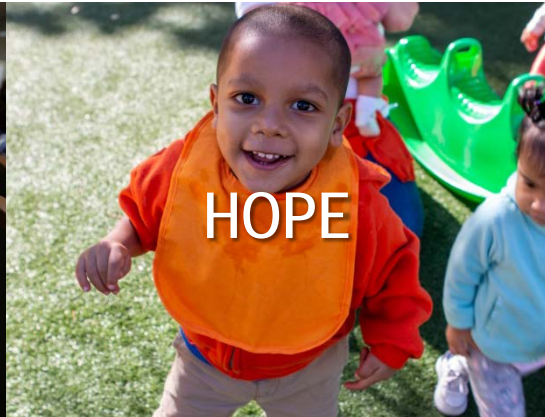


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www.easterseals.com/southflorida

IMPACT REPORT 2019 - 2020

A Message from the President & CEO

extraordinary times
extraordinary need
extraordinary response
extraordinary partnerships
extraordinary impact

Dear Friends,

Easterseals South Florida is proud to have served people and families challenged by disabilities and disadvantages in our community for more than 78 years. We are pleased to share an overview of our impact with those generous community leaders, donors and friends who have stepped in to support our efforts during the most difficult of times. Together, you have made it possible for us to support and strengthen more than 1,700 South Florida families in 2019.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Easterseals South Florida responded quickly to the needs of our program participants. Together we developed ways to deliver important services to the individuals and families we serve in the South Florida community. Thanks to a generous influx of donations from individuals, volunteers, community partners and funders, Easterseals has been able to provide essential uninterrupted resources and services in the midst of this national crisis.

We have been uplifted by your generosity and while there is still so much we are facing as a community, Easterseals will continue to rise to the challenge. We know our families will continue to need extraordinary supports, and with your continued help, we will be there for them. Thank you for giving generously and for making a lasting impact on the lives of the families we serve.

Loreen Chant

Loreen Chant
President/CEO

Leadership

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Programs & Services



Special Education

404 Students Served

Wayne & Nicole Cypen School (including the child development center, the elementary and middle school academy and the culinary arts high school) provides expert and focused help for children with autism and other special needs so they can reach their fullest potential and make progress on their journey towards independence.



Adult Day Care

459 Families Served

Allows adults living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia to spend their days in our centers with our caring staff while their caregivers work, so they can return to their families every evening rather than living in a nursing home.



Head Start

571 Families Served

Provides high quality, early-childhood education to pre-school children living in impoverished communities, as well as support and services their families need to raise their children so they enter kindergarten ready to learn and their families are better equipped to break the cycle of poverty.



In-Home Respite

248 Families Served

Provides in-home assistance for elders too frail to leave their homes, which lightens the stressful and often detrimental burden shouldered by their caregivers so the family can continue living together under the same roof as they envisioned they would.



Our purpose is to change the way the world defines and views disability by making profound, positive differences in people's lives every day. **More than ninety-two cents of every dollar spent** goes directly back into our programs and services that help children and adults with disabilities and special needs.

2019 Financials

Total Revenue & Support - \$15,000,000

Total Expenses - \$14,900,000

Program Services: 92.2%

Administration: 4.3%

Fundraising: 3.5%

100%

of children make progress toward age-appropriate milestones

86%

of caregivers state our services have maintained or improved their ability to continue to provide care

99%

of children accessed health insurance and received preventative health care

100%

of participants were able to continue living at home



Brothers' story

Esteban and Samuel Conquer Distance Learning

In March 2020, childcare centers and schools closed across our community as the COVID-19 pandemic brought all our lives to a drastic halt and “safer at home” became everyone’s focus. Yet, even a global pandemic could not stop Easterseals South Florida (ESSF) from providing on-going services to its participants. The children and adult participants, as well as their families, rely on ESSF to help them navigate and lead successful lives. Knowing the critical role ESSF plays in the community, the staff worked tirelessly to continue uninterrupted service and reimagine what this “new normal” would look like.

During quarantine, ESSF staff quickly transitioned all services to in-home and remote delivery to maintain a high level of engagement with participants and their families during a period of tremendous stress. Distance learning and engagement transitioned into zoom classes and support groups, drive-by end of year celebrations, telephone reassurance, and in-home visits, to name a few. Staff never stopped devising new ways to connect and support.

Charged with engaging students in the culinary arts program; these teachers designed a hybrid learning model to include both students who returned to the classrooms as well as students who chose to participate in the program from home. Each week, teachers assembled culinary kits including supplies, ingredients, recipes and in-home guides which were distributed to the in-home students.

Esteban (13) & Samuel (15) are brothers who attend ESSF Culinary Arts middle school & high school for children with disabilities. They are also participants in the aftercare program sponsored by The Children’s Trust. Both brothers love the culinary arts program and have been enjoying practicing the recipes and skills from home. They show off their creations to their chef instructor during zoom meetings and work together in their kitchen at home to the delight of their mother.

Connecting with their teachers and their classmates from school provides a sense of normalcy for Esteban and Samuel where they can continue to learn and socialize. Recently, the boys made a healthy snack (peanut butter and banana sandwich) while mom proudly filmed their masterpiece. Visit our [website to read more about Esteban’s and Samuel’s story and watch their culinary video.](#)

Esteban and Samuel’s success shows how the community’s support helps people living with disabilities transform their lives to accomplish their goals and reach many of life’s milestones.





family story

A Family's Journey with Alzheimer's Leads to Easterseals

by Mily Lopez, Caregiver

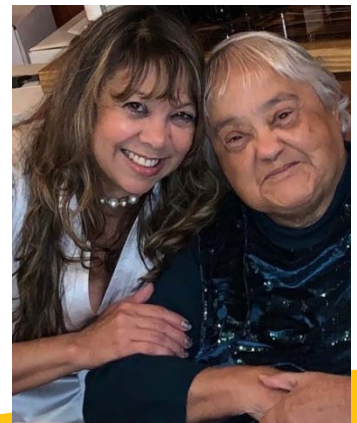
When I learned of my mother's Alzheimer's diagnosis, I proceeded to research ways in which I could best help her. Alarmed at the doctor's comments to "not be surprised if she starts to forget you and the other people she loves", I needed a solution. Research led me to understand how vitally important it is to keep adults with memory disorders mentally and physically engaged. I now know firsthand that the benefits are truly life changing.

Armed with this information, I created a schedule of activities for her to do at home. Our family was committed to doing whatever was needed to look after my mother's wellbeing. Since my husband and I both work during the day, we quickly realized we needed assistance, someone who could devote time to her and keep her engaged during the day. Running into roadblock after roadblock, I continued my desperate quest to find quality resources in my local community. A call to the Alliance for Aging led me to Easterseals South Florida, and its newly-opened therapeutic day center in Kendall, Florida (one of three centers in our community).

The first day mom attended the center, I stayed with her for a while to make sure she would be okay. I was relieved to find her interacting with others in a positive way, partaking in art, music and exercise – which over time, gave her a renewed sense of life. You see – my mom had fallen into a deep depression after the loss of my older brother, and then my father, whom passed away about a year ago as well. Now only three months into her time at Easterseals, she looks forward to going to her "escuelita" (school in Spanish) every day with much anticipation. Friday afternoons are not her favorite, as mom eagerly anticipates returning to her friends the following Monday.

Easterseals has changed our lives for the better – especially in the midst of learning how to cope with our mother's disease. I have benefited tremendously from the caregiver support groups and have learned so much about how to best support my mother's evolving needs. Weekends are happier -- and on Saturdays, mom enjoys family outings with my husband, son and me. We really don't know where we would be without the help of Easterseals.

Update: Although the center was closed for many months for safety reasons, the staff has been amazing. They have remained in constant contact with my mother and with me. Participants can join different zoom activities every day and our caregiver support group has remained active. I appreciate all the agency has been doing to care for my mother and my family despite the uncertainty and challenges we all have been facing.



easterseals is here

to provide support in this pandemic.

Staying at home and coping during the COVID-19 outbreak **together**

The support from individual donors and corporate partners helped Easterseals South Florida (ESSF) to continue to provide for our families during the Covid-19 crisis. As a result, Easterseals South Florida has been able to provide the following services and resources:

- In-Home Senior Care
- Hybrid In-person & Remote Instruction
- Computer Equipment
- In-person & Tele-Therapy Services
- Essential Items & PPE Distribution
- Digital Resources
- Educational Tools & Materials
- Daily Outreach Communication
- Meal Distribution
- Remote Support/Services
- School Supply & Toy Drives
- Holiday Meal Delivery



A special **thank you** to our in-kind sponsors



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Jackie & Jorge Milanes | Rialto Capital | Shelley Daniel Rutherford

Due to COVID-19, most of our 2020 events were cancelled. We eagerly look forward to 2021 when we can safely gather together once more.



Easterseals South Florida Goombay Golf

2021 TBD, The Club at Emerald Hills

The Annual Golf Tournament has been attracting golf enthusiasts for 27 years to benefit Easterseals South Florida programs. The event includes: lunch and dinner, goodie bag for all players and complimentary beverages & snacks on the course. The tournament will conclude with a silent auction, dinner and awards ceremony.



Small Miracles Luncheon

2021 TBD, Hilton Miami Downtown

Easterseals' Small Miracles Luncheon is our biggest annual fundraiser; bringing together over 300 of Miami-Dade and Broward's most caring community leaders and corporate sponsors. The event serves to raise awareness of Easterseals' mission to change the way the world defines and views disability by making profound, positive differences in people's lives every day.



32nd Annual Festival of Chefs

2021 TBD, Jungle Island Miami

The 32nd Annual Festival of Chefs, at Jungle Island pays tribute to South Florida's culinary scene with an evening of signature dishes, fine wine & spirits, silent auction, and entertainment; all to benefit the Easterseals South Florida Culinary Arts High School.

how you can help

Your generosity helps Easterseals South Florida provide help, hope and answers to people living with autism, Alzheimer's and other disabilities and the families who love them.

- Volunteer
- Make a Donation
- Host a Fundraiser
- Make a Tribute or Memorial Gift
- Set Up a Matching Gift
- Workplace and Employee Giving Campaign
- Transfer Securities to Easterseals
- Sponsor an Event
- Join the President's Council

For more information about Easterseals South Florida, learn more about our programs, to make a donation, to volunteer, or for corporate team building projects, please contact:

Marta Quintana, Vice President of Development, 305.547.4765 or Marta.Quintana@sfl.easterseals.com
Easterseals South Florida, 1475 NW 14th Ave, Miami, FL 33125



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South Florida



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