



**A YEAR OF**  
*Accomplishments*  
SEPTEMBER 2013 - AUGUST 2014

# Mission Statement

Easter Seals provides exceptional services to ensure that all people with disabilities or special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities.







**Kim Colby**  
Board President

**Beth English**  
Executive Director

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Secretary

**Diana Helton**  
Assistant Secretary

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Nathaniel Clark  
Yolanda Davis  
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Donnita House  
Melissa Kennedy  
Dan McCarthy  
Leslie Murphy  
David Orlowski  
Will Peterson  
Cheri Reece  
Jake Reese  
Alfreda Sheppard  
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Carlyle Sullivan, Jr.

**Advisory Board Members**

Jacki Atkins  
Annette Bowling  
Kenneth Cutts  
Stacey DeMarino  
Jackie Dixon

**“A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS”**

This year was the final year in our organization’s three year strategic plan. In spite of all the challenges in the economy, our organization thrived and met the vast majority of the goals established years earlier. Having a strong commitment to a plan was indeed a key factor in our success. As I reflected back across the past year and all that has been accomplished, an anonymous quote found in a textbook on strategic planning came to mind: “The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths to it are not found, but made. And the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination.” Easter Seals Southern Georgia is in a decidedly different place at the close of the 2014 fiscal year that ended August 31st. Serving 2,484 individuals in some 71 Georgia counties as well as 27 persons with disabilities in North Florida, our organization experienced profound growth.

Our successes came not just in numbers but in adopting successful business practices, striving for excellence in our services, strengthening our presence in the community and with our continued advocacy efforts with policy makers both here in Georgia and at the national level. Our business practice enhancements included the establishment of a capital reserve account accompanied by a generous monthly contribution that will provide the needed funds for the anticipated replacement of major items such as HVAC and roof. Vans were replaced for our homes and programs and technology was utilized as never before. An on-line training system and a donor database system were implemented and have resulted in time savings as well as increased accountability. Once again this year, Easter Seals received an unqualified opinion on its financial audit and did not receive a management letter. Kudo’s to our finance/accounting staff led by COO Matt Hatcher.

Our programs continued to expand and additional funding was obtained for our Champions for Children program. A pilot supported employment program funded by the Dept of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities was begun and was overwhelmingly successful in placing 31 young adults with disabilities into real jobs. Our vocational services with the Florida Department of Education/Vocational Rehabilitation began in earnest as Easter Seals staff utilized customized employment strategies in making successful placements. “Megan’s House” celebrated 10 years of sustainability and launched the first Easter Seals capital campaign since 1970. Over \$270,000 has been raised for new construction. A new home was purchased and modified in anticipation of planned hospital transitions as our partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities continues to grow. And most importantly, Easter Seals received the maximum 3-year national accreditation by CARF. Over 28 organizational strengths were listed in the executive summary!

Easter Seals worked with our community partners and local boards of directors to enhance public awareness. A community engagement coordinator was hired and an on-line media management system was implemented. We now have a viable presence on Facebook and other social media sites as well as an updated website. We worked with the Georgia Municipal Association in transforming the Mayor’s Motorcade from traditional hospital based program to one that embraced local community placements. Easter Seals was able to bring together both elected officials and DD program managers across the state to help promote the needs of some of our state’s most vulnerable citizens.

Finally, Easter Seals Southern Georgia joined with the other four Easter Seal affiliates across the state to host our Annual Day at the Capitol. Legislators learned about programs and heard our support for autism, the Family Care Act and budget issues impacting the families we collectively serve. Members of our board accompanied Easter Seals Family Support Director, Nicki Wilson to Washington D.C. in June, joining Easter Seals volunteers from across the nation in support of veterans and employment services. Meetings were held with members of the Georgia Congressional delegation and our representatives were warmly received.

It was a very good year! It was my pleasure to serve as President of this organization during the past twelve months.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

*Vocational: 93 Served in Georgia, 27 Served in Florida*



*Solutions Day Program: 62 Served*





# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

*Residential: 85 Served*



*Family Support & Respite: 1538 Served*



# CAROL HOLLOWOMON



While 2014 was a year of celebration, it was also a year of significant loss and sadness for our Easter Seals' family. Our beloved board member and ardent advocate, Carol Hollomon, passed away suddenly in April. Carol's commitment, dedication, and support of Easter Seals has been rivaled by few and has left a void for all of those who knew and loved her. Carol was the ultimate champion for people living with disabilities. For years, she volunteered tirelessly and made Easter Seals a priority in her life. Whether she was speaking to a group about Megan's House or raising funds, she loved representing Easter Seals and ensuring that people living with disabilities were afforded the opportunity to live, learn, work, play, and worship in their communities. Individuals living with disabilities were her passion, and advocating was her pleasure.

The list of her accomplishments and details of her service is long and distinguished. From volunteering at Megan's House, recruiting volunteers, hosting staff appreciation events, promoting services, assisting families, raising money, or just being available for anything Easter Seals related, Carol was always ready with a smile and servant's heart. However, her most notable achievement was being "Megan's Mom". This was a title and responsibility that she accepted proudly. She often told people that if given the chance to do it over again, she would joyfully. Carol often shared her personal experience of being a "special needs mom" with others; good, bad and otherwise. This was the unique way in which she related to people. Carol's spirit of volunteerism and love for people with disabilities was both inspirational and motivational to all who knew her.

Although she is gone, her memory lives on in those of us who loved her. One of her biggest dreams was to build a new Megan's House in Albany. Her vision has now become our mission. Please join us in making her dream a reality.

# Megan's House Celebrating 10 Years

2014 marked an important milestone for Megan's House. In February, Easter Seals Southern Georgia celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the very first Megan's House in Albany. A celebration dinner was held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Bindery at Oakland Library in Lee County. Nearly 150 guests attended and were treated to a special program which included a video documentary about Megan's House. The dinner was held not only to celebrate the anniversary of the program, but also to recognize all the donors who have made Megan's House possible. During the program, Nicki Wilson, Director of Family Support Services, unveiled plans to build a brand-new "Dream House" in Albany to replace the current location and announced the kickoff of the capital campaign. That night alone, nearly \$30,000 was pledged or donated by those in attendance. Before the evening was over, special guest, DBHDD Commissioner Frank Berry, announced that the department was also contributing \$100,000 towards this project. This far exceeded our wildest dreams! A year later, the capital campaign is currently at \$272,000 of the \$500,000 goal. Grant proposals for the closing amount have been submitted and community donations continue to come in daily. A building committee has been established to work on this special project and to help identify an appropriate building site. Our goal is to begin construction as early as 2016.





# EVENTS

## *Annual Awards Dinner*

Easter Seals Annual Awards Dinner was held to recognize supporters, board members and staff. We were honored to have as our key note speaker, Frank Berry, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.



## *Sweet Charity*

Our 2nd annual Sweet Charity, Desserts for a Cause was held in Valdosta, Georgia. Guests enjoyed desserts and beverages while participating in a silent auction. The event raised \$7,000 benefiting the Valdosta Megan's House.



## *Champion Riders*

The Champions for Children Riders charity ride was held all over the state by the 5 different Easter Seals Georgia affiliates to raise funds and awareness for the statewide program. A total of 75 riders raised \$2,000 for the Champions for Children program.



## *A Night of Southern Gospel*

Guests enjoyed an evening of Southern Gospel music provided by The Faithful Servants and Three 4 One gospel groups at the Tift Theater in Tifton, Georgia. Proceeds from this evening support our Tifton Solutions Day Program.



# EVENTS

## *Heels and Wheels*

165 athletes participated in our annual duathlon/triathlon held at Laura Walker State Park near Waycross, Georgia. Participants included children and adults with disabilities. The event raised nearly \$17,000. Proceeds benefit Megan's House located in Waycross, Georgia.



## *Uncorked & Unplugged*

This was the second year Easter Seals Southern Georgia hosted Uncorked & Unplugged. The event was held in downtown Albany, Georgia at the Veterans Park Amphitheater. Guests enjoyed a gourmet picnic and live music on the riverbank. The event was held to support our Champions for Children program..



## *38th Annual Bass Tournament*

The Albany Bass Club and Easter Seals Southern Georgia partnered again for the 38th Annual Bass Tournament to support Megan's House. Over 163 boats participated in the catch and release tournament on beautiful Lake Eufaula. Over \$14,000 in cash prizes were awarded.



## *Sippin for the Seals*

Our annual Sippin for the Seals event was held at Lake Blackshear Resort in Cordele, Georgia. Guests enjoyed an evening of fine wines, hors d'oeuvres and music provided by Austin Taylor Ledford. Items were donated by various local businesses for a silent auction. Proceeds from the evening benefit our Cordele Solutions Day Program.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

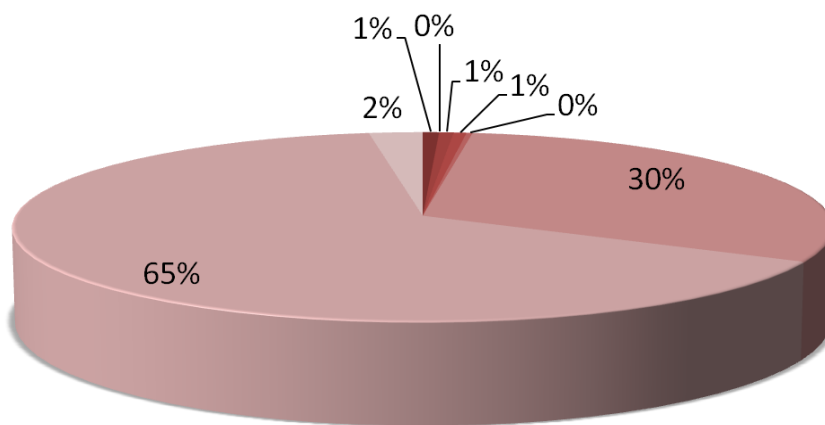
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014

## ASSETS

Cash	\$370,620
Restricted Cash	\$496,913
Endowment Account	\$42,905
Megan's House Building Fund	\$151,741
Accounts Receivable	\$742,269
Other Assets	\$184,516
Property & Equipment	\$1,126,622
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,115,586</b>

## Liabilities & Net Assets

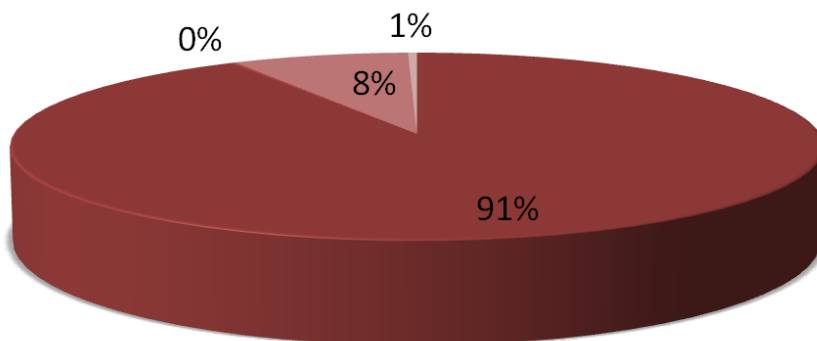
Current Liabilities	\$981,377
Long Term Debt	\$283,305
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$170,566
Unrestricted Net Assets (Designated)	\$253,981
Unrestricted Net Assets (Undesignated)	\$1,384,257
Permanently Restricted Assets	\$42,100
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,115,586</b>



## Income

- Donations-Cash \$66,085
- Donations-Non Cash \$2,214
- Donations-Building Fund \$57,026
- Special Events \$53,026
- United Way Allocation \$24,482
- Government Grants/Fees \$2,842,047
- Program Service Fees \$6,039,478
- Other Income \$219,772

**Total Income \$9,304,951**



## Expenses

- Direct Services \$8,081,260
- Fund Raising \$20,560
- Management & General \$706,156
- National Membership Fees \$35,653

**Total Expenses \$8,843,632**

**Total Income Over Expenses \$461,319**

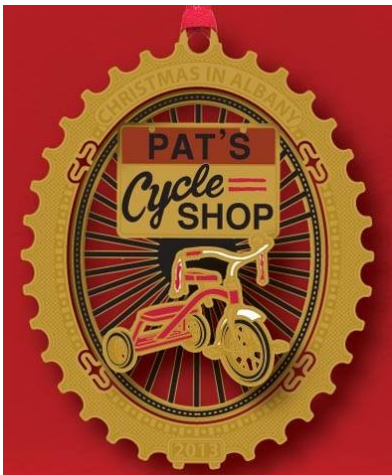


# PUBLIC POLICY



*2014 Champions for Children Day at the Capitol*

# EASTER SEALS ORNAMENTS



*2013 Official City of Albany, Georgia Ornament*

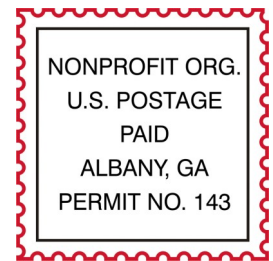


*2014 Official Cordele, Georgia Watermelon Days Festival Ornament*



## *Easter Seals Southern Georgia*

1906 Palmyra Road Albany, Georgia 31701  
[www.easterseals.com/southerngeorgia](http://www.easterseals.com/southerngeorgia)



## *September 2013- August 2014 Presidents Council Donors \$1,000+ Donations*

Peggy Caruso Trust	Mayo Clinic Health Systems
Albany Tractor Company/Flint Equipment Company	Merrill Trust Fund-Regions
Archer Daniels Midland Co.	Miller Coors
Artesian City Sertoma Club	Monroe Foundation
Ashley's Furniture	Pat & Sandy O'Lear
Badgley Fund Co.-Trust	David Orłowski
Beth English	PPC Foundation
Century 21 Marianna Florida	David Prisant
Clint & Christi Chapman	Proctor & Gamble
Clenney, Powell & Rentz PC	Professional Medical Fulfillment, Inc.
Charlotte Delucca	Professional Networking
Jackie Dixon	Radiology Oncology Associates, PC
Dr. & Mrs. Carl E. Findley	Walter Ross
EME Trust	Singletery Foundation
First Baptist Church, Inc.	Smith Branch & Pope, LLC Century 21
Flash Foods	South Georgia Sealcoating & Striping
Georgia Municipal Association	St. Teresa's Catholic School
Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.	Victor Sullivan
Greater Valdosta United Way	The Columbus Organization
Life Christian Center International	United Way of Southwest Georgia, Inc.
Marvin Paul	W L Swan Investments, Inc.

*Thank You for your Support!*