

# MAKING A Difference

Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center

Spring/Summer 2016



Changing lives so all people with disabilities have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in our community.

## Telethon "final tote" on WEHT Local again tops \$1 million to fund therapy services!

Thanks to WEHT Local and exceptional community support, the 39th annual Easter Seals Telethon on April 10 achieved a record-setting "final tote" of \$1,047,592 to fund therapy.

Activities at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center included the popular cruise-in and cookout by the E'ville Iron Street Rod Club, games and clowns at the Valero fishbowl, and hundreds of volunteers and supporters. The broadcast featured interviews, check presentations, and compelling Easter Seals Representative videos created by *Direction by Newman* in cooperation with WEHT Local/Local 7 WTVW.

Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke recognized some of our organization's most generous supporters. He also proclaimed "Easter Seals Day" in honor of the Telethon and our 70th anniversary of serving the community.

For 39 consecutive years, WEHT has produced our annual show at no charge to the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center, so every dollar raised can fund life-changing therapy. **WEHT is the only station in the U.S. donating 100% of costs for a local Easter Seals Telethon!**

We are very grateful to the station management, hosts, production and news teams, and everyone at WEHT Local/Local 7 WTVW for telling our story. Since 1978, they have helped our Telethons raise over \$21 million!

We couldn't keep our promise—that no one is turned away due to inability to pay for therapy—without *all* of our sponsors, supporters and volunteers!

**THANK YOU for changing lives for children and adults with disabilities!** ■



Host Brad Byrd reveals a record-breaking "final tote" at the end of the 2016 Telethon

SAVE THE DATE!  
OPEN HOUSE!  
9/27/16  
5-7PM  
Easter Seals  
Rehab Center  
More info inside!



Kortney Blaylock of lead sponsor Old National Bank helps Child Rep Gracie Tucker announce the start of Cool Car, Cold Cash ticket sales.

## Change lives by entering "Cool Car, Cold Cash" and you could win a 2016 Nissan Versa or \$15,000!

You could win a 2016 Nissan Versa or \$15,000 cash in the Easter Seals "Cool Car, Cold Cash" Contest sponsored by Old National Bank. One \$5,000 2nd prize and one \$1,000 3rd prize will also be awarded. All proceeds will fund therapy for tri-state children and adults with disabilities. (INDIANA RAFFLE LICENSE NO. 140372)

Tickets are \$50 each or 3 for \$100. A maximum of 3,500 will be sold until noon July 7, prior to the drawing at 12:15 p.m. To buy tickets 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays:

- Call 812-474-2348 or 812-437-2607 to pay directly from your checking or savings account (NO credit or debit cards)
- Visit the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center to pay with cash, check, money order, or debit card (NO credit cards)

See page 3 for details on the grand prize car & a mail-in order form!

## **Easter Seals Milestones adds classrooms to serve additional infants and toddlers of all abilities.**

Easter Seals Milestones, our inclusive Child Development Center, will open new day care classrooms starting in July. This will allow us to provide early care and education for additional infants and toddlers of all abilities.

At Milestones, stimulating activities help children reach goals in all areas of early childhood development. The program is equipped to meet the needs of youngsters with varying abilities in a supportive, encouraging environment. Children of all abilities learn and grow together, which not only supports their academic growth, but allows them to develop an appreciation for diversity.

Our goal is to provide children with opportunities to prepare them for successful entry into kindergarten. Easter Seals Milestones is licensed by the State of Indiana. We are also an approved On My Way Pre-K site and have achieved Level 3 in Paths to Quality.

Milestones is located at 621 S. Cullen Avenue in Evansville. For more details on our openings for infants and toddlers, or to schedule a tour, call director Laura Lukens at 812-474-2244 or email her at llukens@evansvillerehab.com. ■

*Congratulations to these recent graduates of Easter Seals Milestones! Now they're ready for kindergarten!*



## Mark your calendar!

Details at EasterSealsSWIN on Facebook & Twitter & at EasterSealsSWIndiana.com

- **NOW THROUGH JULY 4TH AT 3PM: Bid on a highly collectible 1974 Mercedes 240D at D-Patrick, 150 N. Green River Rd., Evansville.** High bidder receives this freshly-detailed classic in excellent condition, donated for auction by a generous Easter Seals supporter. Proceeds will fund therapy services! Minimum bid \$4,500, bids must be in \$250 increments & are accepted only at D-Patrick during regular business
- **JULY 7: "Cool Car, Cold Cash" Drawing.** Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center, 12:15 p.m. Details on page 1 & 3! Call 812-474-2348 NOW to buy tickets using your checking or savings account (\$50 each or 3 for \$100)!
- **AUGUST, TBD: Tri-State Speedway's "Racing for Easter Seals."** Haubstadt, IN, near Hwy. 41. 7:30 pm (hot laps 6:30). At intermission, drivers will collect donations for Easter Seals. Watch for the date announcement at EasterSealsSWIN on Facebook and Twitter!
- **AUGUST 26-28: E'ville Iron Street Rod Club "Frog Follies."** Vanderburgh Co. 4-H Center. Fri.-Sat. 8 am-4:30 pm, Sun. 8 am-2 pm. \$5 per person (kids under 12 free). Thousands of pre-1948 street rods, craft show, swap meet & concession stands. **Enter the half-pot raffle at the Easter Seals tent.** E'ville Iron generously donates a portion of proceeds to Easter Seals. Details at [frogfollies.org](http://frogfollies.org).
- **SEPTEMBER 22: Wesselman's Supermarkets "Golfing Fore Kids" - NEW LOCATION!** Cambridge Golf Course, Evansville. Shotgun starts 7:30 am & 1:00 pm. Awards dinner 6 pm. Register through Aug. 19 to play. Contact Beth Poe, 812-474-2348.
- **SEPTEMBER 24, 9AM-4PM, WITH 2PM AUCTION OF RESTORED 1970 MGB TO BENEFIT EASTER SEALS: SIR Brit's British Motor Car Day on the River, Newburgh's Old Lock & Dam Park.** Enjoy the show of all British cars & motorcycles - free for spectators - & participate in the auction at 2pm. Visit <http://sirbrit.blogspot.com/> for latest status of the MGB restoration!

## Holiday World hosts 24th Play Day.

May 11 was a special day for around 3,000 area children with disabilities, their teachers and chaperones—it was Play Day at Holiday World! During the annual event, the park opens *only* for kids with special needs and their school groups. **Holiday World provides a substantial ticket discount to make Play Day affordable for schools, and the park generously donates all admission fees to Easter Seals!**

This year, Holiday World's gift of approximately \$34,000 will fund therapy services and ongoing improvements to fully accessible playgrounds at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center and Milestones.

Work is now in progress on projects funded by last year's event. Those renovations will be completed this summer at our therapeutic preschool play area, called "Will's Way" playground in memory of former Holiday World & Splashin' Safari President Will Koch. Will was the driving force behind the park's commitment to Play Day. Since the first event in 1993, Holiday World has donated nearly \$404,600 in proceeds to Easter Seals!

The limited number of visitors on Play Day allows Holiday World staff to give extra attention and



Ethan M. (center) of Henderson KY thanks Holiday World's Matt Eckert, Leah Koch, Lauren Koch Crosby & Lori Koch (l. to r.) for hosting Play Day.

assistance to their young guests. Area schools receive a Play Day "save the date" mailing from Easter Seals in February, followed by ticket order forms in the spring. **If a tri-state school has not received Play Day mailings from Easter Seals in the past, a teacher or principal may contact Caylee Elpers at 812-437-2607 or [celpers@evansvillerehab.com](mailto:celpers@evansvillerehab.com) to be added to the 2017 mailing list.** ■

**Order "Cool Car, Cold Cash" tickets by mail using the form below. You could WIN a new Nissan Versa or \$15,000... \$5,000... or \$1,000!**  
See page 1 for more ways to enter!

The public is invited to the "Cool Car, Cold Cash" drawing at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center at 12:15 p.m. on July 7. Entrants do NOT have to be present to win. Sponsors of "Cool Car, Cold Cash" are **Old National Bank, Kemper CPA Group, D-Patrick Nissan, Evansville Courier & Press, WEHT Local/Local 7 WTVW, DUKE FM and HOT 96.**

### Grand Prize vehicle features include

- Chrome-accented grille & outside door handles
- Key with remote keyless entry
- Power door locks with auto-locking features
- Power windows with driver's 1-touch auto-down feature
- 60-40 split fold-down rear seats
- 15" steel wheels with full wheel covers
- Driver & front passenger side impact & curtain air bags
- Cruise control
- Bluetooth/XM
- Hands-free phone system
- 6-way manual driver's seat
- Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)
- Traction Control System (TCS)
- AM/FM/CD/Aux-in audio system with 4 speakers & USB/iPod control



IN RAFFLE  
LICENSE 140372  
Complete rules at  
[EasterSealsSWIndiana.com](http://EasterSealsSWIndiana.com)

**TO ENTER BY MAIL:** Send this completed form **by July 5** to Easter Seals, 3701 Bellemeade Ave., Evansville, IN 47714-0136. Enclose check or money order payable to Easter Seals. \$50 per ticket or 3 for \$100. Must be at least 18 to enter. INDIANA LICENSE #140372

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Congratulations Nancy Hughes!

We congratulate our volunteer Nancy Hughes, our Easter Seals "Angel," on her "Celebration of Leadership" Award at Leadership Evansville's 2016 event. Nancy was the winner of the Individual award in the Health/Social Services category. Very well-deserved, Nancy! You make an amazing difference for Easter Seals every single day! Thank you!



## Share your time and talents!

The Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center relies on volunteers throughout the year. If you are interested in any of these upcoming volunteer opportunities or have any questions, please contact Kandace Encarnacion at 812-437-2609 or [kencarnacion@evansvillerehab.com](mailto:kencarnacion@evansvillerehab.com).

**E'ville Iron Frog Follies, Fri.-Sun., August 26-28** at Vanderburgh County 4-H Center: Volunteers are needed for daytime shifts at concession stands, t-shirt booths, and to sell tickets at the Easter Seals half-pot tent.

**Easter Seals "Angels," Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.:** At various times throughout the year, Easter Seals needs daytime office volunteers to help label and stuff envelopes, prepare mailings, etc.

## *Ethan works to reach goals for school, sports, and life.*

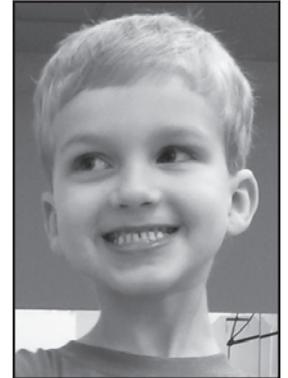
Ethan M. was still an infant when his parents realized he was falling behind developmentally. As other babies learned to smile, grasp objects, roll over, and crawl, Ethan struggled to make progress.

Ethan's parents knew where to turn for help. His older brother had delays, too, and he had made great progress at a special place—the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center in Evansville.

Ethan started therapy before his first birthday and is now 4 years old. His mom Jessica brings him to the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center twice a week. She said it's well worth the drive from their home in Henderson, KY. **"They have the knowledge and the equipment we couldn't find anywhere else,"** Jessica said. **"And everyone really cares. We form relationships with our therapists here."**

In addition to developmental delays, Ethan also has sensory issues that can make it difficult for him to complete tasks. Easter Seals therapists have helped Ethan reach many goals, from playing with toys and using markers to walking independently.

As he prepares to enter school, therapy focuses on new goals, like building strength, climbing stairs without help, running and jumping without falling, and Ethan's favorite—learning skills he'll need to play soccer! ■



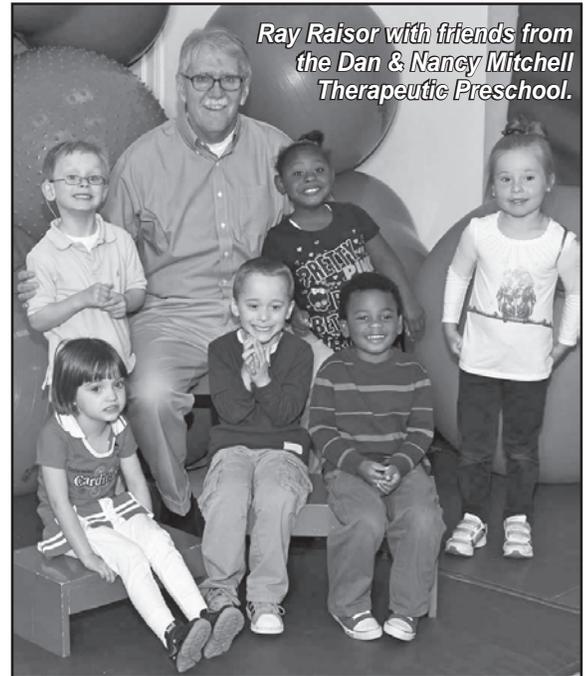
*Each week, Ethan works with his Easter Seals Physical Therapist Kristin Forrest on balance, coordination, core strength, and walking.*

## Retired president Ray Raisor honored at Tribute Dinner.

Ray Raisor retired in May 2015 after nearly 34 years as president of the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. More than 260 friends, family members and supporters gathered at the 2016 Tribute Dinner on June 8th to recognize Ray for his positive impact on Easter Seals and our community.

Under Ray's leadership, the range of programs available for local individuals with disabilities increased dramatically. Inclusive child care, aquatic therapy, supervised group living, and assistive technology were all introduced during his tenure. The organization grew from 33 employees and an annual budget of \$750,000 in 1982, to 341 employees and an annual budget of \$17.5 million last year.

At the Tribute Dinner, a video feature produced by WEHT Local/Local 7 WTVW celebrated Ray and his achievements. He received the annual "Changing Lives" Award and became the first recipient of the new "Ray Raisor 'Spirit of Innovation and Impact' Award." In the future, the award bearing Ray's name will honor staff members for exceptional ideas and actions that significantly impact the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center and the people we serve. ■



*Ray Raisor with friends from the Dan & Nancy Mitchell Therapeutic Preschool.*

*Open house will reveal completed "Ensure the Future" projects and more...*

**Join us September 27 to see what's new, thanks to you!**

**SAVE THE DATE!  
OPEN HOUSE!  
Tue., Sept. 27, 5-7 p.m.**

**Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center  
3701 Bellemeade Ave., Evansville, IN 47714**

- Help us celebrate the 70th anniversary of our local Easter Seals! Refreshments & give-aways!
- Tour our renovated facility made possible by generous donors to our "Ensure the Future" capital campaign.
- Catch the excitement as we unveil the new, revitalized look of Easter Seals.

**See you there!**

The community is invited to an open house at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center Tuesday, September 27, 5-7 p.m. Join us to see how your generous support of our recent "Ensure the Future" capital campaign has transformed our facility! The updates and renovations are truly ensuring a brighter future for thousands of local individuals with disabilities who will benefit for decades to come.

The open house is also an opportunity to mark Easter Seals' 70th anniversary of serving our local area. In 1946, a group of concerned citizens formed an organization to help children with disabilities receive the equipment and care they needed. That effort grew into Easter Seals and led to the construction of the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center in 1957.

We will also reveal a whole new look for Easter Seals at the open house. Be among the first to see how we're refreshing our "brand" - just in time to highlight all the other exciting changes at the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center! ■



**Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center**

3701 Bellemeade Avenue  
Evansville, Indiana 47714-0136

*Changing lives so children and adults  
with disabilities have equal opportunities  
to live, learn, work and play.*

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Permit No. 1953

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# Difference MAKING A

## ***Dan & Nancy Mitchell Therapeutic Preschool welcomes kids of all abilities, announces openings for coming school year.***

The Dan & Nancy Mitchell Therapeutic Preschool helps 3-to-5-year-olds of all abilities achieve their greatest potential and enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed.

Our preschool is best known for working with children who have disabilities or delays. Did you know we also welcome students without disabilities? Including "typically developing" preschoolers benefits all kids, as they learn, play and grow together.

**We currently have spots available for children, age 3-5, with typically-developing skills to join us for the coming school year.** For information on these openings for classes starting in August, contact Vice President of Early Childhood Services Laurie Seals, 812-474-2244 or [Lseals@evansvillerehab.com](mailto:Lseals@evansvillerehab.com). ■



**Win a new Nissan Versa or \$15,000!**  
2nd Place \$5,000  
3rd Place \$1,000

Enter "Cool Car, Cold Cash" at  
**812-474-2348**  
**812-437-2607**

**Deadline NOON JULY 7**

\$50 per ticket, or 3 for \$100

Max. of 3,500 tickets available

**DETAILS INSIDE!**

