

Easterseals TN

ALL ABILITIES. LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

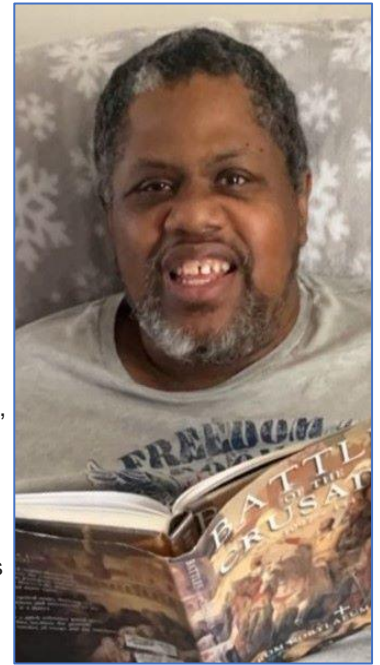
Easterseals Tennessee Supported Living program provides 24/7 in-home care as well as Enabling Technology homes which are based on a member's abilities and preferences.

Staff assist members with choosing a home, finding a roommate, and developing living skills that promote independence and inclusivity.

Michael is a happy, compassionate, and outgoing adult who has an innate zest for life and socializing with others in his community. His favorite pastime is reading books. Books fascinate Michael. After saving his money for a year, he recently visited a bookstore, purchased two bags full of books, and left with a huge smile on his face. Being an outdoorsman, Michael appreciates exploring nature and has a passion for fishing in the local rivers. He attends Easterseals Tennessee's adult camp. There he enjoys making friends and practicing his archery skills. Staff are always complimentary on Michael's positive attitude and his quest to become more independent.

Michael has flourished with the support he has received through the Supported Living program at Easterseals Tennessee. His daily routine with his two roommates has progressed Michael's socialization experiences and offered him companions to participate in daily activities at home and in the community. With continued progress, Michael's confidence has increased, and he has been reaching his goals. Michael has a new ambition of obtaining employment. With the aid of the Supported Employment program, he has been given the chance to research job opportunities and is looking forward to earning an income.

Michael's inquisitive nature and love of life drives him towards even greater independence and inclusion. Currently, he is working closely with staff to become his own conservator and take care of his finances. He is already budgeting his savings so he can participate in more activities and community events. He and his staff are currently pursuing options available to him through the Enabling Technology program. With assistive technology, Michael will be able to handle multiple tasks in his daily life all on his own, which will increase his self-reliance. He recently purchased a cell phone and is using it to connect with family and friends as well as research topics that interest him. Other options available to Michael are managing his own medications with an automatic dispenser, reminders for responsibilities and chores, as well as unlimited access to videochat with an Easterseals Tennessee staff member by using an iPad. Technology will help Michael to reach the independence he wants and still receive the support needed.



Michael is an avid reader who enjoys historical novels and the Bible.

Easterseals Tennessee Will Be Honoring Jim Ayers as the 2023 Nashvillian of the Year on August 31st



Jim Ayers

Each year, Easterseals Tennessee is proud to present the Nashvillian of the Year award to an inspirational leader who is active in his/her community, supports philanthropic causes, and promotes business development. Previous years' recipients identify and choose an honoree who is continually working to ensure that his/her fellow citizens have greater opportunities to live and work in safe and prospering communities.

The Nashvillian of the Year selected in 2023 is Jim Ayers. Jim is a successful and admired businessman and a leading philanthropist. His pursuit to give back has resulted in individuals and businesses in many communities achieving their goals. In 1999, Mr. Ayers established the Ayers Foundation, which supports a wide range of programs and institutions with an emphasis on education and rural counties. To date, the Ayers Foundation has awarded over \$20 million in scholarships to graduating high school seniors, assisting almost 30,000 students in rural areas. Since its inception, postsecondary rates in these counties have exceeded the state and national averages, illustrating how Mr. Ayers advocacy is truly improving lives.

This year's Nashvillian of the Year celebration in honor of Jim Ayers will be held on August 31, 2023, at the Hilton Downtown Nashville. For more information, please visit www.easterseals.com/tennessee. Individual seats and sponsorships are still available.

Youth Summer Camp Is Underway

Easterseals Tennessee youth campers between the ages of 7-16 are enjoying all-inclusive activities alongside their friends at Camp Widjiwagan this summer. During each weekly session our campers have been divided into two main groups separated by age, the Eagles and Wolves. By the 2nd or 3rd day of each camp session Easterseals campers are initiating conversation, engagement, and making friends with one another. Bouncing on the kangaroo jump, swimming in the lake and pool, riding the zip line, mining for rocks, making friendship bracelets, boat rides, and playing soccer are just a few of the exciting activities our campers of all abilities are enjoying.

Check out the Easterseals TN social media sites to see more camp fun: www.facebook.com/EasterSealsTennessee and www.instagram.com/eastersealstn



Easterseals Tennessee Goes to Washington to Share Update



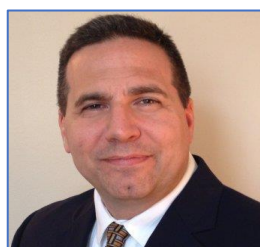
Andy White and U.S. Representative John Rose



Cathy Breland, Andy White, and U.S. Representative Scott DesJarlais

In April, Easterseals Tennessee staff members traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with all the Tennessee Legislators. While there, information was shared regarding the services for individuals living with disabilities in Tennessee. An open invitation has been extended for leaders to visit the Easterseals Tennessee sites and programs statewide.

The trip included time connecting with Easterseals affiliates, as well as attending the Easterseals Policy and Partnership Forum. This opportunity allowed staff from Easterseals affiliates to collaborate on building an inclusive future for individuals of all abilities in their own communities. The group effort will help spread awareness of the services that are offered by Easterseals Tennessee and others across the nation.



Tim Ryerson, President and CEO

President and CEO Corner

Staff are the heart and soul of the daily operations at Easterseals Tennessee. Twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, and 365 days per year, staff assist members in achieving their hopes and dreams. Our team of dedicated employees work to implement the agency's mission and support members in living their best life. We are truly fortunate to be a part of every member's journey each day, evening, weekend, holiday, birthday, and special occasion as we celebrate with them the achievement of their personal milestones.

As we continue to expand services across the state of Tennessee, staff are striving to assist additional members in achieving their goals like Michael in gaining his independence. Families of the individuals supported are grateful for the staff's efforts in making a difference in the life of their loved one. Easterseals Tennessee is thankful for our dedicated staff in making an impact on those supported in the local community.

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