

Easterseals

TN

ALL ABILITIES. LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

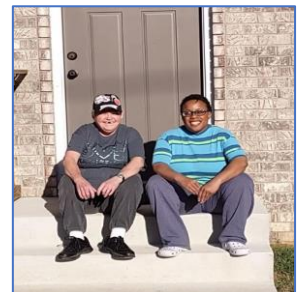
Easterseals Tennessee provides life-changing solutions to members and families.

Enabling Technology Home Supports Members and Promotes Independence

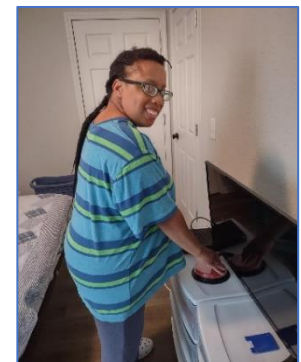
Members Tina and Michael have adapted to their new Enabling Technology home. The home is equipped with many technological devices and resources. This provides members the opportunity to enhance their abilities and to make more independent decisions gaining additional self-reliance and self-confidence.

Examples of some of the equipment and processes in place include a medication dispenser, cell phones, laptops, a Ring camera, and a special smoke alarm with a panic button and strobe lights. Staff are available any time the member is in need or just wants to talk to someone. Residents can communicate 24/7 via cell phones and laptops. Recently, Easterseals TN staff had conversations via FaceTime at 2 AM to support a restless sleeper. The staff notes that the laptop has improved communication skills for member Tina, who is hearing impaired. The Ring device allows staff to see or respond to anyone at any of the resident's doors. If needed, there are panic buttons that dial 911 and set off strobe lights in the bedrooms and living area. Neighbors are aware of the residential support changes, and several have offered their availability when necessary. "Spencer" the medication machine dispenses pre-packaged medication making daily doses easier for residents. Staff are now only in the home 40 hours per week, instead of the typical 24/7 schedule. These technological innovations allow the members safety, security, and access in their own home. Combined with the member's Circle of Support, it is easy to understand why this lifestyle change is proving to be a success.

There have been some learning curves, however, the new situation is proving to be an illustration of the ability of members and their desire to live more independently. As a result of this success, more Enabling Technology homes will be a model of support that will be offered for other Easterseals TN members in the future.



Tina and Michael enjoying their front porch.



Michael is reassured having a panic button at home.

Easterseals TN Impacts Lives Through Access and Inclusion



Ryan is with his Circle of Support at the skating party.

Member Ryan's Circle of Support has brought about many positive changes for Ryan. Two years ago, when Ryan started receiving Supported Living services, he was shy and kept mostly to himself. Ryan's personality began to change when he moved into an apartment with another supported member. His communication skills improved as he developed a friendship with his roommate, as well as connections with the staff. Also, Ryan improved his daily living skills and became more involved in his community.

After expressing interest in employment, Ryan obtained a part-time job at a local grocery store re-stocking shelves through the Supported Employment program. This opportunity helped Ryan flourish in his job where he provides excellent customer service. After realizing the monetary reward, along with the added companionship of being in the workforce, Ryan chose to take on a second job! Likewise, staff report that Ryan is thriving in his newest work environment at the National Guard Armory.

Recently, Ryan's family and staff celebrated his birthday and personal accomplishments with a skating party. Ryan's successes illustrate that inclusion and access transform lives.

Congratulations to Jim Cooper! Thanks to all the 2022 Nashvillian of the Year Sponsors!

On Monday, August 22nd, the Hilton Downtown Nashville, Mezzanine, and Volunteer Ballroom were filled with friends, family, and business associates who celebrated Jim Cooper as the 2022 Nashvillian of the Year. Selected by past Nashvillian of the Year recipients, Jim was selected for his leadership, passion, and dedication in supporting others

In addition, Easterseals Tennessee appreciates the support of the 2022 Nashvillian Sponsors. To view the Centennial Presenting Sponsors, Parthenon and Coliseum sponsors, visit <http://www.easterseals.com/tennessee/get-involved/events/roy-sponsors-2016.html>.

Each sponsor assists in creating possibilities for members in the Easterseals TN programs. Thank you!



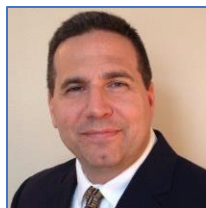
Jim Cooper



Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Week 2022



President and CEO Corner



Tim Ryerson, President and CEO

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September 11-17, 2022, was National Direct Support Professionals (DSP) week. DSPs positively impact member's lives each day. However, new data from ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) reveals a continued staffing crisis related to the DSP position. This crisis is negatively affecting individuals supported and their families, as providers like Easter Seals TN struggle to accommodate requested services.

How can you help lessen the crisis? Please share the stories in these newsletters about how Direct Support Professionals enrich lives and make our communities stronger. In addition, and always, please thank a DSP today for their dedication for serving others!

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