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Increasing independence and maximizing opportunity

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WINTER 2018

Easterseals brings new therapy to Berks County



Thanks to Comcast Foundation grant

Interactive Metronome® (IM) is an assessment and training tool that improves neurotiming for patients across the therapy spectrum – such as those with ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Sensory Processing Disorder. Easterseals is the only facility in Berks County that offers IM to the pediatric population.

The patient, wearing a headset that delivers computer-generated musical beats, performs movement exercises matching the beat with repetitive motor movements. Visual feedback on the computer screen allows users to chart their performances so that real-time adjustments can be made.

Timing in the brain is critical to speech, language and cognitive function. Timing is also the basis for attention, working memory and processing speed, all of which are critical for proper childhood development.





Mary Ellen Golf Tournament raises record \$154,173

CAI Computer Aid marks 23 years leading the way
Computer Aid, Inc.®

The annual Mary Ellen Golf Tournament, held September 25th at Willow Brook Golf Club in Catasauqua, raised \$154,173 to set a new record. These funds go directly into services and programs for local children and their families. More than 75 golfers from across the Valley, along with over 130 corporations and businesses supported this effort through sponsorships and donations.

First held in 1970, this is the longest running fundraising golf tournament in the Lehigh Valley. For the past 23 years it has been chaired by Tony Salvaggio, President & CEO of Computer Aid, Inc. Tony and his dedicated executive committee members work tirelessly on this event and more than 20 volunteers from Computer Aid team up with Easterseals staff to handle the logistics.



New therapy table and supine stander added to outpatient therapy program

Through grant from the Reeve Foundation

A grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is being used to add this new equipment to our center in Reading. More than 500 children receive outpatient therapy at Easterseals each year, putting an incredible strain on equipment. The **supine stander** gives children who spend much of their time in a wheelchair the opportunity to be in a standing position, which can improve digestion, respiration and circulatory system function, as well as develop a full range of motion to better perform independent living activities. The new **therapy table** is low enough to allow easy access and provides a stable surface for manual techniques of stretching, joint manipulation and flexibility exercises.



Make the First Five Count program expands into Reading

With generous award from United Way of Berks County

Thanks to a \$15,000 award from United Way of Berks County, Easterseals is able to offer this critical program to Reading families. The program provides free developmental screenings to children age five and under to identify developmental delays, disabilities and social-emotional challenges, and then connects the families to local resources to address their needs. Identifying such needs early means treatment and therapy can begin when it can do the most good.



The professional child-development specialists on the project, Sheila Alicea-Negron and Davena Rodrigue (pictured), are fluent in both Spanish and English.



Volunteers from Travelers Insurance spent the day at our center in Reading for the United Way of Berks County Day of Caring. They installed a walkway in front of the equipment shed, refreshed the landscaping and installed shelving in the bike room.



Maria's cruising!

Maria's dream of cruising the streets with her friends and siblings on her own set of wheels came true thanks to the Pottstown Chapter of National AMBUCS, Inc. Easterseals had nominated Maria to receive the trike knowing how much she would benefit from the increased physical activity and the independence and freedom that riding brings.

AMBUCS-Pottstown has also donated a fleet of five brand new AmTrykes to our outpatient therapy program in Reading. The trikes are a dynamic and fun way to improve balance, strength and coordination.



Our Holiday Open House, sponsored by Wells Fargo and Computer Aid, provided over 125 children and their families an unforgettable evening of crafts, activities, photos with Santa and more. Each child received a gift and a goody bag with candy donated by Just Born. Crayola donated products given as gifts and used in the craft area.



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Meet Parker!

Today, Parker is active and curious and loves playing baseball, but this was not always the case. Parker has cerebral palsy, which affects one side of his body including his arm and leg. As a preschooler, he walked up on his toes on one side and did not like trying new things.

Then he enrolled in Physical Therapy at Easterseals outpatient clinic in Reading. His therapist focused on using play-based activities to engage him and soon his mother reported Parker was enjoying his therapy instead of resisting it. Parker attended Physical Therapy weekly and regularly saw the orthopedist in the clinic, who said Parker improved so much after a year of therapy that he no longer needed to wear a brace on his ankle. He had ceased walking up on his toes on one side and he could now walk up and down stairs without depending on the railing. He was jumping forward, over objects and down from a height using both feet instead of relying mainly on his stronger leg.

With hard work and dedication, Parker has achieved all his therapy goals and is thriving. He has increased his independence and gained more confidence in trying new things. He is a member of a youth league baseball team and as he started kindergarten on time with his peers.

