

# PARTNERS IN ACCESS

Easterseals Western & Central Pennsylvania newsletter

Spring has sprung at Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania and our participants are enjoying the change of seasons. The Club Lily participants are able to explore more outdoor activities and the kids at the Child Development Center in State College are having fun on the playground and bike areas. Being outdoors during the change of seasons gives everyone the chance to explore, learn and play in the fresh air.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Easterseals is 105 years old this month. The organization was founded in 1919 by Mr. Edgar Allen in Ohio. Originally named the Society for Crippled Children, the name Easterseals was adopted in 1967 after the well known annual Easter seals fundraiser.

The sheets of seals are still produced today and the focus to provide **EQUITY, INCLUSION** and **ACCESS** for all individuals with disabilities, their families and communities continues.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



Spring is blooming with events at Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania. Giving Days, Walk with Me events, Golf Outings, Harrisburg Stampede game, and the York Revolution Weekend Series are all around the corner. Supporting these events as a volunteer, participant or sponsor provides meaningful outcomes across the agency. Fundraising, Raising Awareness, Building Community, Celebrating our participants and Advocating for the needs of our families are all benefits from your support.

## Events Across the Affiliate Region

- May 2,3 Give Local York
  - May 2 Kick off event at Mexitaly Brick Oven Brew House 6P-9P
- May 4 Harrisburg Stampede professional indoor football ESWCPA game
- May 8,9 Centre Gives
  - May 8 Kick off event at the CDC 8A-12P
- May 18 Walk With Me Pittsburgh
- June 7,8,9 York Revolution Weekend Homestand sponsored by ESWCPA
- June 8 Walk With Me State College
- June 19 Golf Outing Johnstown
- August 23 Golf Outing York

**To participate, sponsor or donate to one of the above events please contact:**

**Sue DuMars, [sdumars@eastersealswcpenna.org](mailto:sdumars@eastersealswcpenna.org) or  
Colleen Felentzer [cfelentzer@eastersealswcpenna.org](mailto:cfelentzer@eastersealswcpenna.org)**

**James G. Bennett  
President & CEO**

**York Area Staff**

**Matt Ernst  
V.P.  
Programming &  
Business  
Development**

**Nick Spease  
Director,  
Camping &  
Community  
Services**

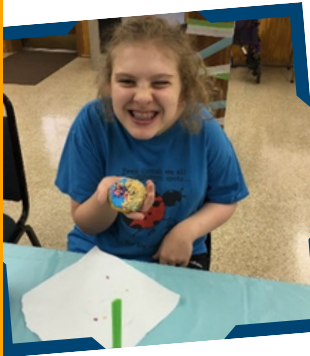
**Liz Bunting  
Therapeutic  
Recreation  
Program  
Specialist**

**Sue DuMars  
Major Gifts &  
Community  
Engagement  
Manager**

**Tammy Gross  
ASL Coordinator**

**York Office  
2550 Kingston  
Rd.  
Suite 219  
York, PA 17402  
717.741.3891**

# YORK AREA HAPPENINGS



## Club Lily

The Club Lily residential camping experiences are getting off to a great start this year. The counselors at each month's Club Lily see a variety of campers with a wide range of abilities. When any of our participants is able to enjoy a new experience it is exciting and rewarding. Read below for Collin's story.

Collin has attended the Club Lily camps for several years. He is completely non-verbal, typically communicating with hand motions or vocalizing. The staff is diligent to make sure he feels included in all the activities by adapting them to his abilities. While he may not be able to grip a paint brush well, our counselors work with Collin to paint a face on a flowerpot by having him pick which faces he would like painted, Collin picks out the colors every step of the way, and the counselors check in to make sure that the pot is going through his artistic direction.



Collin is able to answer two option questions, and the staff uses their hands to represent each option for him to choose, whether it is an activity, or a question about how he is feeling. Collin is then able to make his own decision about whether to participate in an activity. During the most recent Club Lily Collin chose to zip line and climb the rock wall for the first time in many years! By giving him the ability to make his own choices, the counselors have seen Collin become more involved in all of the activities at camp. The other campers have even started to catch on to the two hand question system and started to interact with Collin more, asking him questions and helping him when he is exhibiting stimming behaviors.

**James G. Bennett**  
President & CEO

York Area Staff

**Matt Ernst**  
V.P.  
Programming &  
Business  
Development

**Nick Spease**  
Director, Camping  
&  
Community  
Services

**Liz Bunting**  
Therapeutic  
Recreation  
Program  
Specialist

**Sue DuMars**  
Major Gifts &  
Community  
Engagement  
Manager

**Tammy Gross**  
ASL Coordinator

York Office  
2550 Kingston  
Rd.  
Suite 219  
York, PA 17402  
717.741.3891

# SPRING



## Project Beacon

These weekend camping retreats for the children of our military families provide opportunities for the kids to meet up with their peers that have similar life experiences. They are able to make friends, relax and try fun new experiences. During the April retreat, speakers from the American Red Cross gave presentations based on the different age groups. The youngest group received a presentation on fire safety, and the other two groups received presentations on mental health. During the mental health discussion, one of our campers exhibited great self-awareness and reflection skills regarding how stress affects her and how she deals with it. After the presentation, she spoke with her camp counselor about how she normally has a hard time addressing these feelings and that it felt good to talk about them.

Providing the space and resources for the children to learn, process and discuss their experiences allows them to feel safe. Trust is developed and the kids are able to share. Project Beacon is more than a camping trip, it is a retreat filled with a variety wellness opportunities.



*"My kids love going to Project Beacon because they meet new friends whose parents are also in the military. These friends are important because being military kids they understand each other and what they go through."  
-Mary Ellen, parent*

James G. Bennett  
President & CEO

### York Area Staff

Nick Spease  
Director, Camping &  
Community Services

Liz Bunting  
Therapeutic  
Recreation Program  
Specialist

Sue DuMars  
Major Gifts &  
Community  
Engagement Manager

Tammy Gross  
ASL Coordinator

York Office  
2550 Kingston Rd.  
Suite 219  
York, PA 17402  
717.741.3891

**S  
P  
R  
I  
N  
G**

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

in State College



**James G. Bennett**  
President & CEO

**State College Staff**

**Matt Ernst**  
V.P. Programming &  
Business Development

**Carly Pingley**  
Director, Child  
Development Center

**Sue DuMars**  
Major Gifts/Community  
Engagement Manager

**Lance & Ellen Shaner**  
Child Development  
Center  
383 Rolling Ridge Dr.  
State College, PA16801  
814.238.4434

The children at the All Inclusive Child Development Center enjoyed their annual Easter egg hunt last month. It was a little chilly but a beautiful day as they hunted eggs all around the center. The trained staff and intervention therapies at the center provides the ability for all the children to participate in this simple annual tradition.

As the weather turns warmer the children will be able to spend more time on the playground and bike area. With adaptive equipment, the outdoor fun is available for everyone!

## Restaurant Nights

The CDC is participating in restaurant night fundraisers this spring and summer. Mark your calendars for the May and July dates.

May 30th - Texas Roadhouse  
July 24th - Pelicans 5:00-9:00

Mention Easterseals Child Development Center for a portion of your bill to be donated back to the center.



S  
P  
R  
I  
N  
G

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

## Walk With Me Ambassador

The 2024 State College Walk With Me event is happening on Saturday June 8th at Talleyrand Park. Francis is the 2024 WWM Ambassador. Read below for Francis' story.

Francis is a sweet, smart, joyful kid. He has a big smile with dimples and jumps up and down with excitement. Francis is neurodivergent; he was diagnosed with at age 2. After we struggled to find a daycare that could meet his needs, he started Easterseals at age 3. At the CDC he is fully included alongside a diverse group of peers including kids who have other disabilities and those who are typically developing. All of the students are learning that people have different strengths. At the center Francis receives speech therapy, occupational therapy, and other forms of evidence-based instruction and support. His verbal communication has exploded. He is learning to recognize and communicate his needs in a group setting (where all the social interactions and sensory input can become overwhelming at times). He is now able to interact with his peers as well as communicate when he needs a break.



*"The teachers and therapists have been incredible, sharing with us about his days, taking the time to learn about his strengths and strong interests, and teaching him new skills. It's a wonderful feeling, dropping Francis off at a place where we know the teachers have such caring, positive regard for him—where he'll receive the educational experience he deserves—and where he happily runs inside most days. When we pick him up, he now tells us what he did that day. The sensory room and math and science center are favorites!"*  
*-Pamela, mom*

Walk With Me  
State College  
event information



James G. Bennett  
President & CEO

State College Staff

Matt Ernst  
V.P. Programming &  
Business Development

Carly Pingley  
Director, Child  
Development Center

Sue DuMars  
Major Gifts/Community  
Engagement Manager

Lance & Ellen Shaner  
Child Development  
Center  
383 Rolling Ridge Dr.  
State College, PA16801  
814.238.4434