



John Mooney



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Sayreville Easterseals, Despite Lack of Funding, Continues to Serve Community



Scenes from the Day Habilitation program at Sayreville Easterseals
Karen Rosenzweig

By ROBERT FALLO

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SOUTH AMBOY, NJ -- Providing to the community for over 22 years in the Raritan Bay community, [Easterseals Community Support Services](#), Sayreville Adult Training Services in South Amboy has put over two decades worth of effort into aiding grownups with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“We teach them valuable life skills with staff helping them with real world experiences so that they can better participate in their community,” Sayreville Easterseals service coordinator Karen Rosenzweig said.

With a purpose intact towards guiding their participants to operating with efficient life skills, Easterseals promotes health & wellness, community safety, and socialization. The organization offers two main programs in Sayreville: Day Habilitation and Community Inclusion.

With the Day Habilitation program, participants, who can belong to the program at any age above 21, visit the center five days a week for five hours to be taught certain aspects of adult life. The Community Inclusion program is very similar, except instead of meeting at Easterseals, participants go into the



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Support programs at Easterseals Community Support Services include:

- Local transportation
- Banking and financial management
- Assistance with personal care
- Meal preparation
- Medication administration
- Linkages to community resources
- Shopping for food, clothes, hygiene products, etc.
- Travel and assistance with medical appointments
- We also provide residents with opportunities to enhance their quality of life through various social and educational activities.

The features of the program need operational funding and have the chance to disband due to the lack of financials. To Easterseals, this is not only detrimental to the participants, but their families as well.

“The day habilitation program is a valuable one not only to the participant but to their family members and caregivers,” Easterseals NJ CEO Brian Fitzgerald said. “All of these individuals rely on the all-day productive and safe program that we as an organization provide to them. We give them a place to go every day, to socialize, to learn new skills, etc.”

Rosenzweig believes this is a program that needs to stay.

“The families need this program, they need this. During the COVID pandemic, when we were shut down, the families, had to deal with the person to be in home all day. This is such a relief for them to be able to have this program open for them to come daily,” she said. “It affected them quite a bit, and it also affected the participants we have, physically and mentally. They were devastated that they could not return to their routine. That effects them a lot and a lot of people have regressed in their behaviors. It’s a big part of their lives, the day program.”

To find out more information, visit <https://www.easterseals.com/nj>.

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