



# easterseals

South Florida



**all abilities.  
limitless possibilities.**

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

**IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022**



## MESSAGE FROM 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 80 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. We unveiled our new strategic plan aimed at growing impact by providing quality services for every stage of life, so that children, adults, and seniors can reach their full potential and live dignified lives. 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 in the disability community. Our families need our support, now more than ever, and we will be there for them with your help.

Maurice Woods  
President/CEO

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Leading the way to **100%**  
equity, inclusion, and access  
for people with disabilities  
and the greater community.

**VISION:** We will grow our impact by providing quality services for every stage of life so that children, adults, and seniors can reach their full potential and live dignified lives.

**MISSION:** To provide services that address equity and inclusion disparities for individuals with disabilities by enhancing education, advancing health, expanding employment and elevating community.



### **Special Education**

**169 students served**

The Wayne & Nicole Cypen School (including two child development centers, 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**

**180 families served**

Older adults and seniors with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD/ADRD) 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**

**488 children served**

**100% of children received preventative health care  
afterschool programs at 6 Centers**

Provides high-quality, early-childhood education to preschool children living in low-income communities. Promotes school readiness by enhancing children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. Provides support to families in the areas of education, mental health, and social services.



### **In-Home Respite**

**100 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.



### **Military & Veteran Services**

**30 families served**

Provides support services to military and veteran families caring for a loved one who is disabled or chronically ill. Offers systems of care with viable options to allow current reintegration efforts through the help of the AmeriCorps respite program.



# FAMILY STORIES

## Meet Mercedes



Mercedes is about to turn 101. She is doing amazing, and her family credits her longevity in most part to her long-term engagement with the Easterseals Adult Day Care facility at Civic Center.

At 89 Mercedes was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease that has increased to include Lewy Body Dementia over the last eleven years. The family enrolled her in the program over 10 years ago to keep her mind active and to continue her habit of social activities. She was a pharmacist until 89 years old and the treasurer of the Cuban American Association in Exile for over 40 years. Her social life with professional colleagues and the longtime friends circle was vast. She was always busy with luncheons and hosting continuous education events for pharmacists to upgrade their professional degrees. She has outlived all her friends and business colleagues, so attending Easterseals three days a week keeps her active and engaged mentally and socially with new friends. It helps her stay on a routine, she sleeps better and is less anxious.

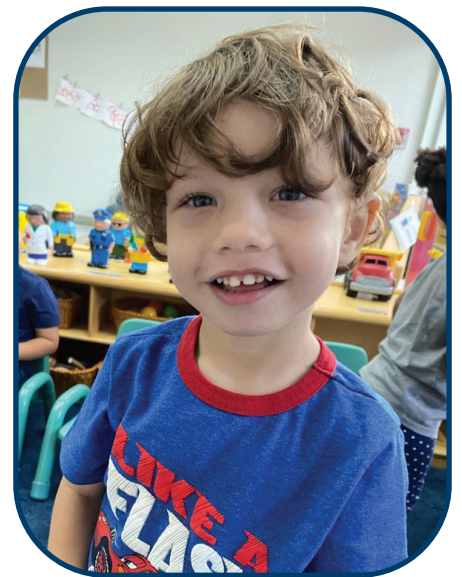
Most of all, Mercedes has fun and enjoys her time playing games (dominos is her favorite) with the help of other clients and staff as her eyesight is compromised, and getting out of her house and recliner to enjoy time with friends.

## Meet Asher

Asher is a 4-year-old boy with developmental delays and autism. He has always been full of love, joy, and laughter. He truly is a happy person. Even with all of these unique abilities, it is not always easy for people to connect and understand him.

Asher was diagnosed with a rare genetic deletion shortly after birth. We were referred to the Early Steps program for support. Asher has been receiving therapy and other services since he has been about 6 months old and as he grew older, we knew he needed more than just a few hours a week we needed to find a preschool that knew how to teach children with various unique abilities. A school that gave them the support that they needed, but still let them be kids. Easterseals South Florida is that school.

He began going to Easterseals South Florida when he was 22 months old. While at Easterseals he has not only received developmentally appropriate education, but speech, occupational and physical therapy as well to help support him with his development. Since being at Easterseals, Asher has learned things such as eating with a spoon, and drinking from a cup, and has begun talking. Asher is now saying things spontaneously like "cookie yum" and "bye bye" which was almost unimaginable two years ago. All of the teachers, teaching assistants, therapists, and staff have so much love for him. They have taken not only excellent care of Asher, but they have used their experience, knowledge, and patience to help him grow.



## Meet Phoenix



Once upon a time, Phoenix and his mom were going through a very rough patch. After the divorce, they lost their home, became homeless, and lived at a homeless shelter. Phoenix was also just beginning his school right on the heels of the pandemic. It was a challenging time, but through faith, they persevered and received some wonderful guidance and support from Easterseals South Florida. The caring staff helped the family coordinate attending job fairs and food fairs. They also helped provide emotional support, and since their time with Easterseals Phoenix's mom was able to secure an amazing job. She received some assistance so they could move into a new home. They even got a new puppy for Phoenix! They turned their lives around and remain so grateful for all the support. Phoenix's mom was thrilled to be recommended as the new president of the PTA at our Culmer Head Start. It made her feel accomplished as a parent going through adversities and overcoming them.

## Meet Shakinah

Shakinah is an 18-year-old young lady who has been attending our Academy since she was in middle school. She has an intellectual disability and, in the beginning, the school was challenging for her. However, since starting our Culinary Arts High School in August 2018, Shakinah has demonstrated a great deal of academic and social improvement. She has learned to use problem-solving skills when facing a conflict and how to resolve it in a respectful manner. Shakinah has matured emotionally and tries her best to get along with her classmates. Now Shakinah is an independent student who can be counted on for special activities. Last school year she participated in a job internship program, where she was presented with the opportunity to practice all her Chef Aide skills at one of our Head Start Centers. This school year she will continue her job training at our partner Nicklaus Children's Hospital's cafeteria. We are all so proud of everything that Shakinah has accomplished and are excited about what opportunities await her in the future!



**GIVE. SUPPORT. CONNECT.**

# FISCAL YEAR 2021

September 2020 to August 2021

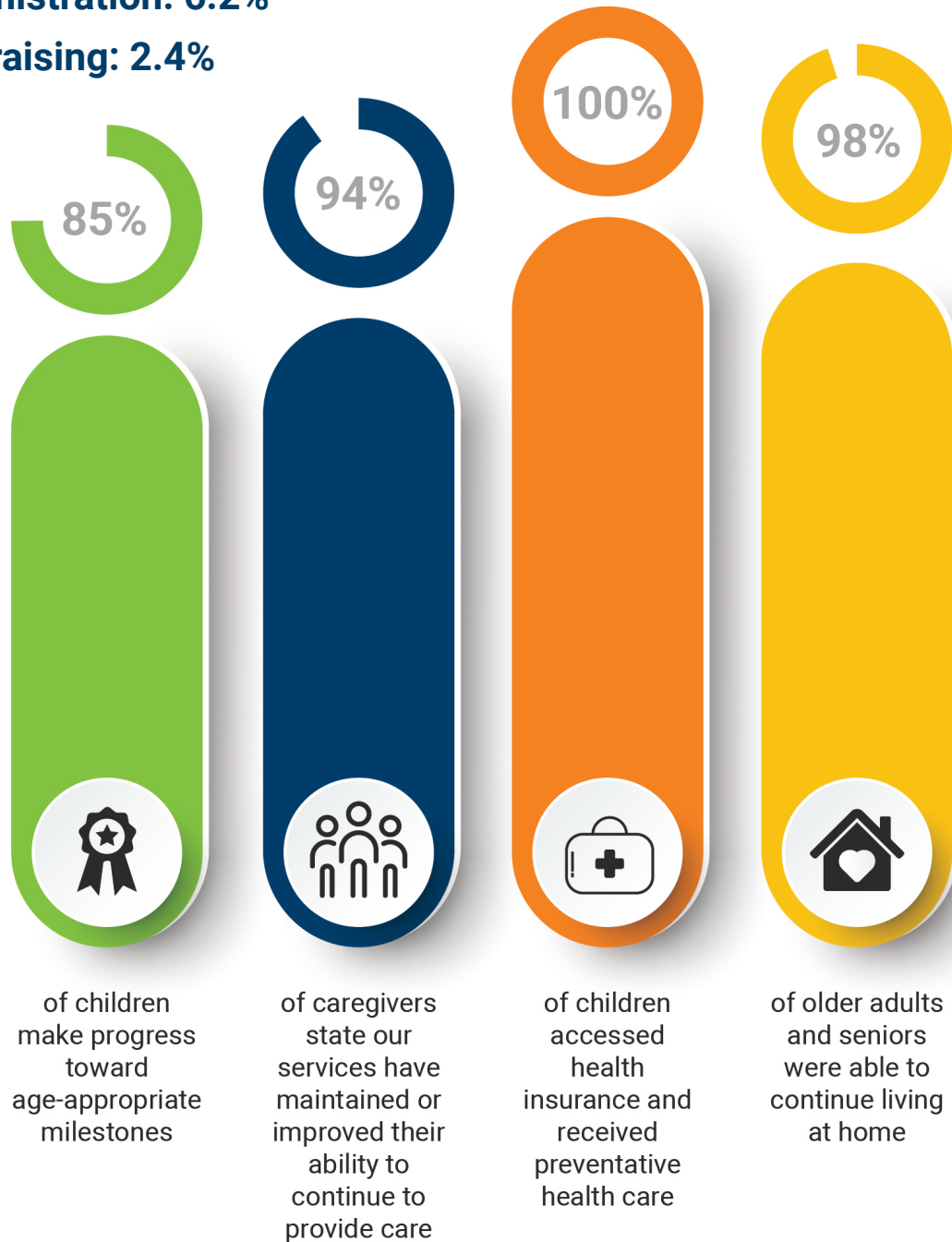
Total Revenue & Support: \$19.4 M\*

Total Expenses: \$13.9 M

Program Services: 91.4%

Administration: 6.2%

Fundraising: 2.4%



**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.

\*Note: Does not include certain one-time, non-operating revenue items.



### Annual Festival of Chefs

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



### 2023 Easterseals South Florida Golf Fiesta

The Annual Golf Tournament has been attracting golf enthusiasts for 29 years to benefit Easterseals South Florida programs. The event includes lunch and dinner, a swag bag for all players, and complimentary beverages & snacks on the course. The tournament will conclude with a silent auction, dinner, and awards ceremony.



### 2023 Small Miracles Luncheon

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.



### Give Miami Day

Give Miami Day is one of the nation's biggest 24-hour online giving events. Give Miami Day helps raise vital unrestricted funds to support our client's greatest needs.

## 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



**MAKE A DONATION**



In acknowledgement of their unwavering commitment and support of our mission, Easterseals South Florida wishes to recognize Ryder System, Inc. with the prestigious Chairman Corporate Roundtable Award. Easterseals is grateful to Ryder and its leadership for the critical support it has bestowed that directly benefits our programs.

# MAJOR FUNDERS



For more information, please contact [development@sfl.easterseals.com](mailto:development@sfl.easterseals.com)  
[www.easterseals.com/southflorida](http://www.easterseals.com/southflorida)



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