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A publication of Easterseals Eastern Pennsylvania

FALL 2020

New equipment for our outpatient center

A \$22,195 grant from The Neag Foundation has allowed us to purchase a suite of gait-therapy equipment for our outpatient center in Reading. The equipment includes a GaitKeeper treadmill, LiteGait partial weight-bearing system, and GaitSens balance and gait-analysis system. The equipment will most often be used together, but the treadmill and weight-bearing system can be used independently, which expands their functionality.

The GaitKeeper treadmill has sensors that measure the user's gait and provide real-time feedback of a patient's performance. Users can see the pattern of their gait and the impact made when they adjust their step, alongside a visual of the goals the therapist has set. The software records the session and collects data for evaluation, goal setting and reporting.

The LiteGait partial weight-bearing system supports the patient over the treadmill in an upright position, providing the security of a fall-free environment and the experience of standing upright with correct posture. It also has the option for the patient to be full or partial weight bearing with sensors providing feedback that enables the therapist to make precise adjustments to provide more support on either side, or decrease support as the patient progresses.

As a result, patients spend more time exercising in a safe, fall-free environment that allows them to focus on improving posture, coordination and endurance, gradually increasing the weight they can bear. The biometric feedback provides immediate visual and audible feedback to encourage and motivate patients to reach their therapeutic goals, which will be achieved at an accelerated rate compared to traditional therapeutic interventions.

Children with disabilities often require a variety of therapies, and we strive to offer the latest interventions to meet their needs. We are incredibly pleased to have the opportunity to incorporate this equipment into our therapy program after wanting it for almost two years.



Pictured is a consumer using the new equipment during a therapy session with Christine Paris, Outpatient Therapy and Clinical Services Manager.

Mary Ellen Golf Tournament Raises \$144,500



The 51st Annual Mary Ellen Golf Tournament was held on July 20 at Valley Country Club in Sugarloaf, PA and raised \$144,500 to support Easterseals Eastern Pennsylvania. These funds go directly into services and programs for local children and their families. We had 90 golfers and over 70 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 \$2.7 million dollars to support Easterseals. For the past 26 years, the tournament has been chaired by Tony Salvaggio, President & CEO of Computer Aid, Inc. Tony and his dedicated executive committee 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.



Easterseals is looking for great people to join the board!



There is an opportunity for you to make a real difference in the lives of people with disabilities in our community. If this is something you would like to do, consider joining our board of directors.

At Easterseals, governance, strategy and fiscal oversight by the board are equally as important as leveraging relationships to build connections in the community. Getting more people involved and connected with the organization in order to expand our capacity to meaningfully impact lives is a critical way that the board helps Easterseals make a difference.

As we search for new members, we strive for diversity in all its forms, including diversity of thought, to make sure that our board represents the work we do and the community we serve. Above all else, we seek members who are engaged and committed, and want to invest their time, treasure and talent toward our mission. A couple areas of expertise we seek at this time include finance and accounting, human resources, social media and public relations.

If this is you or someone you know, contact Nancy Knoebel, CEO, at nknoebel@esep.org or 610-289-0114 x210.

Easterseals raised \$22,752 through the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

We missed seeing everyone in person when the walk went virtual, however we held some fun events that brought us all together remotely including a fitness tracker challenge and live Zoom fitness session. Almost 70 registered “walkers” helped raise an amazing \$22,752. Highmark underwrites the cost of the event, so 100% of the money we raised goes directly to Easterseals Eastern PA to help families in our community. Thank you for your generous support!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:

Pacesetter Sponsor \$2,500

Wawa

Trailblazer Sponsors \$1,000

Kriegman and Smith
Property Management

MassMutual SpecialCare

Finish Line Sponsors \$500

Herbein & Company, Inc.
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Stay the Course Sponsors \$250

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PromptCare Respiratory

Amy Nichols –
Thrivent Financial



You Have The Power To Change Lives And Create A Legacy

As a member of our Mary Cooper Legacy Society, you can affect the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families for years to come by including a gift to Easterseals Eastern PA as part of your estate plans. With just a few words in your will or trust, you can leave a legacy of love and hope to future generations. As a member, you will find yourself among a circle of friends who are committed to the mission of Easterseals, the value of philanthropy, and the future of the organization.

For more information, please contact Director of Advancement Ann Marie Surovy at asurovy@esep.org.

MAKE A GIFT

You may have noticed there is no giving envelope included with the newsletter. By eliminating the envelopes, we are reducing paper usage and saving money, but you can still make a gift! Go online to www.easterseals.com/esep, call 610-289-0114 x205 or send your gift to:

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



Guest Artist at Summer Camp

For a third year in a row, a grant from Crayola brought a guest artist to teach workshops to our summer camps, which were held online this year. Mike Tripaldi from The Art Nook conducted the workshops one day a week during five sessions of camp. Campers explored different mediums and techniques, like watercolor and metal tooling, while also learning about various artists. Each camper received an activity pack with reference materials and all the supplies needed to create a masterpiece.



1501 Lehigh Street, Suite 201
Allentown, PA 18103

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Story of Hope: MEET ZAI'DEN

Zai'Den loves to play! Whether he is outside on the playground or inside with his siblings, Zai'Den enjoys being able to participate in activities and enjoys exploring everything he sees. This was not always the case. When Zai'Den first began receiving Early Intervention services two years ago, he was ventilator-dependent and took no food or drink by mouth. He did not walk or speak, and he had significant oral and sensory aversions. Initially, he resisted participating in therapy, but with a lot of patience and persistence, he eventually bonded with his therapists and began looking forward to their visits.

Today, Zai'Den is walking up and down the stairs. He feeds himself and is able to participate in family meal times, much to the pleasure of his parents. He can actively play with his siblings and is developing the skills necessary to participate in household routines with his family and enter preschool with his peers. His mother states that is not something she thought he would do and credits Easterseals for making it happen. Zai'Den's story is one of true teamwork between his family, his nursing team and the therapists he works with through the many services he receives from Easterseals. His success is a result of his resilience and hard work, and the strong relationships built among his support team.