



# missing miracles

TJ's mom and dad were newly married and eagerly awaited their new arrival. TJ's mom took all the precautions in seeing her doctor regularly. The pregnancy seemed typical until delivery.

TJ's mom retold what happened, "My water broke and we immediately went to the hospital. It was a very smooth labor process, but then came the pushing. I immediately could tell something was wrong. There were a lot of nurses and doctors and I couldn't hear or see anything. After a complicated birth, I noticed my baby was a greyish blue. I heard my husband saying 'What's that? What's wrong?' I was confused and scared as hospital personnel rushed my baby away to intensive care. Here I was, a new mother, and I couldn't even have my baby with me."

TJ was born with a rare form of Spina Bifida called Myelocystocele. TJ's future was uncertain because every visit to the NICU revealed more unpleasant news: tethered spine, malformation of the lower legs, decreased sensitivity in the lower legs and feet.



## Help children like TJ receive the therapy services they need!

The hours of therapy TJ receives are essential in allowing him to grow into his full potential and defy the odds. Please consider helping TJ and other children get the services they need by making a gift today.

The family was told that he will never be able to walk, crawl, or even go to the bathroom on his own. Fast forward a few years to our annual *Walk with Me* event in June of this year. More than 500 people registered for the walk and as people were arriving you could see a father chasing his young son.

Bob Glowacki, our president and CEO, grabbed the little guy and held him for a moment, and then Bob realized that little guy was TJ! He was *running away* from his dad. He was far beyond what the medical staff had predicted. It was another miracle that only a few people understood, and most people missed it.

People miss the impact of the amazing people that work here. These miracle workers look quite ordinary, they visit people in their own homes and provide what TJ's mom described, "Judy treated us like people, a loving family with real concerns about the wellbeing of our new baby. Additionally, she assured us there was a whole support group that would stand with us every step of the way and do everything necessary to get our family to that normalcy we so desired."

This is what Easterseals means by taking on disability together. It is that support and guidance a family needs to move forward and actively support their child with special needs. It creates miracles that most of us don't see, but a miracle that transforms a child's future.

# a message from our CEO



I cannot believe a year has past since we launched our new logo in Southeast Wisconsin. This was the first complete re-design of our Easterseals' logo in over sixty years. I was not even alive when the Easterseals' lily appeared in the mid-1950s. That's why we took such effort, giving our launch real meaning.

Our logo change is reflective that after 60 years Easterseals and the people we support have changed dramatically. We knew the world was changing and becoming more inclusive of people of all abilities. We captured this in our theme, the new "face of disability."

A face like Rachel's filled with confidence. She took the microphone from Chip Brewster after being interviewed and began interviewing him. A determined face like Forrest who spoke last year about his experiences at Project SEARCH in front of 60 people at a United Way event even though he has challenges speaking. He spoke about how passionately he wanted a job. He received a standing ovation.

Loving faces like Tere and Elliott, a passionate mother who through our autism services was able to see all the gifts and talents Elliot has. Elliot is far more than his autism diagnosis. A resilient face like TJ who faced a poor medical prognosis. His mom was told he would never walk. While preparing for Walk with Me, I saw this same boy running away from his dad and laughing. He would not be defined by any diagnosis or prognosis.

These examples are the rays of hope that shine brightly from our new logo. The rays represent the faces of thousands of children and adults living with a disability that have a brighter future because of their involvement with Easterseals. Our logo looks new, but these daily miracles have been a way of life at Easterseals for century!

Taking on disability together,



Bob Glowacki, CEO  
Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin



**We're stronger, together.**

Disability touches us all,  
and we work with all members  
of the community to achieve  
extraordinary results.

**A great  
PLACE TO LEAVE  
A legacy**

You support Easterseals because you want to see everyone, regardless of ability or life challenges, realize their potential. When you include Easterseals in your will or other long-term plans, you partner with us as advocates for children and adults with disabilities. Your gift to future generations will help ensure that we all have the opportunity to thrive.

For more information contact Natalie Glumm: [natalieglumm@eastersealswise.com](mailto:natalieglumm@eastersealswise.com), 414.963.5905

# updates



## safe babies healthy families

In August **Safe Babies Healthy Families** held their annual Graduation Picnic. The graduates for this year included 18 little ones and 8 parents were recognized for graduating with high school and college degrees. Atonement Lutheran Church in Muskego, WI provided attendees with food and backpacks!

For more information on our Safe Babies Healthy Families program contact Karen Villarreal at 262.953.2205 or [karenv@eastersealswise.com](mailto:karenv@eastersealswise.com).



## summer camp & camp yellow ribbon

This past summer Easterseals welcomed over 160 day campers! We provide **Summer Respite Camp** programs for children, teens and adults with or without disabilities. Trained staff provides a safe and supportive environment for all of our campers. At camp, children and adults have opportunities to build social skills, explore their individual interests and talents, make friends, and experience being a part of the community.

**Camp Yellow Ribbon** offered a week of summer fun for kids with parents who have been or will be deployed. This free camp services children ages 7-15. Military families face the constant possibility or the realization of separation from their loved one due to war. These families also must face the fact that the separation may not just be a temporary one. These realities can cause additional strains on families, greatly affecting their children.



## project SEARCH

This summer we gathered to celebrate achievements of our completing **Project SEARCH** interns. There were 31 interns in total this year from intern sites including Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Froedtert Hospital and Waukesha Memorial Hospital. Our interns celebrated their achievements by sharing their stories and successes with large crowds of family, friends, and supporters. We are proud to announce that 25 out of the 31 interns are currently employed!

For more information, contact Ally O'Leary at [allysono@eastersealswise.com](mailto:allysono@eastersealswise.com) or (262) 953-2206.



## thank you Information Technology Professionals!

We are excited to introduce our corporate sponsor at the Achievement level, **Information Technology Professionals (ITP)**! From consulting services to IT solutions to phone systems, ITP provides businesses with tailored technology solutions and support. Their team is spread out across the state, with offices in Brookfield, Madison, and Appleton.

ITP was founded in 2003 as a two-man shop, and today the company has over 50 employees. ITP has been serving Easterseals with managed IT services for 10 years. As longtime friends and clients, we are so very happy to have their support as a corporate sponsor. Thank you ITP!



# Celebration of Children

annual  
gala

Presented by  PROHEALTH CARE

Thursday, November 9th  
Marriott West-Waukesha

For more information please visit:  
[www.easterseals.com/wi-se/get-involved/events/](http://www.easterseals.com/wi-se/get-involved/events/)



Please join us for Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin's Celebration of Children gala on November 9, 2017 for an evening of excitement and inspiration. Our annual gala promises to be a heartwarming evening that includes fine dining, live entertainment, as well as live and silent auctions.

**Proceeds from the night will benefit our Children's Services & Programs, which include:**

**Safe Babies Healthy Families,  
Birth to Three Early Intervention  
Pediatric Outpatient Therapy Services  
Autism Services  
Summer Respite Camps  
After School Programs**

Our Children's services touch the lives of over 1000 children and their families in our community annually. For nearly 100 years, Easterseals has been the indispensable resource for people and families challenged by disability. Thank you for supporting our mission and we hope to see you there!

Thank you to our sponsors!





# walk with a "porpoise"

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Our next *Walk With Me* is on  
**June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018!**

In June we kicked off the summer with our annual Walk With Me event, this year's theme was "Walk With a Porpoise"! This was our first walk since our brand renaissance and it was a great way for us to come together to support the families and individual we serve. Despite the rainy day we had a great turnout with more than 500 walkers participating with us to raise awareness.

Together we raised over \$81,000 with proceeds going towards vital programs and services for adults and children with and without disabilities. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated to this cause, this event would not have been a success without your support!





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Please consider donating any of these much needed items to our Safe Babies Healthy Families program which serves families by providing education, support and resources.

### We Need...

- **Diapers**  
– especially sizes 4-6 and pull ups
- **Diaper Wipes**
- **New Baby Clothes**  
– newborn to 5T
- **Baby Wash**
- **Safety Supplies to Baby Proof**
- **Receiving Blankets**
- **Swaddling Blankets**
- **Bottles**
- **Bibs**
- **Nuks**
- **New Car Seats**
- **New Pack-n-Plays or gently used**  
– no older than 5 years
- **New and gently used toys for birth to 5 years old**
- **New gently used baby equipment**  
– swings, gates, bouncers

For more information contact Karen Villarreal at 262.953.2205 or [karenev@eastersealswise.com](mailto:karenev@eastersealswise.com)  
Visit us at [eastersealswise.com](http://eastersealswise.com) or call us at 262.547.6821

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

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