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Access & Ability

Increasing independence and maximizing opportunity

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A publication of Easterseals Eastern Pennsylvania

SUMMER 2019

Reflecting on the IMPORTANT and WONDERFUL celebrations commemorating our 100th anniversary.

As we are halfway through our 100th year, it is a good time to reflect on some of the ways we have celebrated this milestone. In March, board member Jen McDonough, her son Chris and I went to Washington D.C. to join other Easterseals affiliates from around the country to meet with our elected officials to talk about Easterseals. We asked them to support funding for vocational services, early intervention and other programs that provide the necessary resources for individuals with disabilities to increase independence, maximize opportunities, minimize barriers and enhance quality of life. We also asked for support of a resolution in the

At our open house, Jane Goodman, a retired Easterseals therapist, reunited with Robert whom she hadn't seen in over 10 years when she last served as his therapist.



house and senate recognizing Easterseals 100 years of impact. The visit culminated in a celebratory dinner where we heard from many families who have benefited from Easterseals and learned about the enormous impact it has had on their lives. It was a great way to celebrate our legacy and charge us with excitement for the next 100 years.

Locally, we held an open house at our Berks center in May attended by current and past consumers and families, current and past team members, funders, donors and friends. Mike Miller of Berks Community Murals led a mural painting activity where guests painted part of what will become an enormous mural installed in our physical therapy room. There were other activities for adults and kids, and great conversations all around.

Later in May, members of our President's Council attended a special evening of networking and learning at Moselem Springs Golf Club, hosted by board member Bill Blumer, an attorney with Leisawitz Heller. Bill, along with Katie Brown of Morton Brown Family Wealth, presented on strategies to maximize tax benefits associated with charitable contributions using appreciated securities and other measures.

We are excited about the many activities in store for the rest of the year and hope you will join us in celebrating our 100th anniversary. Thank you for being a part of our history and our future.

Nancy Knoebel, President & CEO



Join Easterseals President's Council

One way you can ensure that Easterseals Eastern PA continues to grow and innovate is by joining the President's Council. Created in 1995, the President's Council honors and recognizes generous individuals who choose to include Easterseals in their philanthropic endeavors year after year by making an outright gift, or gifts, of \$1,000 or more. President's Council members receive invitations to exclusive, member-only events and learning opportunities; recognition in Easterseals' print publications and online (with the exception of those who prefer to remain anonymous); and the satisfaction of knowing they are making a vital difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities and their families. Donations can be received in the following ways: cash gifts of \$1,000 or more in a 12-month period; gifts of publicly traded securities with a market value of \$1,000 or more on the effective date of transfer; gifts made through private family foundations; or gifts made by individuals through their own privately held business. Some members donate in quarterly or monthly installments; others give a one-time gift each year. These are direct gifts to benefit programs and are not related to special events, tickets sales or other premiums. **For more information, contact Ann Marie Surovy, CFRE, Director of Advancement at asurovy@esep.org or 610-289-0114 x205.**

EASTERSEALS RAISED \$22,626 THROUGH THE HIGHMARK WALK

Easterseals families, friends, therapists and employees took part in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community to raise awareness and donations to support the critical, life-changing programs we provide to the community. Highmark underwrites the cost of the entire event, so 100% of the money we raised goes directly to Easterseals Eastern PA to help local families. Easterseals had over 70 registered walkers and 13 teams participate. We thank everyone for their support in making this our most successful walk to date.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:

PACESETTER SPONSOR | \$2,500

Bennett Automotive Group

TRAILBLAZER SPONSORS | \$1,000

Kriegman and Smith
Property Management

MassMutual SpecialCare

FINISH LINE SPONSORS | \$500

Herbein & Company, Inc.

Mosteller & Associates

Sarott Design

STAY THE COURSE SPONSORS | \$250

The Equinox Agency

Hulse Kepner Associates

PromptCare Respiratory

Amy Nichols – Thrivent Financial

LACE 'EM UP SPONSOR | \$100

Unity Bank





EITC donations benefit Growing Green and LEAP

Easterseals has received \$71,500 in donations from American Bank, Avalon Insurance, Cigna Health Insurance, East Penn Manufacturing, PPL Electric Utilities, UGI Utilities, Inc. and Yurconic Agency through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). The funds are used to support our employment program for teens and Growing Green, our residential summer camp in the Poconos.

Carol Obando-Derstine presents the donation from PPL to Easterseals

Thrivent Choice Dollars® can help Easterseals Eastern PA



Are you a member of Thrivent Financial who is eligible to direct Choice Dollars? Choice Dollars charitable outreach funds can make a world of difference to our organization as we work together to make a profound, positive impact in the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members recommend where they feel Thrivent should distribute a portion of its charitable funds. Directing Choice Dollars is easy. **Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more and find program terms and conditions, or call 800-847-4836.**

Volunteers from Carpenter Technology

In March, volunteers from Carpenter Technology hosted a party for the consumers attending Saturday Respite in Berks County. The festivities featured an Easter egg hunt, craft activity, cookie decorating and egg coloring.



GODIVA CHOCOLATIER, INC. SPENDS DAY OF CARING AT CAMP LILY

For over 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 years, 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.





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New Honorarium Cards Available

Honor a milestone or special occasion in a meaningful and impactful way with our customizable honorarium cards. Invite friends and family to support Easterseals with a gift in honor of your next birthday, anniversary, retirement or holiday celebration. **Contact** asurovy@esep.org or 610-289-0114 x205.

Story of Hope: Meet Peyton

Peyton was completely nonverbal at age two when she began receiving speech therapy and occupational therapy from Easterseals. She had no way to communicate with her family and make her needs known, but that all changed when she began working with Easterseals. Within three weeks of beginning therapy, Peyton was using sign language and vocalizing words. After seven months of therapy, she was independently speaking and communicating, engaging more with people and clearly making her needs known. As her mother Eboni states, "she is a completely different child from before we started working with Easterseals."

While Peyton was developing a critical skill set, her family was learning how to promote those skills as a part of their everyday life. Peyton's parents, three older siblings and twin brother are actively involved in supporting her development. "The therapists are amazing," states Peyton's mom. "They have built a great bond with our family. They provide a wealth of information and I can call anytime with a question and get the support I need."

On the recommendation of one of Easterseals therapists, the family had Peyton tested for autism. Her mother Eboni states, "It can be difficult having a child with autism, but our therapists have definitely helped us understand Peyton and her diagnosis better. So many families are currently dealing with their own autism diagnosis. It can be heartbreaking, but it doesn't have to be. Yes, you have a diagnosis and yes, it is going to be a long road, but it doesn't change the fact that your child is just as amazing with or without the diagnosis. Peyton has shown our family and hopefully others that it is okay to be autistic. All it takes is some creativity, hard work and a great source of information like we have with our Easterseals therapists."

