



Easterseals has two deserving options for your EITC donation!

Camp Growing Green and the LEAP Program are both EITC-approved.



Instead of sending taxes to Harrisburg ... send kids with special needs to summer camp!

LEAP participants gain the skills needed to obtain employment and live in their community.

LEAP (Learn, Earn, Achieve, Practice) is a comprehensive employment preparation program for youth with disabilities, ages 16-21, who attend school and are eager to work and earn a paycheck. It combines curriculum instruction, paid work experience and service learning to help youth develop work, leadership and teamwork skills, and become more self-determined to transition successfully into adulthood. Participants gain the fundamental skills needed to truly know themselves, advocate for the lives they want, seek and obtain employment, and live and work in their communities of choice. Starting in summer 2020, three sessions will be offered, each two weeks in duration. Each week, participants will spend three days on the job, one day in the community working on a service learning project, and one day enjoying recreation activities with their peers.

Meet Chasity

Chasity has been attending Growing Green the past two years. At first, she was reluctant to go to camp because she had never stayed away from home by herself. However, Chasity soon discovered that she is more self-sufficient and independent than she realized, and after the first week, she was eager to return to camp again. While spending time away from home, she learned to take care of herself and gained confidence in handling the unknown. Making new friends and getting along in a group required Chasity to practice communication skills, flexibility, cooperation and compromise, critical skills essential to success in work and life. And before long, Chasity was helping her peers adjust to life at camp.



In addition to being away from home, Chasity was also nervous about attending camp in the Poconos and the uncertainty of what she would encounter in the outdoors. She repeatedly said she would not go canoeing or swimming in the lake. But once again, Chasity rose to the challenge and today she is proud of herself for attempting and accomplishing things that she thought she would never do. She draws on these experiences as a reminder of the self-reliance and independence she has developed and takes on challenges at home and work with a new level of confidence.

Chasity is over age 21 and many programs end at that age. But that's not the case at Easterseals. Our camping, recreation and employment programs do not stop at age 21. This allows young women like Chasity to continue enjoying and benefitting from programs she knows and loves, and her family trusts.

Camp Growing Green provides incredible opportunities for growth and development.

This unique summer camp for people with disabilities promotes environmental awareness. Campers learn organic gardening in specially designed gardens and enjoy traditional camp activities like hiking, canoeing, sports, and arts & crafts. Located on the campus of the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), we offer the best in environmental resources coupled with the professional support our campers need.

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES & INDEPENDENCE

Reconnecting with old friends, making new ones and getting along in a group are situations that require campers to practice communication skills, flexibility, cooperation and compromise. These critical skills are essential to success in school and at work. Living away from family members and with peers helps all kids discover their inner resources. Compassionate and qualified counselors guide campers as they uncover their strengths and develop independence.

CAREER EXPERIENCE

Campers have the option to participate in a vocational experience to explore career opportunities through job shadowing and hands-on practice. Participants spend part of each day working in food service/dining, office and retail settings, as well as assisting counselors in the PEEC day camp.



Thank you for your consideration.

If you have any questions about Easterseals Eastern PA or the EITC program, please contact **Ann Marie Surovy, CFRE** at **610-289-0114 x205** or by email at **asurovy@esep.org**.

Please direct your EITC donations to:

Easterseals Eastern PA
1501 Lehigh Street, Suite 201
Allentown, PA 18103

Additional information is available online about the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) at www.dced.pa.gov or by calling the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) at 717-787-7120.



LEAP students building and maintaining trails at the Wildands Conservancy.



www.easterseals.com/esep

Easterseals Eastern PA creates life-changing solutions for individuals with disabilities and their families in their community by increasing independence, maximizing opportunities, minimizing barriers and enhancing quality of life. Easterseals is a 501(c)3 organization, contributions to which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. Our official registration and financial information can be obtained from the PA Dept of State by calling toll free within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.