



2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Easterseals of Greater Waterbury*



# A message from our President, Len Cipollone



It was with great pride and enthusiasm that I began my role as President and CEO of Easterseals of Greater Waterbury five months ago. In that short period of time I've witnessed the resolve and dedication of

our board of directors, the talent, commitment and kindness of our team members, and the generosity of our donors and volunteers. It is truly humbling to have the opportunity to take on a leadership role in an organization that helps individuals and families each year to lead full and independent lives.

Fiscal Year 2022 brought forward new challenges as well as new opportunities. We continue to face uncertain times, but remain focused on our core mission of supporting over 4,000 community members in need each year. Easterseals continues to make a visible impact in our community, ensuring an equitable, inclusive, and accessible environment for all through education, health, employment and community.

This year, participants at Employment and Community Services were able to enjoy the first ever Easterseals prom, complete with a DJ, photos and dinner! We have increased our staffing at our Driver Assessment program to ensure a decrease in wait time for appointments and assessments. At the Children's Academies/Children's Center we had 106 students graduate providing them with a solid educational foundation for their future.

Now more than ever, philanthropic and community support is truly needed in order to provide quality programming. As you review the annual report, you will learn about all of the generous contributions Easterseals was fortunate to receive, that have allowed us to make vital improvements to our organization this year.

As we head into FY 2023, we are prepared to accept the challenges that the post-pandemic world presents and look forward to continuing to provide the highest quality supports for our community members.

**Len Cipollone**  
President / CEO

## Board of Directors



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## Advocacy

Easterseals is committed to raising awareness and drawing public support to ensure the programs and services for the individuals we serve are funded. This year we continued to educate local and state legislators on the importance of funding childcare and vocational programming. By the end of the legislative session, Governor Lamont and legislative leaders announced a significant increase in funding for these programs. Easterseals Board of Directors, staff, and community partners played an important role in supporting these advocacy efforts.

## Employment and Community Services Programs Benefit from Treadwell Corporation Support

Treadwell Corporation gave a generous \$5,000 gift to support the programs at Easterseals Employment and Community Services.



Funding supported art supplies as well as inclusive art therapy training for staff of the Day Support and Transitional Services programs. The training taught skills and knowledge needed to safely and appropriately provide arts programming that is inclusive of all people. Staff learned about different techniques, materials and directives that have been incorporated into daily programming.

Funds also supported supplies to allow the Pick Me Up Express, a coffee and lunch cart, to travel to different Easterseals locations and offer new environments for program participants to learn in. The Pick Me Up Express was developed to help individuals in the Transitional Services program to practice customer service, time management, teamwork, inventory and money management skills. The ability to travel to different Easterseals locations allows program participants to interact with new Easterseals staff as their customers and to broaden their skills.

Funds will also support the creation of a sensory friendly room at Easterseals to provide a quiet, calm, low-stress, fun environment for an individual to go to work through their emotions and reactions to certain stimuli.

## Henry Long Leaves Lasting Legacy

In November of 2021, Easterseals received a \$38,500 planned gift left by Henry Long, Jr. Mr. Long served on Easterseals Board of Directors from 1974-1980 and was an involved, generous supporter of Easterseals for many years. He passed away in August of 2020 and wished to extend his generosity beyond his lifetime by including Easterseals of Greater Waterbury in his estate plans. Easterseals had a personal impact on the Long family in the early 1970's after one of their daughters was in a motor vehicle accident and received therapy services with Easterseals to help her regain mobility, improve her memory, breathing and speech. Mr. Long's impact on Easterseals throughout his lifetime was immeasurable and his legacy will live on with this remarkable gift to help Easterseals continue its mission.



**ANTONIO** was referred to Easterseals transitional services program to practice vocational skill building with a goal of obtaining meaningful employment. He immediately

found a passion in learning restaurant skills, specifically cooking. He started by making iced coffees, then breakfast items, and also learning how to grocery shop and plan a menu for the pick me up express – Easterseals' internal breakfast and coffee cart. Since working in the kitchen at Easterseals, Antonio says, "I love to cook, my favorite thing to do is to make eggs!" Antonio's skills were put to the test when a job opening became available at Blasius Chevy Cadillac in Waterbury where they were looking for someone to help make lunch for their staff. Antonio has never missed a day of work, and has proven to be a reliable addition to the staff at Blasius. Antonio and the Easterseals staff are thrilled that Blasius is able to provide meaningful work for him, and empowering him to be full and equal participant in his community. Easterseals is proud to be an organization that advocates for societal and systemic equality for all people.

# 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## Essential HVAC System Upgrade Complete Thanks to Generous Funders

This year, Easterseals Children's Center's HVAC system was in need of vital improvements to ensure the system worked properly. The system was breaking down during extreme heat and cold and was disruptive to the services we provide to families and children in our care. Easterseals was incredibly fortunate to receive a \$75,000 grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) to support this costly but necessary project. In addition to CHEFA, Easterseals received support from the following foundations to support the HVAC upgrade:

**\$2,000 Watertown Foundation**

**\$3,000 Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation**

**\$2,500 MacDermid Alpha/Element Solutions**

## MacDermid Provides Funds to Help Easterseals Waterbury Child Care Programs

MacDermid Alpha's Charitable Giving Committee awarded Easterseals a \$10,000 grant to support our child care programs in Waterbury. A portion of the grant supported the purchase of technology for the Children's Center, specifically for iPads and headphones for children in our school readiness program to use for educational enrichment. The iPads support development in cognition, mathematics, social studies, physical development, and science and as well as provide learning experiences for children with sensory integration, attention deficit, and social/emotional sensitivities. MacDermid funding also supported supplies for the Waterbury child care programs as well as the much-needed HVAC System upgrade at the Children's Center.



## Local Foundations Support Easterseals Medical Rehabilitation Program in Meriden

Recently, thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Cuno Foundation and a \$3,830 grant from the James H. Napier Foundation, Easterseals was able to



purchase a new recumbent bike and a traction table for the Medical Rehab program. Recumbent bikes are beneficial for physical therapy because they are easy to use and require little strain, protecting injured ligaments, joints and tendons while strengthening muscles during therapy and the recovery process. A traction table is utilized during therapy to help to remove pressure to spinal discs through a process of manipulating and stretching muscles and discs to create space. A physical therapist uses the table to help relieve a patient's discomfort and pressure often associated with herniated or bulging discs, spinal injuries, sciatica and/or joint pain. Both pieces of equipment have advanced the quality and effectiveness of the physical therapy provided to our patients.

## Grant Funding Provides Essential Support

In Fiscal Year 2022, Easterseals received over \$240,000.00 in grant funding from Foundations, Organizations and Corporations. Each grant helped to support necessary improvements to our programs and services so that we can continue to meet and exceed the needs of individuals and families in our community's facing disability.

Easterseals is grateful to the following foundations and organizations for the generous grants they have provided to Easterseals, assisting us to achieve our mission:

*American Savings Foundation*

*City of Meriden CDBG-CV*

*Comcast NBC Universal*

*Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut*

*Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority*

*The Cuno Foundation*

*The Harold and Rebecca Gross Foundation  
(Bank of America)*

*Ion Bank Foundation*

*The Leever Foundation*

*MacDermid Alpha/Element Solutions*

*The James H. Napier Foundation*

*Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation*

*The Watertown Foundation*

*Webster Bank*

# 2022 FINANCIAL OPERATIONS REPORT

Year ending August 31, 2022 (with comparable totals for 2021) (Unaudited)

## OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUES

	2022		2021	
Public Support	\$204,435	2%	\$174,375	1%
Vocational Training and Educational Programs	\$10,107,098	76%	\$9,944,502	75%
Childhood Development and Behavioral Services	\$430,851	3%	\$397,482	3%
Medical Rehabilitation Services	\$2,202,201	16%	\$2,180,219	16%
Other Grants & Other Income	\$418,343	3%	\$607,834	5%
	<b>\$13,362,928</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$13,304,412</b>	<b>100%</b>

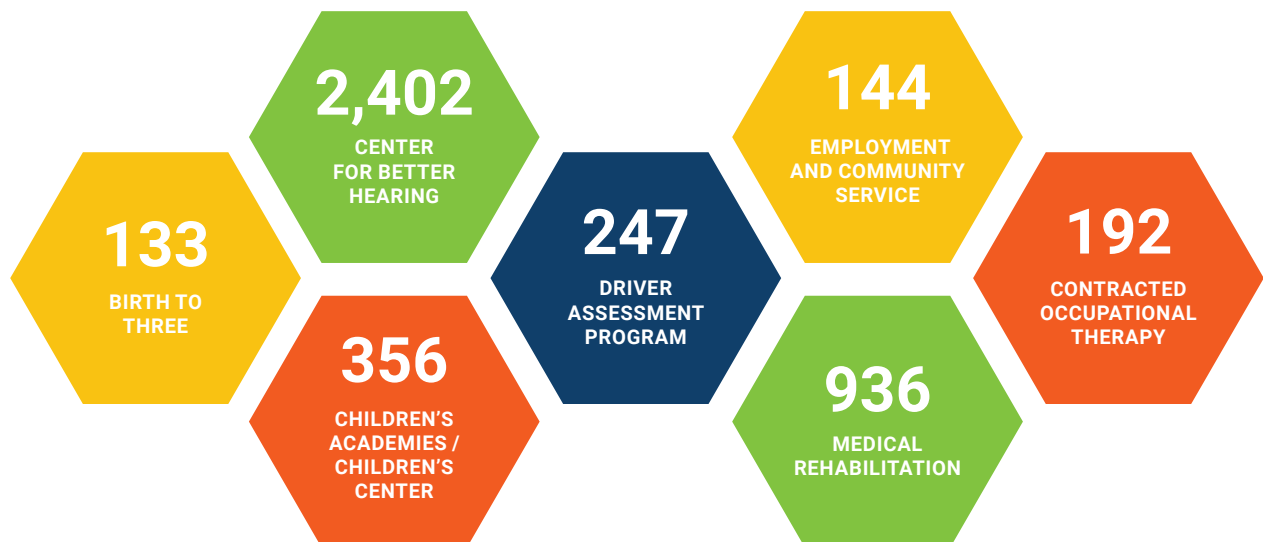
## OPERATING EXPENSES

Staffing, Payroll Taxes and Employee Benefits	\$11,092,725	77%	\$10,463,458	77%
Professional Services and Operating Supplies	\$1,533,308	11%	\$1,479,474	11%
Occupancy and Interest	\$846,986	6%	\$849,382	6%
Transportation Service	\$419,060	3%	\$326,805	2%
Depreciation	\$459,439	3%	\$488,638	4%
	<b>\$14,351,518</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$13,607,757</b>	<b>100%</b>

Release of "Ready Set Rebuild Net Assets"	\$286,438		–
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(702,152)		\$(303,345)
Community Outreach Programs	\$(165,188)		\$(136,952)
Forgiveness of (PPP) Loan	–		\$1,627,400
Net Investment Revenues Gain/(Loss)	(\$5,979,311)		\$7,628,034
Combined Surplus/(Loss)	(\$6,846,651)		\$8,815,137
Capital Improvements	\$320,472		\$205,250

**In Fiscal Year 2022, Easterseals of Greater Waterbury provided direct services for 4,410 individuals.**

Easterseals programs stretch well beyond individuals served directly, touching the lives of parents, family members and friends.



# ANNUAL DONORS

*A special thank you to our compassionate sponsors, donors and grant funders. Your generous contributions to Easterseals have positively enriched the lives of many children and adults with disabilities and special needs. The following listing represents donations received from September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022.*

## \$25,000 - \$75,000

Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority  
The Estate of Henry L. Long, Jr.

## \$10,000 - \$25,000

American Savings Foundation  
Bank of America, Harold & Rebecca Gross Foundation  
City of Meriden – Community Development Block Grant COVID-19  
Community Foundation of Eastern CT  
MacDermidAlpha/Element Solutions  
Treadwell Corporation

## \$5,000- \$9,999

Comcast  
CUNO Foundation  
The Leever Foundation  
Webster Bank

## \$2,500 - \$5,000

Carling Technologies (Littelfuse)  
Chittenden Group  
Dunkin Donuts / B&Z Management Corp Union  
Ion Bank Foundation  
Liberty Bank  
Napier Foundation  
Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation

## \$1,000 - \$2,500

a.i. Tek Instruments, LLC  
Albert Bros., Inc and Cornerstone Realty, Inc.  
American Copy Service Center/Visual Edge  
Bank of America  
Click Bond, Inc.  
Connecticut Community Foundation  
Demsey Manufacturing Co. Inc.  
Ditron, Inc.  
Edward Segal, Inc.  
H.D. Segur Insurance  
Mr. Jack Hogan  
J. Morrissey & Co., Inc.  
Kennedy Wealth and Tax Management  
Lorensen Auto Group  
Masotti Electric, LLC  
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mudd

Navarro Trucking  
Palladin Precision Products, Inc.  
Resolute Pointe Private Wealth / Ameriprise Financial  
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Slavin, Stauffacher & Scott, LLC Attorneys at Law  
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The Washington Trust Company  
Waterbury Hospital  
Watertown Foundation, Inc.  
Mr. Jim Watkowski  
Weichert, Realtors-Briotti Group

## \$500- \$999

Access Rehab Centers, LLC  
Berchem Moses PC Attorneys at Law  
Bozzuto Associates, Inc.  
C-B Manufacturing & Tool Company, Inc.  
CC's Chocolates  
E.S. Metal Fabrication, Inc.  
Steven and Christine Fournier  
GEM Manufacturing Co.  
Greer Manufacturing Inc.  
Halloran Sage  
Jaci Carroll Staffing Services Inc.  
Lindley Food Service/Trio Community Meals  
David and Judy Long  
Mattatuck Industrial Scrap Metal Inc.  
McSherry Law, LLC  
O'Hara-Feeley Family Fund at Connecticut Community Foundation  
OneDigital  
Powerstation Events  
Production Components  
Ibis and David Reynolds  
Amy and Keith Rich  
Rotary Club of Watertown  
Mr. William Villano  
United Way of Greater Waterbury  
Walmart  
We Do Life Together

## \$250- \$499

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Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Anna Carabetta  
Children's Academy Meriden Campus  
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Mr. Don Cullen

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The Innovative CPA Group  
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Mr. Gary Nielsen\* and Nancy Nielsen  
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Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce  
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## \$100- \$249

Affordable Powerwash, LLC  
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Autometrix, Inc.  
Baribault Oil CO., Inc.  
Benchmark Senior Living/Village at East Farms  
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*We apologize for any errors or omissions for the donor listing. Please contact Elizabeth Szymanoski at [eszymanoski@eswct.com](mailto:eszymanoski@eswct.com) with any corrections.*

*\*Indicates employee donation*

Carmen\* and Mark Hall  
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WATR 1320 AM Radio  
Mr. James S. Zoldy, Jr.

Four-year-old **TAH'LIA GIBBS** loves to play with water, listen to music and learn with her friends. She started at Easterseals Children's Academy in 2020 and is Autistic and non-verbal. Initially, it took a few weeks for Tah'lia to learn and follow the routines of the classroom but each day, her teachers followed a consistent, structured routine, so it was not long before Tah'lia picked up the daily classroom routines without assistance, just an occasional prompt. Each day she made progress and continued to hit developmental milestones. After a few months at Easterseals, Tah'lia transitioned into a virtual learning program specifically for children with Autism and began to regress without her daily classroom routines. Within a month, Tah'lia's mom decided it was best if she went back to Easterseals Children's Academy to relearn the routines of the classroom and start participating in activities with the other children again. It took about 2-3 months for Tah'lia to get back to the place she was before leaving the Children's Academy. With her amazing teachers and family support, Tah'lia will continue to make progress and succeed in Kindergarten in September.







## OUR MISSION

*Easterseals is leading the way to full equity, inclusion, and access through life-changing disability and community services. Easterseals of Greater Waterbury has worked tirelessly with our stakeholders in the community to enhance quality of life and expand local access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. We are committed to see that everyone is valued, respected, and accepted. Together, we're empowering people with all abilities and their families to be full and equal participants in their communities.*

### Birth to Three Program

24 STOTT AVENUE, NORWICH

### Center for Better Hearing

22 TOMPKINS STREET, WATERBURY  
158 STATE STREET, MERIDEN  
690 MAIN STREET SOUTH, SUITE 4, SOUTHBURY

### Children's Academy & Children's Center

22 TOMPKINS STREET, WATERBURY – WEST CAMPUS  
128 AVENUE OF INDUSTRY, WATERBURY – EAST CAMPUS  
172 GRANDVIEW AVENUE, WATERBURY – GRANDVIEW CAMPUS  
125 BROAD STREET, MERIDEN – MERIDEN CAMPUS

### Driver Assessment Program / Adaptive Driver Training

158 STATE STREET, MERIDEN

### Employment and Community Services

400 MAIN STREET, DANBURY  
320 SYLVAN LAKE ROAD, WATERTOWN

### Lions Low Vision Program

158 STATE STREET, MERIDEN

### Medical Rehabilitation Services

158 STATE STREET, MERIDEN

