

# easterseals South Florida

## We Celebrate Impact

HOPE

FUN

FAMILY



RESILIENCY

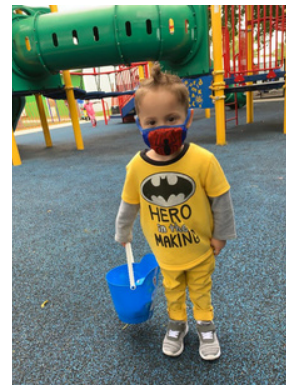
COMPASSION

STRENGTH



ALL ABILITIES

LIMITLESS  
POSSIBILITIES



## IMPACT REPORT 2020-2021

[www.easterseals.com/southflorida](http://www.easterseals.com/southflorida)





## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

Easterseals South Florida is proud to have served people and families challenged by disabilities and disadvantages in our community for more than 79 years. We are pleased to share an overview of our impact with our generous community leaders, donors and friends. Together, you have made it possible for us to support and strengthen more than 1,000 South Florida families in 2020-2021.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued in late 2020, Easterseals South Florida reimagined the way we delivered programs and services to our participants.

TOGETHER we developed new ways of providing necessary services to the individuals and families we serve in the South Florida community. Thanks to the continued generosity of individuals, volunteers, community partners and funders, Easterseals has been able to provide uninterrupted essential resources and services in a time of monumental need.

We owe our success to the unwavering dedication of our team and to your generosity. The road ahead continues to challenge us in new and profound ways. As a nation and community, there is so much work for us to ensure diversity, equity, inclusion and access for all especially the disability community. Our families need our support now more than ever and we will be there for them with your help. Thank you for giving generously and making a meaningful impact in the lives of your neighbors.

Maurice Woods  
President/CEO

EXTRAORDINARY  
TIMES

EXTRAORDINARY  
NEED

EXTRAORDINARY  
RESPONSE

EXTRAORDINARY  
PARTNERSHIPS

EXTRAORDINARY  
IMPACT

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## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

#### 182 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

#### 91 FAMILIES SERVED 12,795 HOURS

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

#### 422 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

#### 232 FAMILIES SERVED 70,163 HOURS

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.

## FISCAL YEAR 2020

### SEPTEMBER 2019 TO AUGUST 2020

Total Revenue & Support \$13.9 M  
Total Expenses \$14.4 M

Note: Activities were affected by the pandemic during the 2019-20 FY

**PROGRAM SERVICES: 92.9%**

**ADMINISTRATION: 4.7%**

**FUNDRAISING: 2.4%**

**88%**

of children make progress toward age-appropriate milestones

**94%**

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

**100%**

of children accessed health insurance and received preventative health care

**98%**

of participants were able to continue living at home



## With COVID-19 Precautions in Place, David Enjoys his Senior Year

David's journey with Easterseals South Florida (ESSF) began over 20 years ago when Fari, David's mother, enrolled him in ESSF's early intervention program for children with autism. Years later, when David was in high school, Fari again had reason to turn to ESSF—this time with a view to helping David transition from his teenage years to young adulthood.

Having positive memories of the early intervention program, Fari decided to enroll David in the culinary program for middle and high school students with disabilities. There David and his peers worked together to set up for catered events, prepare and cook the meals, and help with cleaning afterwards. The program has offered David a fun and rewarding environment in which to learn life skills and, equally important, to do so with trusted friends.

As life would have it, the COVID-19 pandemic arrived on the eve of David's final year at ESSF. The transition to distance learning was quite taxing for David, as people with developmental delays benefit a great deal from structure, routine, and the added reassurances that come with in-person interaction; all things, in other words, that are next to impossible with remote schooling.

Seeing the effects that distance learning had on children and teens with disabilities, ESSF worked stridently to help restore a sense of normalcy to the lives of students like David. Through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, ESSF performed regular check-ins with Fari and David to make sure they had the resources to carry themselves through those challenging early months of the pandemic. David also received recipes from the culinary program to try out at home, and, had opportunities to connect with his classmates via Zoom, where he and his classmates caught up with one another and shared their culinary creations.

But when it comes to emotional wellbeing, nothing beats the benefits of in-person interaction. ESSF decided proceed with summer camp 2020—albeit at limited capacity and with rigorous COVID safety measures (masks, social distancing, temperature checks, sanitation, handwashing, and so on). The summer camp was a tremendous opportunity to restore sociality to David's life in a fun and safe environment.

More good news for David arrived later that summer when ESSF confirmed that he would be able to attend the culinary program in person. David followed the COVID-related protocols with what could almost be described as enthusiasm. More consequential to David was the fact that he would be able to spend his final year in the program with the many friends he's made over the years.

Since enrolling David into ESSF's culinary program, Fari has seen a positive impact on her son's growth. David, now 22 and a recent graduate of the culinary program, uses the skills he learned to help with cooking and cleaning at home, and Fari continues to see strides in his social skills. What sticks out to Fari too is how much David enjoyed taking part in ESSF's activities. How many kids admit to actually having fun at school?

Fari feels grateful for the help David received in navigating the complex journey from teenager to young adult. She's thankful, too, that when the pandemic forced humanity's collective social life to a grinding halt, ESSF stepped up to the plate by providing virtual outreach to David and moving quickly to restore a much-needed sense of normalcy to David's life, thus managing to strike a tricky balance between the physical health and social well-being of the people that ESSF serves.



## ADELAIDA FINDS JOY AND COMMUNITY WHILE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S

In 2015, Adelaida suffered a bad fall. Following subsequent treatment, the doctors told Adelaida that she showed signs of Alzheimer's disease. After hearing this news, Maria, Adelaida's daughter, devoted herself tirelessly to finding the best possible care for her mother—this despite working a demanding full-time job.

Initially, Maria sought help through a private caregiver service, but she found the quality of service to be woefully inadequate. What Adelaida needed was more than merely basic medical services; she needed dignified care and a sense of community. Maria heard about Easterseals South Florida (ESSF) from a friend whose daughter has autism and attends Easterseals South Florida's Child Development Center, which she said provides adult day care services for people with Alzheimer's.

During their first visit to ESSF, Adelaida and Maria took immediately to Dr. Angela Aracena, Vice President of adult day services, whom Maria described as someone who was not only highly personable but was also "sharp and helpful," someone who could offer a "clear path forward" for Adelaida and has "walked with them" during this journey.

Dr. Angela provided Adelaida a referral to Mount Sinai, where a specialized team of doctors gave Adelaida a full diagnosis and made suggestions for treatment. On top of seeing to Adelaida's Alzheimer's needs, ESSF has also given Adelaida a space to have fun, be social, and to continue to cultivate her creative side through painting and music.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States with force in March 2020, ESSF adapted quickly to help participants navigate the pandemic's challenges. A major COVID-related adjustment included facilitating regular group activities over Zoom so that Adelaida could benefit from continued social interaction. What's more, ESSF also sent a caregiver to provide home health services to Adelaida during the days that Maria had to return physically to work.

Then, in the spring of 2021, ESSF was ready to reopen its doors to seniors with minimized risk to this vulnerable group's health. With ESSF reopening, Adelaida no longer experiences the toll of social isolation—continued socialization being especially crucial for people with Alzheimer's. Given ESSF's rigorous COVID safety protocols, which included regularly following up with Maria to ensure that Adelaida received her vaccination, there's also been maximum concern about Adelaida's physical wellbeing in these latter days of the pandemic (pencils drenched in sanitizers is an example that comes readily to Maria's mind when thinking about ESSF's COVID preparedness) and providing on-going COVID testing at the center.

During her five-some-odd years at ESSF, Maria, has above everything, else been impressed by the "extremely dignified" approach that ESSF has taken to meeting Adelaida's health and wellness needs. It is indeed important to emphasize that ESSF has done more than ensuring that Adelaida receives quality Alzheimer's-related treatment; she has also maintained a rich social life. ESSF offers people like Adelaida an environment to be lively and free with friends, and to engage in cultural activities that speak very powerfully to Adelaida's Cuban heritage.

Whereas Maria used to pay regular impromptu visits to check in on her mother, she finds herself doing so less and less these days. Probably because she thinks that she's likely to see Adelaida belting a tune at the piano; in other words, it's easy to tell that, in ESSF's hands, Adelaida is well cared for and having fun.

## SHIFTING TO REMOTE AND IN-PERSON SERVICES THROUGHOUT 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 prolonged Covid-19 crisis. **As a result, Easterseals South Florida has been able to provide the following services and resources:**

- In-Home Respite Senior Care
- Remote & In-person Instruction
- Computer/Audio Equipment
- Tele-Therapy Services
- Care Packages Distribution
- At-home Activity Kits
- Digital Resources
- Educational Tools & Materials
- Daily Telephone Reassurance
- Gerontological Counseling
- Caregiver Counseling
- Evidence K9 Kits
- Robotic Pet Therapy Dogs
- Support Groups
- Vaccination Assistance
- Meal Distribution
- Remote & In-person Support/Services
- Therapeutic Intervention
- Early Intervention
- Extended Care Hours
- Summer Camp
- After School Programs
- Special Education



A special thank you to the following in-kind supporters!



JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### 32nd Annual Festival of Chefs

November 2021, Venue TBD

The 32nd Annual Festival of Chefs will return when it is safer so stay tuned! This event 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.



### 2022 Easterseals South Florida Golf Fiesta

May, 2022, The Club at Emerald Hills

The Annual Golf Tournament has been attracting golf enthusiasts for 28 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

August 2022, 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.



## 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
- Making 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, to take a tour of our centers, to make a donation, to volunteer, or for corporate team building projects, please contact:

Marta Quintana, Vice President of Development, 305.389.8450 or [mquintana@sfl.easterseals.com](mailto:mquintana@sfl.easterseals.com)  
Easterseals South Florida, 1475 NW 14th Ave, Miami, FL 33125

In acknowledgement of their unwavering commitment and support of our mission, Easterseals South Florida wishes to recognize Northern Trust with the prestigious Easterseals National Corporate Leadership Circle Award. Easterseals is grateful to Northern Trust and its leadership for the critical support it has bestowed that directly benefits our programs.

## MAJOR FUNDERS

