



Supporting People with Disabilities Since 1934

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A World of Possibilities

Imagine how frustrating it would be to be non-verbal and only have one "sign" to use to express everything. Fast forward to signing over 100 individual words and you are in 7-year-old Matthew's "now " world. He is also beginning to speak short words like "mama," "dada," "go," "hi," "bye" and other words parents are so excited to hear for the first time.

Having an autism diagnosis, with the help of Easter Seals autism services, has been a three-year journey to reach these milestones, and Matthew is not stopping there!

His mom, Wendy, said that when he was diagnosed three years ago in his "then" world, he did not seem to understand directions, had no interest in drawing or writing and had no self- help skills.

Matthew now loves to color and has even drawn pictures of people with circles, arms and legs. He is working on capital letters, can write "Matt", dress himself with prompts, put on his shoes, zip up his coat, help with things like getting silverware for the dinner table and has fun baking with his mom.

He can follow any one-step direction and recently stole the show when he appeared in an Easter Seals public service announcement to promote the Battle of the Badges hockey game to support our autism services. Any director would wish all of their actors could take direction that well!



Matthew has recently joined our social skills group classes, and Wendy said that when she picks him up from school, he will sign the word "play" because he is so excited to be with his friends. If there is even a small delay with a stop along the way for gas or an errand, Wendy said he starts to show disappointment.

In therapy, he continues to learn the skills necessary to expand his "now " world and his parents and big sister, Abby, love the fact

that they are all involved in the process with his therapists. As Matthew's skills continue to grow, his Easter Seals' family knows that he has an endless world of possibilities!

Visit our website to find out how you can join Matthew, the Milwaukee Admirals, local firefighters and police officers as they battle it out on the ice March 8th to support our autism services.

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A Message From Our CEO



Looking back, our 80th Jubilee was a wonderful success. So many memories come to mind like our Jubilee celebration in Marc, which was made possible by a grant from Bartolotta's Care-o-lotta Foundation. We were honored by special appearances from Governor Walker and Lt. Governor Kleefisch at our Project SEARCH completion ceremonies in June. Not to mention, the excitement surrounding the unveiling of our new expanded Commercial Kitchen and Technology Center in October. Our Jubilee gave us time to reflect on where we have been, celebrate our efforts and rededicate ourselves to our vision of creating new possibilities for our neighbors here in Southeast Wisconsin.

During our Jubilee, we received recognition as a top non-profit in Waukesha County and we were listed as one of largest human service organizations by the Milwaukee Business Journal. We continue to hold the BBB Charity Seal and a Gold Participant with Guidestar, demonstrating our commitment to transparency with our community.

We are not done creating new possibilities. We received support to expand our efforts to assist our local veterans to find employment and a grant from the State of Wisconsin to expand our training in the hospitality industry, as well as launched a new Project SEARCH site at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. We also applied our 50 years of work training experience to assisting individuals with mental health challenges in Washington County and expect a similar expansion in Milwaukee County this year. Finally, we will also be launching our third Project SEARCH site in 2015.

Opening new possibilities is what we have been about for 80 years. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Easter Seals was a key player in the passing of his landmark legislation. This act literally opened doors for individuals with physical disabilities – Doors that were too narrow were widened, stairs that barred entrances were replaced with ramps and accommodations were made for those who needed to remain active in the community. These changes opened new possibilities for millions of people, not just physically, but opened new attitudes, eliminating old prejudices, championing abilities.

New possibilities require support from everyone to make them possible. The work of Easter Seals continues on with your support, your love and your commitment to our vision of a community that is truly open to all. For 80 years, we have needed friends and supporters like you to make new possibilities in the lives of thousands of our neighbors. Thank you for being there! Happy New Year from all of us at Easter Seals!

Bob Glowacki, CEO
Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin



Help Kids Like Matthew Make the First Five Count

Every year, over 5 million children under the age of 5 are at risk of developmental delays and disabilities. Early intervention makes a difference in a child's ability to reach their full potential. Take the 20-minute Ages & Stages questionnaire and see if your child is developing on target today! www.makethefirstfivecount.org

Help other kids like Matthew get the best start possible with a gift to Easter Seals!



Great Things Come in Three



The newest St. Vincent de Paul superstore in Greenfield will open at the end of January 2015, and with that new beginning comes a new beginning for three energetic ladies.

Donna Rachac, store manager, was looking for staff to help get the new location up and running. After attending an Easter Seals workforce event, she found the answer. At the event, she heard one of our workforce training participants speak about what having a job meant to him and was so inspired by his story that she contacted our workforce specialist to see if there would be a good fit with our trainees for the St. Vincent team. She got three great employees: Ashley, Anne and Courtney.

Although these ladies span different ages and came from different Easter Seals' employment training programs, they were all hoping for their dream job and are happy to say they have found it. All three interviewed, completed their orientation and started their new jobs all on the same day in November 2014.

While build-out was happening in Greenfield, they began working at the Lincoln Street store, performing a variety of jobs including sorting and processing donated clothes, getting them ready for hanging and displaying in the store, as well as helping with light maintenance.



Ashley

Anne

Courtney

"I love the enthusiasm, excitement and readiness-to-work that the girls bring with them every day," Donna said. "They know their job has a purpose. They really want to contribute and make a difference and they know that when our store is profitable, that we are helping to feed the poor with that revenue. Their enthusiasm spreads to employees throughout our team."

Our St. Vinny's girls have done such a great job that when considering additional employees, Donna again turned to Easter Seals. We are thrilled to report that two new interns, Cory and Mark, have now been welcomed with open arms and have begun an eight-week work experience in the hopes of joining a St. Vincent de Paul team.

For more information on how you can add a dedicated employee to your team, contact Beth Lohmann at bethl@eastersealswise.com or (262) 953-2208.



Highlights of Fall Events



Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas



CEO Bob Glowacki with Career Connect graduates



James Heffner-Ostergaard

On October 21st, we celebrated Disability Employment Awareness Month at our **Business Partner Appreciation Breakfast** by honoring our 2014 Business Partners of the Year: Waukesha County Business Alliance, Pro-Health Care, Waukesha County Technical College, Saguro 66 and McDonald's. These employers helped us place 50 people in community jobs in 2014. County Executive Daniel P. Vrakas gave welcoming remarks and LilyWorks Catering provided a complimentary breakfast. Thank you for your support over the past year!



Dan Pallotta, Keynote Speaker



Some of the 233 Attendees



Ken Hamiel, Mission Moment Speaker

On November 5th, we held our 6th annual **Thought Leaders Luncheon** at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center. Each year, the luncheon brings together for-profit and nonprofit leaders who share an interest in solving Milwaukee's social and community issues. This year's event welcomed back national non-profit thought leader Dan Pallotta, who addressed attendees with a speech focused on innovation.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Cardinal Capital Management Inc., Schaus Family Fund, Biz Times Media, PNC Financial, M3 Insurance, Manpower Group, Associated Bank, Milwaukee County Department on Aging and John Bosbous.

Highlights of Fall Events



Easter Seals catering trainees and staff



LilyWorks Conference Center



Guest Chefs

On November 6th, we held a wrap up to our 80th Jubilee Celebration and a grand opening of Nana's Kitchen with our **Celebrity Chefs Dinner** event. Host of Wisconsin Foodie Kyle Cherek introduced our Celebrity Chefs from well-known Milwaukee Restaurants – Executive Chef Zachary Espinosa, Executive Chef Matt Kerley, Guest Chef Robert Klemm and Chef de Cuisine Patrick Murphy – prepared an amazing four-course dinner, while guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres & tours of Nana's Kitchen.



In December, we held our annual **Breakfast with Santa** event at the Generations Center. Children and their families enjoyed breakfast, cookie decorating, crafts and games, as well as gifts and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thanks to our sponsors: Whole Foods, CVS Caremark and Sam's Club. Thank you also to our volunteers and gift donors, Harley Davidson Retirees and iCare, who helped put smiles on the children's faces.

Also in December, our **Workforce Training Center** participants celebrated their Christmas party with gifts of Harley Davidson Motor Company clothing donated by New Threads of Hope.



Fight for Autism and Battle of the Badges



Officer Jim Kelly of the Mount Pleasant Police Department and his wife, Lisa, exceeded their expectations in October with their inaugural **"Battle of the Badges – A Fight for Autism"** boxing event. With support from the community and volunteers, this boxing event featuring local police officers and firefighters was a knockout, drawing nearly 700 people and raising \$27,328 for Easter Seals autism services!



Join us for
2015 BATTLE OF THE BADGES
to benefit our autism and veteran programs!



MARCH 8TH AT BMO HARRIS BRADLEY CENTER

11:30 a.m. Battle of the Badges Game: Police Officers vs. Firefighters
4 p.m. Milwaukee Admirals vs. Oklahoma City Barons

Tickets for BOTH games are \$20 for adults & \$14 for children (ages 14 & under).
Order online at www.eastersealswise.com!

Mark Your Calendar

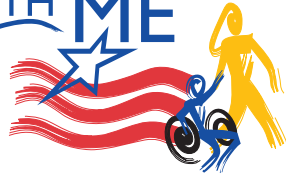


Save the Date!

Wednesday, June 24th



WALK
WITH ME



Walk With Me 2015 at the Milwaukee County Zoo!

www.walkwithme.org/milwaukee | 5 p.m. Registration



*Book LilyWorks Catering
and Conference Center
for your next event today!*

Feel good about giving knowing that you're supporting employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

- delicious menu items
- wide variety of service options
- seating up to 50 in our Spring City Room
- seating up to 75 in our Fox River Room
- seating up to 125 in our Waukesha Room

Visit www.lilyworks.org to book today!





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Q1, 2015 Issue

Would you like to receive our quarterly newsletter electronically? Contact Julie Machata with your name, e-mail address and request at juliem@eastersealwise.com today!



www.eastersealwise.com



J.R. Can Be Your Next Great Employee!

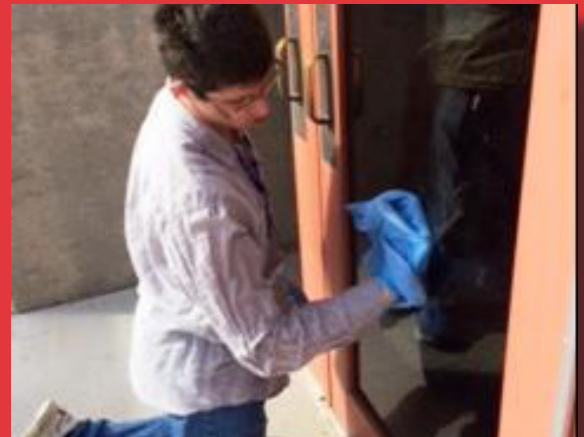
Experience and Qualities:

- Stocking in a retail setting
- Assembly/Packaging
- Knowledgeable of basic equipment including power tools
- Focused worker
- Quick learner

Employment Desires:

- Stocking
- Working outdoors
- Waukesha bus line
- 20 hours per week

If you know a business that needs an employee like J.R., please call Peggy Dooley at (414) 550-1560.



Last year, Easter Seals received more than \$163,000 in funding through the United Way of Waukesha County to help support our Workforce Training Center, after school and summer respite programs. **When giving, support Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin.**

United Way in Waukesha County

