



Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin

# Taking on disability together

www.eastersealswise.com

## A Mother's Words from the Heart

**Tammy Walczak of Oak Creek is the proud mom of two sons with special needs. In her own words, Tammy shares her family's experience with Easter Seals:**

"Our youngest son, Victor, is 12 years old and was born with Down Syndrome and later diagnosed with Autism. He currently receives ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) therapy through Easter Seals in our home. Before we started therapy, Victor was pretty much locked into a world of his own. He could be in a room full of people and not even seem to notice or care. Now he's Mr. Social, greeting people at the door, saying hello to friends and is happy to show us what a jokester he is!

Our son, Zach, is 14 and was diagnosed with ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Asperger's (on the Autism Spectrum). Zach goes to Easter Seals 1-2 times a week for Social Skills Group. He is learning how to make friends, how to be a friend and to practice appropriate behaviors. Before learning these skills, Zach didn't have many friends and didn't do too much with anyone other than family members occasionally. Now he's hanging out with friends, including one he made at Social Skills Group. We are so excited that he had his first ever sleepover in April (and he's even been invited back!). We also see a Behavioral Therapist 1-3 times a month to expand on skills Zach is learning in Group and put tools in Mom and Dad's tool belt so we're better equipped to help him, too.

***"We can't imagine raising these two boys without all of Easter Seals help and support!"***



It really does take a village to raise a child, and this is especially true for special needs children. It can make you feel isolated and be very overwhelming. Since Easter Seals came into our family's life 2-1/2 years ago, we have watched our boys blossom so much! It is such a comfort knowing they are there--not just for our boys but for us as well. Help is only a phone call away.

We have made many friends at Easter Seals and some of our therapists are more like family to us. I am so grateful that Easter Seals is here to help us help our sons to become the best they can be."



## Summer Social Skills Classes Enrolling Now

Designed to meet the specific needs of children, adolescents and teens affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder, this group meets in West Allis, Monday through Friday, 1:00-4:30 p.m. It provides opportunities for community involvement and trips to inclusive locations. Siblings and peer models are planned into the group, offering inclusive social skills practice. Most insurances and CLTS Waivers are accepted and a self-option is also available.

For more information, please contact Mel Roth at (414) 963-5940 or melissar@eastersealswise.com.

# A Message From Our CEO



I invite you to take a moment and picture your son, daughter, niece, nephew or grandchild at the age of two. You hear their first words, but then you hear nothing. Something is not right, but what? You visit the pediatrician and she tells you that your child has autism. Who do you call? Who can help you and give your family the information to make decisions?

Tammy found Easter Seals. Our caring staff worked together with Zach and Victor to achieve their dreams. Whatever the label: autism, Asperger's, Cerebral Palsy or an intellectual or physical disability, Easter Seals is here to help take on that disability together, making a positive, profound difference in the lives of the thousands of people we serve every month.

But, you know this. You have been with us and share our belief that each child deserves the best opportunity to achieve. We count on your continued support so we can help area families and make the dreams of all the children in our community, like Zach and Victor, a reality.

Taking on disability together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Glowacki".

Bob Glowacki, CEO  
Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin

## Walk With Victor and Zach!

**Join their Walk With Me team, Strictly Monkey Business, or donate today!**

Give young kids the life skills they need to succeed by supporting Victor and Zach as they walk to raise awareness and support for families living with autism and other disabilities.

**Your \$75 gift will provide one session of social skills group or 1-1/2 hours of autism therapy and give children an opportunity to succeed alongside their peers.**

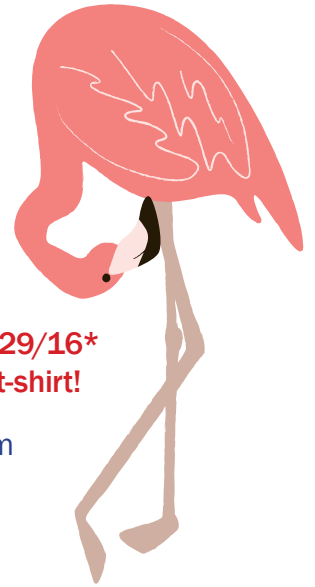




# Let's Flamingle!

Come join the fun and support a great cause at  
**Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin Walk With Me!**

**When:** Wednesday evening, June 29, 2016  
**Where:** Milwaukee County Zoo  
**Time:** 5pm: Registration begins  
6pm: Ambassador Presentation  
6:30pm: Walk Starts



**\*\$10 Registration Fee includes all day admission & parking at the zoo - 6/29/16\***  
**Donate or raise an additional \$25 and receive an official Let's Flamingle t-shirt!**

Your support of this signature walk event helps us provide children and adults with autism and other disabilities the opportunities to live, learn, work and play in our communities.

Registration and musical entertainment by Downtown Harrison begins at 5pm at the Zoo Terrace. At 6pm, you'll meet the stars of the evening, our 2016 Honorary Ambassadors - Jacquie, Roman, Tamisha, Mattie, Victor and Zach. Then walk, roll or stroll alongside the animals on the 1-mile family fun route beginning at 6:30pm! After the Walk, continue to enjoy the Zoo or return to the Zoo Terrace for more fun with Downtown Harrison.

Funds raised through this event will be used locally to fund vital programs that provide direct services for individuals with disabilities. Your support will go far beyond just one evening of walking.

**Lace up your walking shoes and register today or donate at:**  
**[www.walkwithme.org/milwaukee](http://www.walkwithme.org/milwaukee)**



*Funds raised from this signature event will be used to help provide at-risk babies, toddlers, and their families the support they need to live a life free from abuse and neglect; help young children learn to walk and/or speak their first words and be ready for school; create smiles and laughter at our camps and afterschool programs; teach work skills to young adults and help them find their first jobs; provide support for older adults so they can continue living in homes that they love; and help support and reintegrate our veterans.*

# Meet Our 2016 Walk With Me Ambassadors



## **JACQUIE** TEAM QUEST

Jacquie is a delightful young woman who was diagnosed on the autism spectrum when she was a teenager. She is a high school graduate of Saint Joan Antida and was accepted into the first Easter Seals adult Project SEARCH Program at

Froedtert Hospital. It was there that she completed one of three 10 week job training rotations and learned valuable skills that she could use in the work force such as writing resumes, learning about proper work attire, the proper chain of command and how to follow it and much more. Upon graduating from Project SEARCH, Jacquie hopes to find a job at Froedtert Hospital. When not working hard with Project SEARCH, she enjoys playing video games, spending time with her dog and writing stories.



## **ROMAN** TEAM ROARIN' ROMAN

Roman is a vibrant 6-year-old boy who was diagnosed with autism and a sensory processing disorder at age 3. He started receiving ABA therapy services at Easter Seals in spring 2014. Through these services, Roman has made huge strides in various areas he

had delays in, one of which was speech and language. Before therapy, Roman was non-verbal and unable to communicate even his basic needs. Fast forward two years and Roman is a chatterbox, expressing his wants and needs with verbal communication. His family is thrilled to watch his progress and see his sweet, goofy personality pour out of him. Easter Seals has been absolutely paramount in Roman's growth and success. Roman enjoys playing with his sisters, eating peanut butter sandwiches and wants to go to the moon in a rocket!



## **TAMISHA** TEAM DIVA

Tamisha is a kind and sweet-hearted young woman who attends the adult day program in Wauwatosa. Diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at birth, Tamisha grew up succeeding in her academics and graduated from Riverside University High School

in 1991. Since then, she has attended a couple of day programs but truly found her niche at Easter Seals. Tamisha comes to program each day looking to do her best and always helps her friends and those in need as much as possible. She loves to contribute to the community, participating in Easter Seals Wil-O-Way Color Guard events and helping at many different fundraising events throughout the year. When not out and about, Tamisha can be found working in a math study group, practicing her handwriting and money skills or dancing to her latest favorite song.



## **MATTIE** TEAM DIVA

Mattie is a high-energy, go-getter type of gal. At the age of 68, she has (and continues to be) a source of fun and excitement for her peers and the staff since coming to Easter Seals in 2006. Diagnosed with a developmental delay at a time when

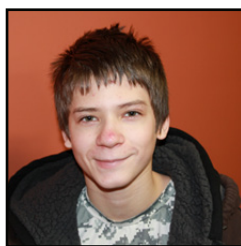
not much was known about IDD, Mattie thrived and always pushed to better herself. She has taken on a great amount of responsibility at the Wauwatosa Adult Day Center including being Captain of the Rabbit Care Club, assisting in giving tours to those interested in Easter Seals and helping lead a number of different math and study groups. When not in the center, Mattie loves to venture into the community to volunteer, visit her friends and shop for her favorite jewelry.



## **VICTOR** TEAM STRICTLY MONKEY BUSINESS

Victor is an active 12 year old boy who loves cars, trucks, trains, and planes (pretty much anything that moves), music and playing Angry Birds. Victor has a dual diagnosis of Down Syndrome and Autism. He has made so many gains since

joining Easter Seals in 2013 for ABA therapy. He is such a great helper at home doing chores and learning to be independent. Victor loves his therapy team and often does his own "therapy" when he's not scheduled.



## **ZACH** TEAM STRICTLY MONKEY BUSINESS

Zach is a very active 14 year old who has multiple diagnoses of ADHD, ODD & Asperger's. Zach loves to read, ride his bike, play video games & have Nerf Gun "wars." Zach joined Easter Seals' Social Skills group in 2014 and has enjoyed learning new skills in

making friends and is even learning how to play appropriately with his brother. His parents are learning new skills as well in helping Zach become better organized, setting up schedules and helping Zach reach his full potential.



## **Project SEARCH Leads to Employment**

Did you know that nearly 70% of people with disabilities are unemployed? That's why we are so proud and excited to present our first employment success story of the 2015-16 Project SEARCH session: Here's Scott attending

his employment orientation at Froedtert Hospital! He will be a full-time Rehabilitation Technician performing a variety of therapeutic and clinical tasks associated with patient visits.

Before Scott attended Project SEARCH, he wanted to work in a warehouse. He learned through his three hospital rotations that he really enjoyed helping people. Thank you to Froedtert Hospital for giving Scott this opportunity. We wish Scott the very best with his new career!

Project SEARCH is taking applications for the 2016-17 session at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, ProHealth Care Waukesha Memorial Hospital and Froedtert Hospital. Contact Allyson O'Leary at (262) 953-2206 or [allyo@eastersealswise.com](mailto:allyo@eastersealswise.com) for more information.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

# **September 29, 2016**

## **for the new face of disability**

hosted at



**ManpowerGroup**  
Headquarters



## **Provide Security for Your Family. Provide Hope for Our Future.**

With a gift in your will known as a residuary bequest, you provide for loved ones first and leave the remainder of your estate to us. Contact us to learn more about this simple way to make a difference in the lives of your loved ones and those we serve.



**Legacy  
Society** 





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Would you like to receive our quarterly newsletter electronically? Contact Kari Miller with your name, e-mail address and request at [karim@eastersealswise.com](mailto:karim@eastersealswise.com) today!



[www.eastersealswise.com](http://www.eastersealswise.com)



## Dawn Can Be Your Next Great Employee!

If you know a business that needs an employee like Dawn,  
 please call Nathan Bares at (414) 550-2243.

### Experience and Qualities:

- Eager to work
- Quick learner/Focused worker
- Enjoys talking to people; friendly
- Detail oriented and organized

### Employment Desires:

- Part-time work; 15-20 hrs/week
- Located in Waukesha area
- Team environment
- Customer focused
- Long-term employment



Last year, Easter Seals received more than \$130,000 in funding through the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County to help support our Workforce Training Center. **Donate today and make a difference for the future!**