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Eastern Pennsylvania

Access & Ability

Increasing independence and maximizing opportunity

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A publication of Easterseals Eastern Pennsylvania

FALL 2018



Introducing our new Employment Services programs

We are proud to now offer customized employment solutions to help adults and teens with disabilities prepare for, find and retain jobs of their choosing. In 2018, we entered into an agreement with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to provide wide-reaching employment support services for adults with disabilities and employment preparation services for high school students with disabilities. Both programs serve residents of in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Schuylkill counties. Easterseals provides job placement, coaching, and community-based work assessments for OVR's adult customers. For teens, we deliver a school-to-work curriculum in high schools coupled with work-based learning experiences and job shadowing opportunities in the community. We also offer LEAP, a 4-week summer employment preparation program for youth with disabilities, ages 16-21. LEAP combines curriculum instruction, service learning and paid work experience in order to help young adults develop work, leadership and teamwork skills, and become more self-determined to transition successfully into the workplace.



Abby, a high school student, explored a career in the arts while working at Art Plus Gallery in West Reading.

HIGHMARK WALK

participants raise \$17,380

Easterseals families, therapists, employees and friends took part in the 2018 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community fundraiser in June. Because Highmark underwrites the cost of the entire event, 100% of the money we raised goes directly to Easterseals Eastern PA to help local families.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

Pacesetter Sponsors \$2,500

- BENNETT AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Trailblazer Sponsors \$1,000

- Kriegman & Smith Property Management
- MassMutual SpecialCare

Finish Line Sponsors \$500

- Herbein & Company, Inc.
- Mosteller & Associates
- Sarott Design

Stay the Course Sponsors \$250

- Hulse Kepner Associates, LLC
- The Equinox Agency, LLC
- Lace 'Em Up Sponsors \$100
- Progressive Vision Institute



Grant funding received for MAKE THE FIRST FIVE COUNT

We recently received \$20,000 from several local foundations to support our Make the First Five Count program, allowing us to offer free child developmental screenings to even more families in the Lehigh Valley. The Harry C. Trexler Trust awarded \$10,000 to support increasing the delivery of services in Allentown, Will R. Beitel Childrens Community Foundation granted \$4,000 to support program activities in Northampton County, Air Products Foundation provided a \$5,000 grant and the Leona Gruber Trust provided a \$1,000 grant to fund screenings throughout the Lehigh Valley. Make the First Five Count is an early screening program that evaluates children under the age of five to determine if they are meeting developmental milestones and provides support to families on what to do if a problem is detected.

DEVELOPING A VISION:

What's Your Best Life?

October 16, 2018 | 6:30-8:00PM

Easterseals is pleased to offer a FREE presentation to help individuals, families and caregivers discover solutions to common problems they may encounter in planning for the future. Receive an introduction on how to develop a vision for everyday life, identify and develop supports, and about how supplemental/special needs trusts can be part of your overall plan. Also learn more about public benefits such as nutritional assistance, transportation and housing. Come right from work – refreshments will be provided.

The featured presenters are Michael Butterworth, financial planner with M.P. Butterworth & Associates; William Blumer, attorney with Leisawitz Heller; and Nicki Habecker, PA Family Advisor with the PA Family Network, who will present on "An Everyday Life for All."

The event is appropriate for ages 16 and older to attend. It is free, but registration is required. Please contact event@esep.org or 610-289-0114 x225 to register or for more information. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Reading, 1741 Papermill Road, Reading, PA.



Mary Ellen Golf Tournament raises record \$166,506

The 49th Annual Mary Ellen Golf Tournament was held on July 16th at Valley Country Club in Sugarloaf, PA and raised \$166,506 (a new record!) to support Easterseals Eastern Pennsylvania. These funds go directly into services and programs for local children and their families. We had a record 127 golfers and 120 corporations and businesses support the tournament through sponsorships and donations. Their commitment to Easterseals and the individuals and families we serve is remarkable.

The tournament first began in 1970 and has raised over \$2.3 million dollars to support Easterseals. For the past 24 years, the tournament has been chaired by Tony Salvaggio, President & CEO of Computer Aid, Inc. Tony and his dedicated executive committee members work tirelessly to support Easterseals and for that we are incredibly grateful. In addition to the executive committee, loyal volunteers from Computer Aid team up with Easterseals staff to take care of the golf tournament logistics.



Godiva Chocolatier, Inc. marks 20 years of volunteerism

For the past 20 years, volunteers from Godiva Chocolatier, Inc. have come to Camp Lily-Berks in early spring to clean up the grounds and take on various projects that keep Camp Lily looking great. From painting murals to building garden beds to installing a backstop on the baseball diamond, there isn't much at Camp Lily that their hands haven't touched. Over the twenty years that Godiva has been volunteering at Camp Lily, the facility has developed into a unique and first-rate campground that provides our campers with a memorable and special place they can call their own. We are so grateful for Godiva's hard work and commitment to making Camp Lily the special place it is.





1501 Lehigh Street, Suite 201
Allentown, PA 18103

Holiday Open House

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 | 4pm-5:30pm

Jordan UCC Church, 1837 Church Road, Allentown, PA 18104

Join us at our annual holiday party! Enjoy crafts, activities, gifts and photos with Santa! Admission is free, but registration is required before Monday, December 3. Due to space limitations, two adults per Easterseals consumer family please.

To register, contact 610-289-0114 x225 or event@esep.org

Thanks for all you
do for Easterseals.
***We couldn't do it
without you.***

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STORY OF HOPE:

Meet Leah



In a lot of ways, Leah is like any other child. She has favorite toys, is eager to explore new things and is a bundle of joyful, rambunctious energy. Unlike most children, she was born with Joubert Syndrome, a rare condition characterized by underdevelopment of the cerebellum, low muscle tone and delayed development and speech.

Leah began receiving our early intervention services last year and meets with her therapists four days a week. Such intense intervention means a lot of hard work for Leah, but her joyful resiliency through it all has infused her parents with great optimism for her future - that Leah will one day walk, talk, run and play sports.

At the start of therapy, her parents could not imagine her walking before her third birthday. Leah is now two years old and using a gait trainer to walk. Her parents are incredibly pleased with the rate of development Leah has shown since starting physical therapy. Every week there is progress and they continue to set new milestones for her development. As her mother puts it, "we were thrown a curve ball in life, but I think we are knocking it out of the park." At Easterseals, we couldn't agree more. Through our early intervention program, Leah is receiving the therapeutic support she needs to reach her fullest potential and her parents are receiving the support they need to make it happen.