

Thank you for sharing our vision: A community
in which all individuals and families are accepted,
valued and included, and have equal opportunity to
achieve their goals, dreams and aspirations.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Fall 2020

Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights will shine!



Nov. 26-Jan. 1
MORE ON PAGE 3

Get inspired with "Inspiration Through Art!"

Are you visiting the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center to receive services? While you're there, check out artwork by local artists of all abilities! The current exhibit is on display in the main hallway through Dec. 16, M-F, 8am-5pm. Want to be a part of future exhibits? There's no cost to submit! Please email art@evansvillerehab.com and find out how to submit YOUR art for the spring 2021 display!



You're giving Addie the gifts of communication and confidence!

Andrew and Andrea Backes happily welcomed their first baby, Addie, in 2015. As they prepared to take her home from the hospital, they learned that Addie had failed her routine newborn hearing test. It was a scary time for the new parents. **Thanks to YOUR support, Easterseals entered their lives right away, bringing hope, help, and answers.**

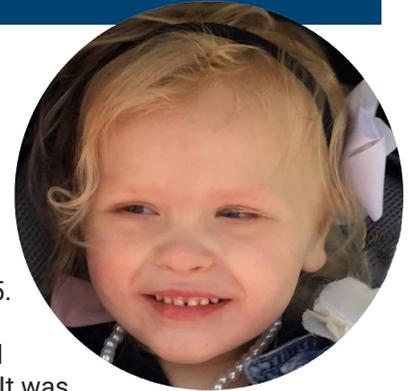
"We were told how lucky we were to have Easterseals in our hometown," Andrea said, "and that audiology services are not readily available in all cities in Indiana." **Because of generosity like YOURS, Addie's family found the help they needed right here!**

Addie was diagnosed with bilateral hearing loss. Her Easterseals audiologist identified a device to help Addie hear and understand, but the family's insurance company denied the request. Easterseals provided Addie with a loaner device and worked diligently to find a source that helped the family obtain Addie's essential equipment.

With her own hearing aid, Addie's progress took off! Her new device has Bluetooth capabilities and a microphone that her preschool teachers wear. "We received immediate feedback from her school that she was like a totally different child," said Andrea. "She was so much more engaged, social, present – they described her device as a game changer."

Now four-year-old Addie is thriving with therapy, both in person and via telehealth (during pandemic health precautions). "Addie has crossed so many milestones," Andrea said. "She confidently communicates verbally and is starting to speak in full sentences. Her performance in school and social settings has also improved. The biggest accomplishment is her confidence. Every week she's progressing, and with every goal hit, she gains more confidence!"

Andrew said, "No one ever plans to need an organization like Easterseals. But if you do, you will be overwhelmed with the care and compassion they provide. **THANK YOU to everyone who supports the mission. We are so grateful!**"



Addie had fun working on goals in teletherapy, which she referred to as "conference calls".

“We’re doing things differently” – an update on 2020.

At the Easterseals Tribute event in August, I said that 2020 is synonymous with – “We’re doing things differently.” This mantra continues through month six of the shut-down and phased reopening. We’ve just started a new fiscal year (September 1st) and I’d like to share a few updates with you about how the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center continues to adjust.



Kelly Schneider

- Staff in all programs are focused on protecting everyone and have been careful about wearing masks and following safety precautions. To date, we have had no known incidents of staff-to-staff, staff-to-client or client-to-staff transmissions of COVID-19. I am appreciative of everyone for making this a priority.
- Fortunately revenue from services is creeping nearer to pre-COVID levels in some programs after significant losses in 2020. Expenses have leveled to near-pre-COVID levels, with some increases in cleaning supplies and costs for additional screening and cleaning.
- The Easterseals Early Learning Center is running at full capacity and providing services to 170 children (ages 0-5) of differing abilities.
- Residential programs (Group Homes and Community Living Services) continue to operate 24/7 and are protecting the people they serve.
- Therapies (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech/Language Pathology, Psychology Services, and Audiology Services) are being provided in full force with about 75% of clients now receiving services face-to-face. Tele-health is still an option for people who choose it.
- Enrollment at Easterseals Posey County for Easterseals Employment Services has increased in the last few months, with about 2/3 of clients served returning to work.
- Assistive Technology Solutions is back to full capacity and taking referrals for wheelchair seating and mobility, other adaptive equipment, drivers’ rehabilitation, and home and worksite modification assessments.
- Fundraising for the year is down about \$200,000, which is better than some of our earlier projections, and the three most recent fundraising events met or slightly exceeded budget. We are excited to see this stabilize. This shows the commitment and support of this great community.

As we start the new fiscal year, what are our biggest challenges?

- Like all of you, we are consistently challenged with re-thinking everything we do to fit our current reality. Implementing fundraisers in an environment of social distancing takes a lot of finagling. We want to see our supporters face-to-face to best show our appreciation and we have to keep finding new and creative ways to share our mission and say thank you.
- Staffing, particularly in our direct support staff positions, is an ongoing challenge. Staff are needed to provide support in our nine group homes, in apartment settings, in early care and education, adult day services, and employment services. If interested, visit www.EastersealsRehabCenter.com/who-we-are/careers-at-easterseals or call Kieu Tran at 812-479-1411.
- Likewise, we have openings for clients in group home and apartment settings. With the state shut-down, referrals for these programs slowed significantly, and we know there are people out there who need these services. Contact Christy Gogel at 812-437-2646 or Suzanne Ailstock at 812-437-2647 for more information.

We are optimistic that things are on the right track and, despite many unknowns, we continue to work through them while focusing on providing services to empower people with disabilities to be even more independent and to reach their goals and dreams. Thank you for helping us address this passion, which we know you share, through your continued support.

Kelly Schneider
President/CEO



The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center’s **MISSION** is to make profound, positive differences in the lives of local people with disabilities every day, and to change the way our community defines and views disability.

OUR **VISION** is a community in which all individuals and families are accepted, valued and included, and have equal opportunity to achieve their goals, dreams and aspirations.

Connect with us!

eastersealsrehabcenter.com • P 812.479.1411 • F 812.437.2634



Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights will shine!

Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights returns from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day (Nov. 26-Jan. 1) and this cherished community tradition is the perfect event for festive family fun—just when you need it the most! Drive through Evansville's Garvin Park with your loved ones to enjoy more than 60 elaborate scenes in a "magical mile" of holiday lights. This year's show will shine brighter than ever, with 3/4 of the exhibits transformed with LED lights! You'll make holiday memories and *change lives* for local children and adults living with disabilities who are served by the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center! ~~Closed to vehicles on Dec. 2.~~



Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights - Nov. 26-Jan. 1



Sun.-Thur. 5-9PM • Fri.-Sat. 5-10PM
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 5-10PM
~~Closed to vehicles Dec. 2~~

Choose how to get your tickets!

- **NEW!!!** In advance at bidpal.net/ritzysfol
- In advance at any Evansville Ritzzy's or the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center
- At the admission booth during event hours

Still the same affordable admission per vehicle!

- Up to 6 people - \$7
- 7-14 people - \$10
- 15 people or more - \$25

Discounted tickets available in quantities of 50 or more for as little as \$4 each, depending on quantity! Great gifts and greeting card enclosures! Contact Carolyn Franklin, 812.437.2607 or cfranklin@evansvillerehab.com.

Carriage Rides

Horse-drawn carriage rides nightly, weather permitting (~~except Dec. 2~~). \$30 for up to 6 people. Kids 5 & under free. *No reservations or online ticketing for carriage rides.* Gift certificates available by calling 812.437.2607. Follow [EastersealsRehabCtr](#) on Facebook for updates!



Volunteer on Nov. 7!

Have you ever wondered what it's like to set up Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights? **This year, you can help!** SIGN UP IN ADVANCE to volunteer Saturday, Nov. 7, as we re-bulb light displays in Garvin Park. Help Easterseals make this cherished community event shine even brighter! Sign up online at signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4cada82aa5fdcf8-fantasy or contact Cydney Quinn, cquinn@evansvillerehab.com, 812-437-2609.

Many thanks to all Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights display sponsors, volunteers, and major sponsors:

Ritzzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Teamsters Local 215, Electrical JATC, IUPAT Local 156, ABC 25/CW 7, 104.1FM-WIKY, HOT 96, 93.5 The Lloyd, 107.5 WABX, Evansville Living
Special thanks to the EVANSVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION for their exceptional support!

One night only!
WALK-THROUGH NIGHT ONLY IS CANCELED DUE TO LOCAL COVID-19 HEALTH RESTRICTIONS. DRIVE THROUGH ANY NIGHT NOV. 26-JAN. 1!

Special thanks to volunteer walk director Rhonda Trail!

Thank you, ABC 25/CW 7

"The show must go on" when individuals with disabilities are relying on Easterseals to fund therapy services! The 2020 Telethon was postponed from April due to pandemic restrictions, so our friends at ABC 25/CW 7 got creative! Thanks to their determination, generosity and hard work, a two-hour "virtual" Telethon aired at no cost to Easterseals on July 19. Eyewitness News anchors Brad Byrd and Shelley Kirk hosted from the studio, conducting interviews of clients and staff via Skype! Easterseals thanks ABC 25/CW 7, Telethon sponsors, and donors!

POT OF DOUGH FUNDRAISER

PLEASE PRESENT THIS CODE TO CASHIER AT TIME OF PURCHASE.

FOR ONLINE ORDERS, ENTER CODE BELOW IN PROMO CODE BOX AT CHECKOUT.

5% FUNDRAISER EVERYDAY

CHANCE AT \$10K GRAND PRIZE!

AZZIP PIZZA

GOOD THROUGH 11/30/20

Azzip Pizza's Pot of Dough Fundraiser

is in progress through Nov. 30! Use our bar code when you get Azzip at any area location, or enter EASTERSEALS in the promo box on their web site. Easterseals gets 5% of your total! **The donation rises to 20% Oct. 19-21!** Easterseals will also be entered to win \$10,000!

Your holiday shopping can help Easterseals change lives! Here's how!

- **Amazon Smile** donates 0.5% of your purchases to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center when you shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1087526. Or shop with your phone! After joining AmazonSmile and choosing "Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center" as your charity, **download the Amazon Shopping app**, find "settings", tap on AmazonSmile, and follow the instructions.
- **Zeidler's "Helping Hands"**—Zeidler's Flowers, Garden & Gifts donates \$2 to Easterseals when you order at zeidlers.com, select the "Helping Hands" pull-down menu & choose Easterseals. OR just mention "Code ESRC" when ordering in person or at 812-421-1234.
- **Participate in the Schnucks Rewards Program** and up to 3% of your bill can be donated to Easterseals! **Just download the Schnucks app and sign up for Rewards.** When you earn Rewards points by shopping, choose to donate yours to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center!

Share our "Passion for Fashion" and make a difference Nov. 12!

Reserve your virtual seat for the Easterseals "Passion for Fashion - Beautiful You" style show on Thur., Nov. 12. Join emcee Shelley Kirk and *change lives* for local people with disabilities!

Each "seat" at this year's virtual event receives a \$15 gift certificate for Acropolis, your copy of the printed program, access to the online auction on OneCause, and a link to enjoy the show, featuring gorgeous fashions from **The Graceful Lady and Graceful Lady Glam!** Special thanks to ABC 25/CW 7 for filming the event, ensuring that the show will be as beautiful as the community models and their outfits!

For details and to RSVP, contact Laura Terhune at 812-573-1083 or LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com. View and bid on a variety of silent auction items at bidpal.net/style, where you'll find great gift ideas!

- Individual: \$50
- Friend: \$75
- Patron: \$100
- Sponsor Table for 8: \$500
- *Sponsor Table for 8: \$650
- *Presidents' Council: \$1,000
- *Includes complimentary half-page ad and listing in printed program*



Donate \$25 and receive a \$25 Diamond Galleria gift card plus one chance to win a \$1,000 gift card!

Here's another fun way to make a difference. **Donate \$25 today and receive a \$25 unrestricted Diamond Galleria gift card from Easterseals!** Use your gift card on your next shopping trip, *knowing your \$25 is helping a child say her first words or take his first steps!* **PLUS you're eligible to win a \$1,000 unrestricted gift card from The Diamond Galleria!** *Donate \$50 to double your gift and underwrite one therapy session!*

The \$1,000 gift card drawing will take place after the Nov. 12th "Passion for Fashion" show. **Only 150 of the \$25 gift cards are available, so hurry and get yours WHILE THEY LAST!** Follow @EastersealsRehabCtr on Facebook for details and updates. Maximum of four \$25 gift cards per person. Use the mail-in form below or contact Laura Terhune at LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com or 812-573-1083.

TO DONATE & ORDER GIFT CARDS BY MAIL: Send completed form to be RECEIVED BEFORE NOV. 12 to Easterseals, 3701 Bellemeade, Evansville IN 47714. Include credit/debit information or check payable to Easterseals. For each \$25 donation, receive 1 \$25 Diamond Galleria gift card & 1 entry in the \$1,000 gift card drawing! *Give \$50 to fund 1 therapy session & receive 2 gift cards & 2 entries!* Maximum of four \$25 gift cards per person.

Name _____ Total donation (\$25 per gift card) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (Cell) _____

Email _____

Visa/MC/Discover Card No. _____ Expires _____

Meet two more exceptional Leadership Team members!

In the 2019 donor survey, there were several comments telling us that you don't know the current leadership of the organization. I have been using this newsletter to spotlight various members of the Easterseals leadership team. I am excited to introduce you to two more of them: Laurie Seals, Vice President of Early Childhood Services, and Chris Imes, Vice President of Easterseals Posey County. – Kelly Schneider, President/CEO.

Laurie Seals has been with Easterseals since 2015 as Vice President of Early Childhood Services. She oversees the Early Learning Center at 621 S. Cullen, which serves more than 200 children each year. It includes the Dan & Nancy Mitchell Therapeutic Preschool (EVSC program for children age 3-5), Milestones Early Care & Education (kids of all abilities 6 weeks-3 years) and LEAD Academy (preschool for all abilities, 30 months-6 years).

Laurie has been instrumental in many projects, including pursuing NAEYC accreditation, consolidating all early learning programs under one roof, developing the "Golf Gives Back" Art Enrichment Program and Toyota "Full STEAM Ahead" curriculum, implementing new curriculum guidelines, and developing strong family engagement programs. In total Laurie is responsible for the work of 60 full-time and four part-time staff.

Laurie holds a BS degree in Early Childhood Education and is originally from the Knoxville, TN area. Before joining Easterseals, she was a Developmental Therapist for First Steps programs, a preschool teacher for Head Start, and Director of other early learning programs. She has over 30 years of experience working in this field in Tennessee, Virginia and Indiana. Laurie's experience and leadership ensures that children of all abilities, from varying backgrounds, receive the highest-level quality early childhood education available.

Chris Imes began his career with Easterseals in 2015 as Vice President of Easterseals Posey County, our employment services division serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This includes Horizon Industries in Mt. Vernon, a facility-based employment program for approximately 45 individuals, and Easterseals Employment Services, providing community-based employment supports for approximately 55 adults in various southwestern Indiana counties. Chris also manages CARF accreditation of Employment Services and played a key role in our Safety and Compliance Programs.

Chris is an Evansville area native and holds an MA degree in Family Life Science. His previous work experience includes positions as Director of Christian Education at churches and schools in Illinois and Arizona. Chris oversees 13 employees. Collectively their work provides training and support for people in work settings, allowing them to be more independent and improve their ability to be self-sufficient.



Laurie Seals



Chris Imes

Especially this year, your year-end gift makes a huge difference!

The year 2020 continues to be a challenging time for almost everyone. **The difficulties are magnified for many local children, adults and families who are living with disabilities.** Many are dealing with additional financial burdens, as you might expect. But they also face other unique challenges.

- How does a child with developmental delays learn to speak or walk or write during times of social distancing?
- When interactions are limited, how can an adult who had a stroke receive custom equipment to function independently at home?
- How does a child with autism cope with increased anxiety over changing routines?
- How can a preschooler with complex medical conditions continue learning safely?

The answer to these questions is the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, its many life-changing programs, and YOU!

Easterseals has been here for these individuals and thousands of others throughout the pandemic. Meeting their needs in new ways during unique times has been challenging. Expenses rose by over \$100,000 in 2020, while program revenues dropped by over \$200,000, and fundraising revenue is down by almost \$200,000 due to cancelled events and reduced donations.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED so Easterseals can continue serving individuals and families for the rest of 2020 and beyond. **Will you join in our mission by making a year-end donation before Dec. 31?** Your gift has never been more important than it is right now, and **YOU WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IMMEDIATELY.**

You have the opportunity to benefit, too, thanks to 2020 stimulus deductions in effect through Dec. 31. Ask your financial professional how these tax changes apply to your own situation:

- For the rest of 2020, a donor may deduct up to \$300 as a charitable deduction, whether or not they itemize.
- Previously, an individual could deduct up to 60% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for charitable deductions of cash. For the year 2020, the stimulus increases that amount to up to 100% of AGI.

You may give securely online at EastersealsRehabCenter.com, mail your donation using the enclosed envelope, or contact Laura Terhune, V.P. of Development, at 812.573.1083 or LTerhune@evansvillerehab.com. Thank you in advance! **Local people living with disabilities are counting on us, and we are STRONGER TOGETHER!**



Easterseals Rehabilitation Center
 3701 Bellemeade Avenue
 Evansville, Indiana 47714-0136
 P 812.479.1411 • F 812.437.2634
 eastersealsrehabcenter.com

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Evansville, Indiana
 Permit No. 1953

Easterseals Psychology & Wellness grows to meet needs of area children and families, welcoming new Interns and the program’s first Postdoctoral Fellows.



Easterseals Clinical & Developmental Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows are (top l.to r.) Brooke Frazer, Ph.D., and Lasheka Allen, Ph.D. They are joined by Clinical Psychology Interns (bottom l. to r.) Ayanna Peake and Amelia Chase-Wise.

In a year of challenges, when mental health services are more important than ever, the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center continues expanding the capacity of its Department of Psychology & Wellness.

The program’s inaugural class of Clinical Psychology Interns graduated in the summer. This year’s Interns, **Ayanna Peake** and **Amelia Chase-Wise**, began their training on July 1. During its first year, the Internship program significantly increased the number of families receiving services, reduced wait times for appointments, and earned accreditation from the American Psychological Association.

Easterseals also recently introduced its new Clinical & Developmental Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship. Fellows have previously earned a doctorate in psychology and are pursuing an additional year of advanced training. **Dr. Brooke Frazer** and **Dr. Lasheka Allen**, the first individuals selected as Fellows, will enable Easterseals to *change lives* for even more children and families.

In another enhancement to the program, four second year psychiatry residents from IU School of Medicine will participate in rotations at Easterseals this year.

The Department of Psychology & Wellness offers a wide range of services, including thorough evaluation, comprehensive assessment, and research-supported therapy. A physician referral is required. For more information, call the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center at 812.479.1411.

Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights will shine!



**Advance tickets online!
 DETAILS INSIDE!**