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# Access & Ability

*Increasing independence and maximizing opportunity*

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A publication of Easterseals Eastern Pennsylvania

SPRING 2022

## Introducing Dr. Mindy McCormick, President & CEO

The board of directors is pleased to introduce Dr. Mindy McCormick as Easterseals new President & CEO. Mindy is an energetic nonprofit executive and seasoned social services leader who brings a wealth of experience and a passion for positive change within local communities.

"The board is excited to welcome a leader with Mindy's experience and education into our agency to shape the future of Easterseals," said board chair, Bill Blumer. "We wanted a leader who could mobilize a thriving, innovative organization around a clear vision grounded in the desire to expand into new areas, develop innovative service models, and create partnerships with other stakeholders to meet the community's critical needs. Her background and experience make her uniquely suited to create and drive this vision."

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to join Easterseals Eastern Pennsylvania and lead this incredible organization into the future," says McCormick. "It is my passion to see everyone reach their fullest potential, from staff to consumers."

For over twenty years, Mindy has been a noteworthy leader in social work in the nonprofit sector. She joins Easterseals from The Salvation Army in Reading, where she did extensive work in Berks County and throughout Eastern Pennsylvania, developing and implementing programs to support families and individuals to



increase their stability and reach their goals. Multiple Salvation Army units across the country implemented her staff development training programs. Prior to the Salvation Army, Mindy worked as a Behavior Specialist Consultant for Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work with a minor in child psychology, a Master of Social Work, and a Doctor of Social Work with a focus on leadership and pedagogy from Kutztown University.

We look forward to providing opportunities for you to meet Mindy through formal events, meetings, and casual encounters during program activities.

# Autism Diagnostic Clinic designated a Cutting-Edge Practice

The Association for Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) has recognized our Autism Diagnostic Clinic (ADC) as



a cutting-edge practice for the early detection and intervention of autism. The designation shares the program design in AMCHP's Innovation HUB, an online platform providing resources to explore, build, and share best practices. Programs receive a designation of Cutting-Edge, Emerging, Promising, or Best, depending on the amount of evidence demonstrating the program's impact. We are currently working toward achieving the qualifications for emerging practice by the end of the year.

The ADC uses a virtual model with a psychologist and/or developmental nurse practitioner administering the evaluation via teleconference while guiding the parent through activities with the child in their home. Diagnosticians from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia or St. Christopher's Hospital for Children are also online to observe and collaborate with the Easterseals team to complete the intricate assessment. Families receive a same-day diagnosis.

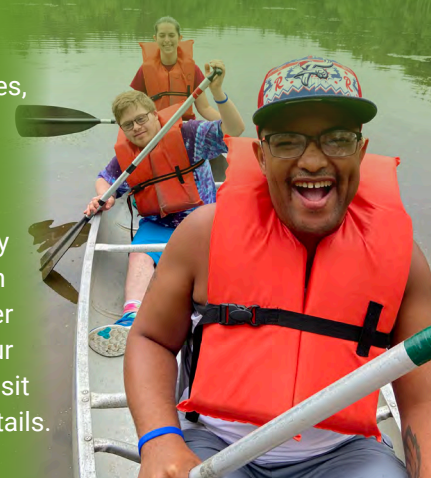
The ADC operates in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health with funding from a Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block grant.

## WILL WE SEE YOU AT CAMP THIS SUMMER?

We hope so! We are planning plenty of fun surprises, special guests, and engaging activities. Camp Lily-Lehigh Valley and Camp Lily-Berks are day camps offered in a series of one-week sessions for ages 8 through 21. Campers enjoy swimming, arts and crafts, sports, music, educational programs, and more.

Growing Green is our weeklong overnight camp held in the Pocono Mountains, where campers enjoy a beautiful woodland retreat while having fun with friends. Overnight camp provides incredible opportunities for growth and development in a safe environment staffed by our trained counselors. For campers age 10 to adult, Growing Green features environmentally focused activities, hiking, canoeing, arts & crafts, games, swimming, and campfires.

The 2022 camp season begins July 3 and runs through August 12. Register early to secure your choice of dates. Visit our website for details.



## Grants received from MacKenzie Scott gift

Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott made transformational gifts to 22 Easterseals affiliates and Easterseals National in December 2021. The national office is using a portion of the \$162 million it received to provide \$1 million dollars annually in matching grants to Easterseals affiliates that did not receive gifts directly from Ms. Scott.

Easterseals Eastern PA has applied for and received \$60,000 to match gifts secured from several individual donors. We are leveraging these gifts and other sources to strategically expand our community supports program, address the increased demand for screenings and support through Make the First Five Count, and strengthen service delivery by making key operational improvements.

**MAKE A GIFT**

**Every dollar makes a difference.**

You can be a partner in our mission through your gift. Go online [easterseals.com/eseq](https://easterseals.com/eseq), call 610-289-0114 x205 or send your gift to:

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



# WE DID IT! New giving campaign exceeds goal

# THANK YOU!



This winter, we launched a new annual giving campaign that combined a mailed appeal, peer-to-peer engagement, corporate sponsorships, mini fundraising events, and dedicated giving days to raise unrestricted funds to support and enhance our programs.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of community partners and donors, we exceeded our original fundraising goal of \$40,000 and raised an incredible \$69,149. The impact these funds will have on our mission and ability to support more families is truly something to celebrate!

The campaign theme “teamwork” recognized the families, caregivers, therapists, and staff that together support the 3,000 individuals with disabilities we serve annually. We are grateful to everyone whose enthusiasm and commitment to our work made this inaugural effort such a success. We look forward to the 2023 campaign and seeing how much more we can accomplish together!

## Create a brighter tomorrow for Easterseals families today



One way you can easily leave a lasting legacy is through planned giving. The process does not need to be complicated. With just a few words in your will or trust, you can provide a legacy of hope for future generations of families who turn to Easterseals Eastern PA for support in achieving new levels of independence.

By joining the Mary Cooper Legacy Society, you will positively impact the lives of children and adults working with Easterseals for years to come while providing for the long-term sustainability of the organization. Regardless of your age or wealth, now is the perfect time to help ensure that the future is secure for the people and organizations you cherish most. If you have already included Easterseals in your plans and have not notified us, please reach out so we can be sure to recognize you as part of this special group of legacy donors.

For more information, contact Ann Marie Surovy at [asurovy@esep.org](mailto:asurovy@esep.org) or 610-289-0114 x205.



1501 Lehigh Street, Suite 201  
Allentown, PA 18103



## MILESTONES MATTER

### *Should he be talking?*

Use our free resources to find out.  
<http://bit.do/EastersealsFirstFive>



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## *Meet Sahar!*

Sahar is an inquisitive, energetic child who is quick to learn. After she was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and a speech delay, Sahar's parents, Yasmin and Tony, were eager to find the supports she needed to be ready for kindergarten. Their relationship with Easterseals began with the ABA Therapy program, where they worked one-on-one with an ABA therapist to learn communication techniques and interventions to reduce challenging behaviors. Yasmin states, "It was like a gate that needed to open for us to make a difference in Sahar's life finally opened. With Easterseals, we felt like we found a place where we had backup and support. Sometimes as a parent, you don't know what to do for your child and there is nowhere to go for guidance. Easterseals is our place to go. We trust them because they are experts, and they know our daughter and they know what we are going through."

Sahar also received supplemental developmental support through Make the First Five Count while she was on the waiting list for speech therapy and occupational therapy.



This bridge program provides individualized learning sessions with a child development specialist so that valuable opportunities for growth are not lost while waiting for services. Through their experiences with Easterseals, Sahar's parents learned that they play a vital role in their daughter's development. The knowledge, skills and techniques they gained have empowered them to advocate for the best possible supports for their daughter and to seek out the right kind of providers for the journey.