

Meet Trever...

Trever is a social little boy who was four when he was diagnosed on the autism spectrum. He had behavior issues with transitions and boundaries and delays with social skills, speech and communication prior to beginning services at Easterseals in 2014. He was paired with a team that included a board certified Behavioral Analyst, a Senior Interventionist and 4 Line Interventionists and began Applied Behavioral Analysis that took place at both Easterseals and in his home.

“I guess I was in denial that his delays were not unusual. I was very upset when I got his autism diagnosis. Getting news like this about your child is really hard,”

—Dawn, Trever's Mom

As a result of thousands of hours of therapy, Trever has shown incredible progress! Today, he is a friendly, engaging eight year old who is able to transition from one place to another with ease, have full conversations and is able to express his needs. He loves going to the zoo, waterparks, church and the Old Country Buffet and is now complimented for being so kind, friendly and well behaved. Trever's family is so thankful for the help and encouragement they have received from the Easterseals team.

Wherever a person with autism falls on the spectrum, they often struggle with communications.

They can have trouble developing language skills or fail to understand nonverbal communication through things like eye contact and facial expressions. Parents, therapists and those with autism describe a gamut of communication techniques that have helped.



Some strategies typically used with children with autism to help improve communication include practicing positive strategies and providing opportunities to use verbal skills. For every child, this process is uniquely geared toward each person's strengths be that vocal or through sign language, pictures or written words.

As a result of the nearly 34,000 hours of Applied Behavior Analysis therapy provided by Easterseals last year, 89% of parents and caregivers reported that their child had improvement in communications.

Help Children Like Trever Receive The Therapy They Need!



Early intervention and therapy mean a better outcome for the 1 in 68 children living with autism. Trever is fortunate to have had that great start. Please help open a world of possibilities for the future of other children with your gift today. Please consider a \$100 gift today to provide one hour of autism therapy!

Donate online at www.eastersealswise.com

A Message From Our CEO



I have talked about Easterseals' moments throughout my time here. What is an Easterseals' moment? I would define it as the dark before the dawn. A moment in time when a person or family is faced with an obstacle in their life. They are lost and without a roadmap on how to move forward. For some of the parents we meet, they are told their child will never walk or talk. A prognosis that leads to fear and anxiety of what the future holds.

At that moment, that's where Easterseals comes in. It comes in the quiet confidence of one of our talented staff members. With years of experience and success stories to share, our staff offer hope. We see the whole person and family, seeing the strengths and abilities of each person. A bond begins at that Easterseals' moment. Together with our team, a support network and a person willing to achieve, a profound change is underway. The darkness is clearing.

We at Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin ask for your support. We cannot do this work without the generosity of hundreds of people like you. Your gift to Easterseals will ensure more families will see the light breakthrough in their lives.

Taking on disability together,

Bob Glowacki, CEO
Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin



Family Connections

A support network for families and caregivers to share resources and experiences

Housing Opportunities & Planning for the Future

Throughout the year we host several information sessions that focus on providing families and caregivers a support network where they can gain insight and resources as well as share their own personal experiences. We invite you to our upcoming session to learn more about housing opportunities for your loved one with a disability.

These and other providers will be available to share their housing options and answer any questions you may have:

- JFS Housing
- Lutheran Social Services Housing
- Movin' Out
- Waukesha ADRC



Wednesday, May 24th

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.

Easterseals Northview

505 Northview Rd., Waukesha, WI

Please RSVP online at www.easterseals.com/wi-se/get-involved/events/

Please contact Deb O'Connor at debo@eastersealswise.com

or (414) 963-5963 with any questions.

Events

THE BATTLE OF THE BADGES



The UW-Milwaukee Panther arena was buzzing with excitement on April 1st as local law enforcement and firefighters battled it out on the ice to benefit our Autism and Veterans programs. Over 1,800 fans enjoyed the fun filled day that also included tickets to the Milwaukee Admirals vs the Texas Stars game. Special thanks to Milwaukee firefighter, Christian Osell, who worked diligently to ensure a successful battle.

We are grateful for our first responders and sponsors of this amazing event!



A Celebration of Children



On November 3rd, our Celebration of Children gala was held at the Marriot West in Waukesha. At this inspiring and heartwarming event, guests enjoyed an evening of fine dining, entertainment, and live and silent auctions that raised support and awareness for our children's programs. A big thank you to our fabulous chair, Brian Dorow, Emcee Toya Washington and **the following sponsors who helped make our Celebration of Children gala possible:**

Presenting: The Schaus Family Foundation of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Lead the Way: ProHealth Care, Bryant & Stratton College, Swick Technologies

Inspiration: Ewald, Associated Bank, Citizens Bank, PNC, Dedicated Computers, Waukesha County, Technology College, Onnie Leach-Smith & Kim Preston, MSI

Save the date for our Celebration of Children on November 9th at the Marriott Waukesha!

Walk with a "Porpoise"!



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

When: Wednesday evening, June 28, 2017
Where: Milwaukee County Zoo
10001 W Bluemound Road
Time: Check-In and Entertainment: 5pm
Ambassador Presentations: 6pm
Walk starts: 6:30pm



*\$10 Registration Fee includes **all day admission & parking** at the zoo - 6/28/17*
Donate or raise an additional \$25 and receive an official Walk with a "Porpoise" t-shirt!

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 2017 Honorary Ambassadors Elliot, Ani, Jason, Megan, TJ and Trever. 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.

Your support of this signature walk event helps us provide children and adults with disabilities the opportunities to live, learn, work and play in our communities. Funds raised through this event will be used 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



Proceeds 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 and provide support for older adults so they can continue living in homes that they love.

Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin supports families living with disabilities, like our 2017 Walk With Me Ambassadors:



Elliott TEAM ELLIOT

Elliott is a beautiful and very happy 6 year old boy who is a true blessing to his family and those who know him. At the age of 3, Elliott was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. He has blossomed tremendously since his start with Easterseals' Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy in March of 2016. Elliott's family couldn't be happier that they now have a

son who has the words and resources to give them a stronger vision of what his sparkling little eyes see. Elliott is very similar to his peers as he loves to play with his sisters and friends. He particularly enjoys swimming, running, reading, jumping, watching movies, playing Angry Birds and Star Wars and the list goes on.



Ani ANI'S AVENGERS

Ani was adopted from a Bulgarian orphanage when she was 5 years, 10 months old. She has refused to allow an autism or impaired cognitive delay label define her; instead, Ani's warm spirit and dynamic personality have become her trademarks. Ani interned at Children's Hospital through Easterseals' Project Search program last year and is now

employed part time at Children's in the CORE lab. She is a Special Olympic athlete having medaled in several sports; in addition, she's involved in Best Buddies and enjoys giving presentations and speeches. In her spare time, Ani sings and plays the guitar and the drums. She is an enthusiastic dancer and is always looking for a willing partner! Ani is a true inspiration!



Jason THE WILD WEST WALKERS

Jason is a mild mannered young man with Down Syndrome. His speech is difficult to understand but that doesn't slow him down! During his time at Easterseals, Jason trained and worked for LillyWorks Catering where he improved his skills in food preparations and kitchen help. Thanks to his training at Easterseals,

Jason passed the safety certification requirements for his current job with Aramark. Jason enjoys working in the kitchen at Waukesha West High School and uses an iPad with text-to-speech software to help him communicate easier with his co-workers. He is currently living independently with two roommates and a caretaker that visits in the evenings. Jason likes spending time with friends, going to movies and social dances.



Megan ROCKIN' MONKEYS

Megan is a kind hearted senior in high school. At the age of 16, she became pregnant and heard about Safe Babies Healthy Families (SBHF) through her public health nurse. Megan's SBHF case manager supported her throughout her pregnancy and helped prepare her for the birth of her beautiful son, Jeremiah. Her case manager continues to act as a

life coach to help Megan build her mothering skills and works with Jeremiah on his development skills. Through SBHF, Megan is awarded "baby bucks" that are used to purchase diapers, clothing and other baby items. Megan very much enjoys spending time with her family and friends and loves watching Jeremiah grow. She looks forward to attending nursing school after graduation.



TJ BIG DREAMS

TJ is an energetic child with an active imagination and a huge personality.

He was diagnosed with Myelocystocele, which is a rare form of Spina Bifida, at birth. It was determined that he would never crawl, walk, run, or go to the bathroom on his own. Since participating in the Birth to Three program at Easterseals, TJ has met all of his developmental milestones

with flying colors! Some of his favorite activities include running, climbing, and riding a tricycle.



Trevor TEAM TREVOR

Trevor is an engaging and friendly 8 year old who loves the zoo, waterparks, church and Old Country Buffet! Diagnosed with Autism, Trevor began intense Applied Behavior Analysis therapy at Easterseals in the summer of 2014. Prior to therapy, he had behavioral issues with transitions and boundaries and delays in social skills, speech and communication. He has since

made remarkable progress in all these areas! He is able to transition from one place to another with no behavioral issues, has full conversations and is able to express all his needs. Trevor now receives compliments for being so kind, friendly and well behaved! Trevor's family is grateful that Easterseals has helped change their lives.

Issue 1, Spring 2017

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



www.eastersealswise.com



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**National
Bakery & Deli**

Donate for a Donut

Donate a dollar at any National Bakery & Deli location and receive a handmade autism puzzle piece pin and a coupon for a free donut at your next visit.

Locations:

East Location
3200 S. 16th St.

West Location
13820 W. Greenfield Ave.
Brookfield, WI 53005

South Location
5637 Broad St.
Greendale, WI 53219



Donate \$10 and receive a FREE set of standard wiper blades or an Aquapel windshield treatment!

(Value up to \$30. Offer expires May 31, 2017.)

Locations:

Fond Du Lac Super Lube
40 West Scott St.

Jackson Super Lube
W213 N16770 Glen Brooke Dr.

Menomonee Falls Super Lube
W156 N8390 Pilgrim Road

Port Washington Super Lube
1610 N. Wisconsin Street

Wales Super Lube
120 West Summit Ave.

West Bend Super Lube
2353 West Washington St.