with local state legislatures for disability advocacy as well as his commitment to accessible recreation for Massachusetts youth. You can often see Joe attending the Accessible Martial Arts (Worcester) classes! Despite Joe's physical disability, he recalls how much he enjoyed sports as a youth, especially kickball;

***"I could always pick the fastest kid to be my runner and that way I could always guarantee a hit," recalls Bellil, who as a kid was also active with weightlifting, wheelchair basketball, and Boy Scouts.***

It is no wonder Joe is passionate about creating accessible and affordable recreation opportunities for youth with disabilities. Joe has expanded the Accessible Martial Arts program attendance by 30% in Boston this year, and he plans to open a new program in Brockton! Joe is also working on expanding his accessible swim program in Worcester and collaborating with Easterseals NH to send more youth to accessible summer camp.

### YOUTH LEADERSHIP & CIVICS

Joe is also quite proud of the YLN (Youth Leadership Network), which ensures that youth with disabilities in all regions of the state have monthly meetings for activities and interactive discussions about communication, disability rights, and career interests. The YLN facilitates mentorship and community inclusion so that new cohorts of youth with disabilities have the resources and confidence for self-determination in their local civics.

For example, the YLN worked with statewide Independent Living Council and other stakeholders to generate enough money to fund the Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration Day. Every year, the YLN culminates in a weekend retreat at Bridgewater State University. This year's retreat was so popular that a waiting list had to be created!

Learn more: [youth.eastersealsma.org](http://youth.eastersealsma.org)



**"NOTHING ABOUT US,  
WITHOUT US."**





## ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE

Joe's devotion to inclusion and fair representation has recently taken the form of advocating for accessible transportation in his home city of Worcester, MA. While there has been great progress made since the signing of the ADA in 1990, there are still fundamentally unfair facts of public transit and transportation (Taxis/Uber/Lyft) for people with disabilities. Joe has formed the Accessible, Affordable, and Available committee with other activists in Worcester to lobby for equality in the transportation. Joe says;

*"In Worcester, there is ONLY ONE wheel-chair accessible taxicab. Worcester is investing so much in improving cultural and social amenities, but people with disabilities don't have the same opportunity to enjoy it. It's not only an accessibility problem, it's a quality of life issue."*

For millions of people, this is their first bus pass.

Each month, if you had a hearing disability, you couldn't call anyone who wasn't equipped with a special phone. This was true for the Americans with Disabilities Act, please recognize the role of services for anyone who needs them. It's the kind of thing you might take for granted, but to someone who's never been able to, writing a place can be a pretty heroic act. Support Easter Seals.



## TRANSPORTATION GRANT

Joe and Easterseals secured a \$70K grant in 2019 to work with community groups to improve the transit system. Rob Bilotta, member of the Worcester Commission on Disabilities and fellow Easterseals employee, works diligently with Joe on this issue. Both are working closely with WRTA (Worcester Regional Transit Authority), city officials, state legislators, and local organizations to perform studies and research, and to recruit both people with disabilities and older individuals with mobility issues to help with training,

**DON'T JUST SIT THERE**

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT  
**WAITING FOR THE BUS**

AND JOIN  
**TheTransportationAdvocacyCoalition**

planning, and advocacy. According to Joe and Rob, the **primary goal is to get people with disabilities and older adults in decision making roles; "nothing about us, without us."** The second goal is to improve "on-demand" options such as working with Uber/Lyft and the city for more accessible vehicles. The third focus is working with the **Transportation Advocacy Coalition** to establish a reduced fare structure for buses with the WRTA. Affordable public transit encourages disabled and non-disabled riders to use the bus while also helping the growing problem of traffic congestion in the city. This issue is ever-evolving and has gained public momentum in the local news and social media. As a result, Worcester is one of the only cities in the country now strongly considering a free fare pilot program. **Stay informed with the community Facebook group; "Waiting for the Bus."**



*Waiting for the Bus*

# Champions of Equal Opportunities

*We're grateful to these foundations, corporations, and organizations for their generous support of Easterseals Massachusetts.*

## Gifts of \$100,000+

Google

## Gifts of \$50,000+

Laddawn Inc.

## Gifts of \$25,000+

Constance O. Putnam Foundation  
George F. & Sybil H. Fuller Foundation  
The George R. Wallace Foundation  
The Hoyt Foundation, Inc.

## Gifts of \$10,000+

Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation  
Appleton Partners, Inc.  
Copeland Family Foundation, Inc.  
CVS Charitable Trust, Inc.  
DCU for Kids Charitable Foundation  
Delucia Family Foundation  
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Mass Mutual Life Insurance Co.  
Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board  
Quality Beverage L.P.  
WMJX/FM

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AAFCPAs  
Americo J. Francisco Charity Fund  
Berkshire Bank Foundation, Inc.  
Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation  
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Easter Seals NH  
English Family Gift Fund  
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Horace Moses Charitable Foundation  
Golden Gate Foods Foundation  
Matthew V. Joslin Fund  
Shirley Shattuck Windsor Charitable Trust  
The Ruth H. and Warren A. Ellsworth Foundation

## Gifts of \$2,500+

Artemas W. Stearns Trust  
Berry Global  
Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation  
The Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation  
Estate of Joel Brown  
Financial Foundations, Inc.  
Fred Harris Daniels Foundation, Inc.  
Global Plastics, LLC  
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care  
Horizon Beverage Company  
Josephine G. Russell Trust  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Mahoney Oil Co., Inc.  
Marco Polo International Inc.  
Matrix Capital Management Co.  
Neva S. Barber Trust  
Oasis Systems  
Oppenheimer & Co.  
Paul & Dixon Insurance  
Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of MA & RI Inc.  
Schwartz Charitable Foundation  
The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation  
Yongin US Taekwondo Center

## Gifts of \$1,000+

AC Moore - Framingham  
AC Moore Corporate  
American Tower Corp.  
Apex Entertainment  
Argos Family Office  
bank Hometown  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
BDG, A Risk Strategies Company  
Boston Center For Independent Living  
Brian Arsenault Memorial Fund  
Brucato Family Legacy Fund  
Cail Family Foundation  
Casella Waste Systems, Inc.  
Center for Living and Working  
Century 21 Cityside

## Gifts of \$1,000+

Constellation Brands  
Country Bank for Savings  
Cryogenic Institute of New England, Inc.  
Digital Federal Credit Union  
Dynavac  
Easthampton Savings Bank  
Enterprise Bank & Trust Co  
FUJI Film Recording Media  
Manufacturing USA, Inc.  
GE Foundation  
George S. Troupe Foundation  
Gravoc Associates, Inc.  
Health New England  
Hockomock YMCA  
INSA, Inc.  
J.H. Pokorny Assoc. LLC  
Kronos Inc  
Lamoureux Ford  
Leon V & Marilyn L Rosenberg Charitable Fund  
Mary E. Tuttle Fund  
Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane  
Night Shift Brewery  
OMAC Beverage Advisors  
Partners Healthcare System, Inc.  
Pepperell Lions Club  
PhRMA Foundation  
R.H. White Construction Company  
RBC Wealth Management  
Reiser Charitable Gift Fund  
Reliant Medical Group  
Suntrust Bank  
Susan E. Simpson Charitable Foundation  
Suzanne Bennett Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
The Pilgrim Foundation  
The Ronald G. Casty Family Foundation  
United Technologies  
Wallace Property Company  
Watermill Group  
Webster Five Foundation

# Community Partners

*Through contracts and collaborations with our many community partners, Easterseals MA provided programs and services in 56 cities and 295 towns throughout Massachusetts in 2019.*

ABI  
Abington Public Schools  
Acclaim Home Health Care, Inc.  
Advocates, Inc.  
Alliance HealthCare  
Apex K Homecare  
Arlington Public Schools  
Ashburnham Westminster Regional School District  
Assabet Valley Collaborative  
Athol-Royalston Regional School District  
Attleboro Enterprises Attleborough Public Schools  
Auburn Public Schools  
Ayer-Shirley Regional School District  
Baker Katz Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center  
Baldwinville Nursing and Rehab Center  
Bay Cove Human Services  
Beaumont Nursing and Rehabilitation  
Bedford Public Schools  
Belmont Public Schools  
Berlin-Boylston Regional School District  
Billerica Public Schools  
Blackstone-Millville Regional School District  
Boston Center for Independent Living  
Boston Collegiate Charter School  
Boston Preparatory Charter Public School  
Boston Public Schools  
Bourne Public Schools  
Braintree Public Schools  
Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District  
Brookhaven at Lexington  
Brookline Public Schools  
Buckland-Shelburne Elementary Bureau of the State House  
Cambridge Public Schools  
Canton Public Schools  
Carver Public Schools  
Central Massachusetts Collaborative  
Charms Collaborative  
Chelsea Jewish Community, Inc  
Chelsea Public Schools  
Christopher House of Worcester  
Commonwealth Care Alliance  
Connecticut Department of Rehabilitation Services  
CO-OP  
Criterion Child Enrichment  
Danvers Public Schools Dedham Public Schools  
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District  
Department of Conservation & Recreation - Universal Access Program  
Department of Developmental Services - Ergonomic  
Department of Developmental Services  
Department of Fire Services  
Department of Youth Services

Dighton-Rehoboth School District  
Don Orione Home Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation  
Easton Public Schools  
Edward Brooke Charter School  
Everett Public Schools  
Evergreen Center  
Excel Academy  
Executive Office of Health & Human Services  
Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development  
Fairhaven Healthcare Center  
Fairhaven Public Schools  
Fall River Public Schools  
Fitchburg Public Schools  
Framingham Public Schools  
Franciscan Hospital for Children  
Franklin Public Schools  
Gardner Public Schools  
Groton - Dunstable Regional School District  
Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District  
Helen .Y Davis Leadership Academy Charter School  
Hingham Public Schools  
Holliston Public Schools  
Holy Trinity E, Orthodox Nursing and Rehabilitation Center  
Hopedale Public Schools  
Hopkinton Public Schools  
Horace Mann Educational Associates  
Hudson Public Schools  
Innovation Academy Charter School  
Justice Resource Institute  
Keefe Technical School  
Kelliher Center  
KIPP Massachusetts  
Lawrence Public Schools  
League School of Greater Boston  
Leominster Public Schools  
Lexington Public Schools  
Life Skills, Inc.  
Lifestream Healthcare Alliance LLC  
Lifestream, Inc.  
Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School  
Littleton Public Schools  
Littleton Public Schools  
Lowell Public Schools  
Lowell Public Schools  
Lunenburg Public Schools  
Lynn Public School District  
MAB Adult Services  
Malden Public Schools  
Marina Bay Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center  
Marlborough Public Schools  
Mashpee Public Schools  
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission  
Match Charter Public Middle School  
May Center  
Medfield Public Schools  
Medway Public Schools  
Mendon - Upton Regional School District  
Merrimack Health Group

Methuen Public Schools  
Middleborough Public Schools  
Milford Public Schools  
Milton Public Schools  
Minute Man Arc  
Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District  
Money Follows The Person  
Monomoy Regional School District  
Monson Public Schools  
Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries  
Nantucket Public Schools  
Nashoba Learning Group  
Nashoba Regional School District  
Natick Public Schools  
Nauset Regional Schools District  
Needham Public Schools  
New Bedford Public Schools  
New England Pediatric Care  
New England Sinai hospital  
Newbury Court - Rivercrest Wellness and Rehab  
North Andover Public Schools  
North Attleborough Public Schools  
North Reading Public Schools  
Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School  
Northshore Education Consortium  
Norwell Public Schools  
Office of the Attorney General  
Old Rochester Regional School District  
Opportunities for Inclusion  
P.R.I.D.E. Inc  
Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children  
Park Place Skilled Care and Rehabilitation  
Pembroke Public Schools  
Pernet Family Health Service, Inc.  
Pittsfield Public Schools  
Pleasantville Public Schools  
Plymouth Public Schools  
Preferred Therapy Solutions  
Quabbin Regional School District  
Quincy Public Schools  
Reading Public Schools  
Rehabilitation Associates, Inc  
Rehabilitation Services of Massachusetts  
Remedy Therapy Services  
Revere Public Schools  
Roxbury Prep Charter School  
Sancta Maria Hospital DBA Sancta Maria Nursing Facility  
Sandwich Public Schools  
Saugus Public Schools  
Scituate Public Schools  
Seaport Academy  
Seekonk Public Schools  
Seekonk Public Schools  
SEEM Collaborative  
Sharon Public Schools  
Sherborn Public Schools  
Shrewsbury Public Schools  
Silver Lake Regional School District  
Sizer School

# Community Partners

Somerset Public Schools  
 Somerville Public Schools  
 South Shore Educational Collaborative  
 Spencer - East Brookfield Regional School District  
 Sudbury Pines Extended Care  
 Sutton Public Schools  
 Swansea Public Schools  
 Taunton Public Schools  
 The Arc Brockton Area  
 The Arc of Opportunity  
 The Cardinal Cushing Center  
 The Charles River Center  
 The Guild for Human Services  
 The Public School of Northborough and Southborough

Thrive  
 TILL, Inc.  
 Triton Regional School District  
 United Arc  
 United Cerebral Palsy of MetroBoston  
 UP Academy Charter School  
 Uxbridge Public Schools  
 Venture Community Services  
 Veteran Assistance  
 Wachusett Regional School District  
 Wakefield Public Schools  
 Walnut Street Center, Inc  
 Walpole Public Schools  
 Waltham Public Schools  
 Wareham Public Schools

Watertown Public Schools  
 Webster Public Schools  
 Wellesley Public Schools  
 West Boylston Schools  
 Westborough Public Schools  
 Westfield Public Schools  
 Westwood Public Schools  
 Whitman-Hanson Public Schools  
 Wilmington Public Schools  
 Winchendon Public Schools  
 Woburn Public Schools  
 Worcester Public Schools  
 Work Community Independence  
 Wrentham Public School

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

Our mission is not only sustained through contracts with other service providers (community partners), it is amplified through partnerships with non-service industries such as local breweries, newspapers, chambers of commerce, universities, and even professional athletic teams!







## Worcester Pirates & Barefeet w/ PBS

Worcester's very own professional arena football team volunteered to run a Accessible Martial Worcester class. After class, the players signed autographs and surprised everyone with free tickets to a home game! It was a great demonstration of inclusion with professional athletes and people with disabilities performing the exercises together.

**Emmy® Award-winning travel host, producer and dancer, Mickela Mallozzi attended a Accessible Martial Arts Boston** class to experience Easterseals adaptive dance. Mickela graciously used her large platform to raise awareness around Easterseals 2020 expansion goals for accessible recreation. Check out a video of the class: [PLAY.EASTERSEALSMA.ORG](http://PLAY.EASTERSEALSMA.ORG)

## Boston Parents Paper

Easterseals MA joined the ranks of *Boston Children's Hospital* as the only other service organization with it's own landing page for *The Boston Parents Paper*, one of the most well respected special education publications in New England. Visit [bostonparentspaper.com/easterseals-massachusetts](http://bostonparentspaper.com/easterseals-massachusetts)

Our expert therapists have featured **10 insightful articles** thus far discussing the **importance of IEPs, the special education process, and transition planning for life after high school**. This magazine and website is a critical resource for all parents, caregivers, educators, and schools. The ultimate goal of the collaboration is to create the best environment for children and young adults with disabilities to prosper in different learning settings by sharing resources and expertise.



## Mass Academy STEM

The Worcester ATRC (Assistive Technology Regional Center) earned plenty of attention in the news for it's partnerships with local colleges and high schools, particularly a collaboration with students from Mass Academy to engineer assistive technology. The **picture to the left displays a "root water system," designed by students at the Easterseals ATRC**. It enables a person with disabilities to automatically water plants despite limitations in fine motor skills. The project idea was given to the students by Easterseals ATRC coordinator, Rob Bilotta, who has a physical disability and struggled with maintaining his plants at home.

*Mass Academy of Math and Science* earned the **No. 10 spot among the top 5,000 STEM high schools for 2019** per rankings by Newsweek and STEM.org. **Director Michael Barney** thanked Easterseals MA in a press release; "There are so many who work together to create an amazing learning environment for our students-our legislators who vote to support this district each year... creating a partnership with the university which makes this school so unique..."





## ASSUMPTION COLLEGE | 9/11 MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

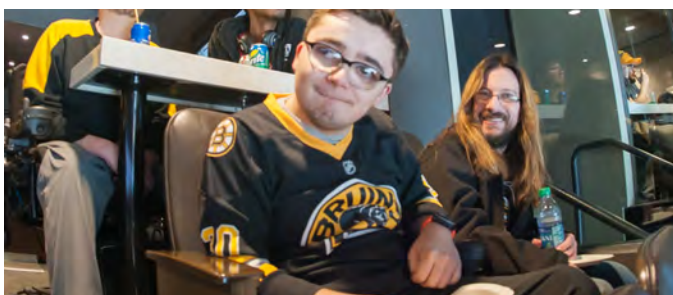
**Veteran's Count** hosted a memorial breakfast on 9/11 with Assumption College and various community leaders such as **Ed O'Connor, Director of Veteran Services for the City of Worcester and Francesco Cesareo, President of Assumption College**. The event focused on ways to create a network of support for Veterans in Central MA. The breakfast also **raised \$4,000 for Easterseals Military and Veteran Services**.

Ed O'Connor praised Easterseals for its uniquely collaborative outreach and service approach in Central MA; *"It is to remember how much we have in common with each other and how much stronger we are united-especially in today's polarizing climate."*

## BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY

The Easterseals 2019 Mentorship retreat weekend took place this past June at **Bridgewater State University**. The overnight event brought together **over 40 individuals between the ages of 14 and 45** with various disabilities from across the state.

The goals of both the **female group, Thrive**, and **male group, B.A.D. (Brothers Against Discrimination)** during the retreat were to help strengthen community bonds of women and men with disabilities as well as promote empowerment within these communities. We had a variety of interactive activities as well as dynamic speakers from the disability community. Topics included accessible exercising, facilitating healthy relationships, and empowerment through art.



## BRUINS FOUNDATION

Recently, **Patrice's Pals** (Patrice Bergeron Charity) hosted a group of our Easterseals MA Youth Programs B.A.D. (Brothers Against Discrimination) Male Mentoring program at the TD Garden. The **Boston Bruins Foundation** has been doing some amazing things in the local community lately and Easterseals MA was happy to collaborate. Pictured to the left is Dan Harris with **Bruins Superstar, Patrice Bergeron**. Pictured below is Jake Louzan soaking up his **private box seats!**

Dan and Jake have been involved with Easterseals services and programs since young children. A hallmark of Easterseals relationships is that clients often become long time friends because Easterseals services often span over an individual's developmental trajectory. It's amazing to see Dan and Jake now helping mentor upcoming Easterseals youth. Most importantly, Easterseals goal of providing **"equal opportunities to play"** is **truly realized** with engaging and exciting social outings like this Bruins game!

# Employee Giving

The Annual Employee Campaign surpassed its goal this year. Employees raised **\$17,414 with 5 new donors and 37 returning donors!** Easterseals MA employees are committed to enhance our clients' lives. When ESMA employees choose to support their own organization by giving back, it sets a wonderful example for our external donors and highlights the importance of being able to provide our programs and services to those who need them most. **Together, we are changing the way the world defines and views disability!**

Youcef J. Bellil

Paula Brown

Louise Colbourne

Steven M. Crays

Vivian Dehner

Kristy Dobson

Connie S. Eucker

Desiree Forte

Catherine Fradenburg

Lizzette Grattan

Amanda Hodges

Leanne Holland

Jeanine Kuchta

Cheryl Lazzaro

Maryellen Macrae

Cara Marchetti

Shannon McClintock

Candice McDonald

Jennifer M. Medeiros

Paul M. Medeiros

Bridget North

Eric M. Oddleifson

Patrick Remy

Karen Santiago

Kimberly Sokol

Laura Steinmetz

Debbie Stevens

Stephanie Sursky

Leonidas Tonevski

Pauline Tranter

Alexandra Ullrich

Sarah Vu

Nafisa Zafar

Stephanie Zaia



# EQUAL

## OPPORTUNITIES TO...

*Stay  
Connected*

**ATTEND AN EVENT**

[events.eastersealsma.org](https://events.eastersealsma.org)



**SHARE OUR STORY**

**VOLUNTEER**

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**...LIVE, LEARN, WORK, & PLAY.**