
The start of a new school year brings anticipation and excitement. But for some children, feelings of anxiety or low self-esteem may take their place. Big routine changes can be particularly stressful for children with developmental delays and disabilities, and that stress can impact the whole family. Our social work and counseling services help families tackle a wide range of issues. Our staff understand the complex and unique set of challenges that may come from raising a child with a disability, and how a diagnosis can impact families. Social work and counseling services can address:

- Behavior issues · Anxiety · Low Self-Esteem · Sibling Conflict · Panic Attacks
- Stress Management · Social Skills · Problem Solving · School Challenges
- Transition Planning · Grief · Parental Separation · Self Advocacy
- Social work and counseling services help children and their families learn and grow together.

Cycling for a Cause

On September 8, the 4th Annual Bike for the Kids raised more than $14,000 to support services at Easterseals! And, an additional $7,000+ was raised to purchase adapted bikes for kids with disabilities! In total, $21,000+ was raised more than $16,000 to support services at Easterseals! And, an additional $7,000+ was raised to purchase adapted bikes for kids with disabilities! In total, $21,000+ was raised for families and children of all abilities in the Kid's Ride.

Social work and behavior therapy have proven particularly effective for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD.

The CDC states that many behaviors tied to ADHD can be addressed through counseling and behavior therapy. They recommend parents and children to try behavior therapy first before introducing medication.

Call 630.282.2030 for group opportunities
Call 630.261.6240 or visit info@eastersealsdfvr.org for evaluations or to schedule an appointment.

"The things you’ve taught him and worked on have made him a stronger child."
- Mother of a child with anxiety

Social Work and Counseling Team
- Sue Olive, MSW, LSW
- Yvonne D. Anderson, LCSW, CADC, MISA II
- Jessica Schultz, MA, LCPC, Behavior Specialist

100 Reasons to Cheer on the Bears!

The Chicago Bears named Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley one of 10 Community All-Pro partner organizations in honor of the team’s 100th season. Selected from more than 500 applications, this honor included a $100,000 grant which was presented at the Bears’ August 29th pre-season game. President & CEO, Theresa Forthofer, and All-Pro partner organizations in honor of the team’s 100th season. Selected from more than 500 applications, this honor included a $100,000 grant which was presented at the Bears’ August 29th pre-season game. President & CEO, Theresa Forthofer, and client, Charlie Krupka, served as Honorary Captains and assisted with the pre-game coin toss.

The $100,000 grant will help fund a new accessible playground that will be an integral part of our therapy services and inclusive child care center. We are very grateful to the Chicago Bears for helping children of all abilities learn and explore through play.
Young Professionals Making an Impact
Meet the Associate Board

In 2011, a core group of volunteers were launching their careers and looking for opportunities to blend their professional development with their personal connection to Easterseals. They became the founding members of the Associate Board – a group of young professionals who raise awareness and funds for Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley.

Since then, this group of young leaders has become a crucial part of the organization’s fundraising and service efforts. The board is made up of young professionals (ages 21 – 35) with a range of professional experience. The board was established by Lily Garden alumni, therapy graduates and client siblings, but soon grew to include other philanthropists. They represent a range of industries including finance, healthcare, education, insurance and marketing. But the common thread is their commitment to the children and families at Easterseals.

Their annual events fund the family friendly post party at the Run for the Kids as well as the Summer Siblings Program that provides crafts, games and activities to brothers and sisters of therapy clients throughout the summer. Additional money raised provides fee assistance for uninsured and underinsured families, and most recently the group contributed toward the adaptive renovation of the Lily Garden playground.

For Associate Board chair, David Lennie, the group has helped him develop new skills, including marketing and networking with new people and have fun. He is proud of the example the board is setting for other young philanthropists. They represent a range of industries including finance, healthcare, education, insurance and marketing. But the common thread is their commitment to the children and families at Easterseals.

For more information about Associate Board membership and events visit eastersealsdfvr.org/associateboard.

Share Your Story
Eve Lechner works hard in physical therapy to increase her stability, strength and balance. This year, her biggest transformations came from being able to confidently ride a scooter and safely navigate the playground at school. It’s an experience she’s proud to share. The Lechners plan to use Giving Tuesday as a platform to celebrate Eve’s success and motivate others to support Easterseals. Share in your own words why Easterseals is important to you, and encourage your friends and family to make a gift on Giving Tuesday.

Make a Match
Introduce your employer to Easterseals and you could help double donations on Giving Tuesday!

Last year, corporate partners pledged matching donations that helped drive more than $100,000 in contributions on Giving Tuesday. Ask about your company’s charitable initiatives and identify opportunities to team up with Easterseals. Businesses can provide a donation match, host an event, volunteer or fundraise as a team.

Spread the Word
It’s quick and easy to get the word out about Giving Tuesday through email, Facebook and other social media channels. Gifts made to our website and Facebook on December 3 will all be considered part of Giving Tuesday. Use posts, photos and hashtags throughout the day to show your network how you’re participating in this global day of giving. #GivingTuesday

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