

November 2023

Dear Friend,

In 2021, Autumn came early. Named for the season her mom, Tyler, loves most, she was born prematurely at just 23-weeks and in need of extremely intensive care. She spent 524 days in the hospital, where Tyler watched her for promising signs of progress.

Each season brought change.

Autumn started pediatric therapies with Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley last fall. Tyler expected us to support her daughter, but she didn't anticipate the resources and reassurance she'd gain, too:

"It's personal. It's the all-around package deal. They come in, they work with my baby, they ask me if I'm okay. You don't find that everywhere. Their care is one less thing I have to stress about. They always show up for me."



When parents and caregivers are well supported, their child's therapeutic outcomes improve. This is why we're committed to providing comprehensive rehabilitative therapy for children with disabilities and expansive support for the whole family.

Please join this commitment by making a gift today. All 2,901 families we serve have access to wraparound services that help further their therapy goals. Your donation makes this unique set of services available, even when insurance coverage is not.

Tyler appreciates her weekly conversations with Autumn's therapists. They help lift the uncertainty she sometimes feels as a first time mom to a medically complex child. She has found community at Easterseals events, where she connects with other parents who understand her experience. She welcomes check-ins from our Care Coordinator and learnings from the therapy team she trusts.

The change Tyler sees in Autumn is as distinct as the seasons. At Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley, we follow each child's steady progress and anticipate what's next. Whether it happens gradually or feels sudden, there is always a shift.

The impact of your donation doesn't stop at the end of a therapy session. It empowers children with disabilities to thrive in their homes, classrooms, friendships, and communities.

Please SHOW UP for children and their families this season.

Thank you!

Theresa

Theresa Forthofer
President & CEO

P.S. Your contribution matters!

Our holiday campaign launches on Giving Tuesday, November 28.

Please show up for children and families at Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley by making a gift before the end of the year.

Photo credits: Chris Howes (Autumn); Mary Paulius (Tommy); Devona Barnes (Maxwell)

- Spring 2021**
Autumn is born at just 1.1 pounds with severely underdeveloped lungs.
- Fall 2021**
She spends a month in a medically induced coma to support her healing and development.
- Winter 2022**
Her medical care and hospitalization continues.
- Summer 2022**
After 524 days, Autumn leaves the hospital for the first time.
- Fall 2022**
Three weeks later, Autumn begins therapies with Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley.

Her first year at home includes weekly physical, occupational, speech-language and feeding therapies.
- Today**
Autumn is a music-loving, outgoing, intuitive, go-getter. She continues to overcome the odds and is now taking steps with support, feeding herself, and finding ways to communicate.



eastersealsdfvr.org/donate

see reverse side for donation form



SHOW UP

FOR THE 1 IN 6 CHILDREN IMPACTED BY DISABILITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY



AUTUMN
who is starting to feed herself.



TOMMY
who is riding his tricycle.



ZOEY
who is talking more than ever.



MAXWELL
who has learned to clap and wave.

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS TO PROVIDE PEDIATRIC THERAPIES TO MORE THAN 1,000 CHILDREN EACH WEEK



FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

As Tyler adjusted to life with her toddler outside the hospital, it was a struggle to fit Autumn's medical equipment into her small car. Last winter, another Easterseals family opted to donate their adapted van, relieving Tyler of this significant expense. Now, they have room for the equipment that supports her breathing and mobility, making it easier to attend appointments and activities.

When you give to Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley, you're joining a network of people who believe

EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO THRIVE IN AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY.