



Changing the way the world defines and views disability by making profound positive differences in people's lives every day.

SPECIAL EDITION

There is no denying that Covid-19 has had devastating effects on our world as each of us has been affected in some way. For the thousands of individuals with disabilities and their families served by Easterseals Southern California (ESSC) every day, this is no exception.

ESSC mobilized quickly and created new, innovative methods of program delivery to our community, ensuring the most vulnerable populations—children, elderly and the disabled, still receive the vital services they need during this crisis. With access to life-changing services still in demand, families have also come to rely on ESSC for basic necessities including food, cleaning/hygiene products as well as resources for housing and employment.

While the crisis continues, ESSC's commitment to our shared community continues. Peek inside to see how together, we are making a difference! ♥

"Easterseals' handling of my son's care during this profound time of disruption and crisis is nothing less than heroic and almost miraculous... please accept our most sincere expressions of gratitude. I hope you don't get tired of hearing us say thank you and how lucky we know we are to have Easterseals in our lives."

Sam & Joyce W.
(PARTICIPANT FAMILY AND ESSC DONOR)

ESSC Heroes – Working Differently

The past months of this pandemic have been filled with our ESSC associates working smart and creatively to support our participants and their families. We are very proud to share with you the many new and innovative ways we're staying connected.

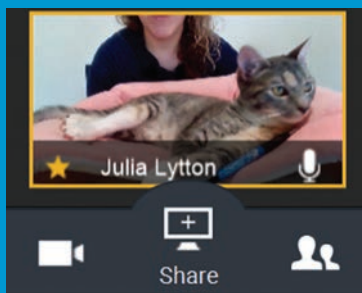
Adventures in Telehealth

When in-home therapy was suspended and therapy centers temporarily closed, Autism Services turned to telehealth— the use of video conferencing technology to deliver service.

“There’s no mountain high enough that will stop us from being there for our families!”



Some individuals like Jacqueline Garcia, an Autism Services Program Manager living in Tehachapi had trouble connecting to the net at her home. She found the solution by heading outside. She took her laptop and headphones up to the mountain on her property and not only got a perfect signal, but found an ideal spot for a memorable experience for her kids and families who “enjoyed seeing nature,” said Jacqueline.



Occupational Therapist, Julia Lytton decided to let her 5-month-old kitten, Piper, run her therapy session. My client was very excited to show Piper how she uses a fork and can string beads. Piper reciprocated, much to my client’s amusement, by showing her how kitties wash their face and play with shoelaces. Piper has become my therapy aid with other kiddos as well. She provides a sense of comfort, motivation, and excitement during this difficult time.”



Physical distancing isn’t keeping James from staying social. Adult Day Services in West Covina participant James during a one-to-one call with Life Skills Coach Nicole Crouch, one of his favorite ESSC associates.

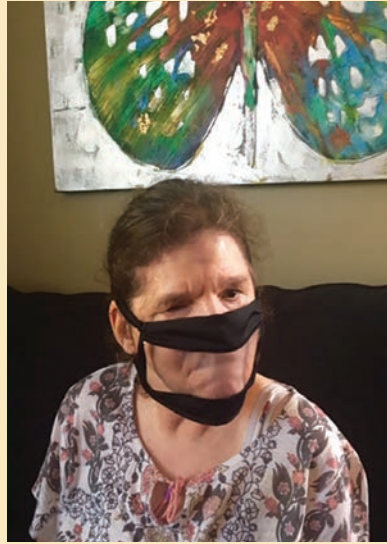
James has since received an Easterseals tablet and has participated in every daily virtual group event.



His family shared that, “James looks forward to these classes. He wakes up and it is the first thing he talks about each day!”

James greets and welcomes peers into each class. He has a great sense of humor and always keeps the conversations going.

ESSC Associate Develops Facemask for Hearing Impaired



Facemasks have become an important tool in limiting exposure to the Coronavirus, and all ESSC associates must now wear one when working directly with participants. While facemasks have health benefits, keeping your mouth covered has its drawbacks, especially when communicating to the hard of hearing.

Sabrina Godinez, Director of Residential Services for Living Options, discovered this first hand and created a novel solution—a mask where the mouth portion was replaced by a patch of clear plastic. "I emailed and requested a pattern so we could make our own. Lupe Trevizo Reinoso, the Living Options VP, put me in touch with Impact Apparel,

a company that has helped us out in the past. We worked with them on different material to find one that offers both protection and comfort."

"It's been a great success, the residents are able to understand us much better," said Sabrina. "Also, we have new faces coming in thanks to the help we are getting from Adult Day Services, so being able to see more of these newcomers' faces has reduced their frustration."

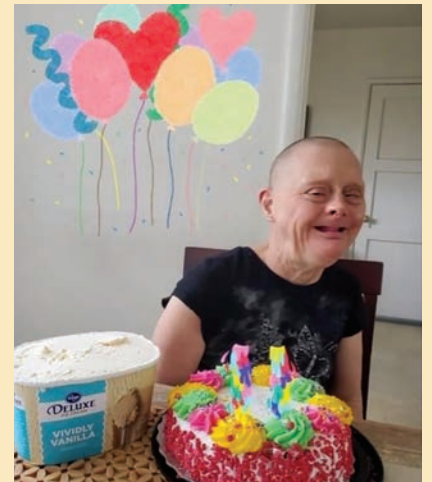


Grab and Go Meals

With the closure of in-person services, access to nutritional meals for program participants caused tremendous worry to already stressed families. In order to relieve some of the stressors for our families, Child Development Services (CDS) created food pantry "grab and go" locations throughout Southern California. In one week alone, CDS staff handed out over 700 meals to San Bernardino County Head Start participants.

**"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully,
everyone is blessed."**

– Maya Angelou



Celebrating the Opportunities

Happy Birthday Catherine! Supported Living Services participant Catherine recently celebrated her birthday at her home. It was a blast thanks to living options administrator Lashawna, who went above-and-beyond to make it happen.



Thank you!



In times like these, we're reminded just how interconnected we all are. We are humble members of the Easterseals Southern California community, especially in this time of crisis. Without you, we couldn't do this.

Easterseals is proud to honor these individuals who have made donations to our 5 mission-critical programs as well as our Crisis Response Fund since the beginning of the pandemic (list reflects giving as of June 5, 2020).

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Craig Yates
Keith Zear
Anonymous Donors

* Denotes donation from a Board of Directors member

Our aim is to recognize the generosity of each individual that has made a gift during this critical time. We apologize for any errors or omissions. For corrections please contact 714-834-1111 ext. 7950



ed and truly appreciative of the steadfast support of our you, the work we continue to do would not be possible!

ESSC is also honored to recognize corporations and foundations who have generously donated to our programs, services and crisis response efforts during this critical time.

- Advent Packaging
- The Ahmanson Foundation
- American Business Bank
- Boeing Capital Corporation
- Century 21 Award, Inc.
- CVS Pharmacy
- Dr. Bronner's
- Edwards Lifesciences Foundation
- The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation
- Nordson Corporation Foundation
- Pacific Western Bank
- Parker Hannifin Foundation
- Savills Studley, Inc.
- Softchoice
- T-Mobile
- Ultimate Software



T-Mobile Partnership

With the support of T-Mobile for Business, 100 Easterseals families benefited from new, data-enabled tablets to stay connected to their programs and services



CVS Partnership – A generous donation of blood pressure machines was made by our CVS corporate partners.



Dr. Bronner's – Committed to making socially and environmentally responsible products of the highest quality and their amazing history of philanthropy, Dr. Bronner's donated over 1,800 bottles of pure Castile soap to our Child Development families. We couldn't be more grateful!

Post Malone – asked his fans to help him give away \$1M to nonprofits via Community after his Nirvana livestream for COVID-19 relief.

Easterseals Southern California is proud to be one of the orgs!

Thank you Post Malone!



LA Clippers Foundation made a generous donation in honor of Easterseals crisis response efforts.



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www.easterseals.com/southernca

CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE DISABILITY

SAVE THE DATE



Celebrating 20 years
of walking, running, rolling and strolling!
Virtual Family Fun Walk



Saturday, October 17, 2020 / 10am Virtual Kickoff
social.easterseals.com/esscstrides

