

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Fall 2021

Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights shines bigger & brighter!



Nov. 25-Jan. 1
MORE DETAILS INSIDE!

Special thanks!

Thanks to everyone who made the 2021 Easterseals Golfing Fore Kids sponsored by Winkler a big success! Nearly \$53,000 was raised for therapy services. Special thanks to our friends at Winkler for supporting this event from the beginning. We are nearing \$1 million dollars raised over 22 years and expect to exceed that milestone in 2022!



Sponsored by



(parent company of Wesselman's and Holiday Foods)

Mobility independence empowers Matt to achieve his own goals.



Matt Hartz

We all want the ability to go where we want, when we want, without relying on other people for assistance. Mobility independence empowers individuals to reach their own goals at work, home, school, and in the community.

"Customizing wheelchairs to meet an individual's unique requirements can really transform their level of independence," said Rusty Schimmell, Vice President of Assistive Technology Solutions at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. "Easterseals can meet virtually any need. It all depends on what that particular person wants to accomplish, and what equipment can empower them to achieve it."

Matt Hartz of Evansville knew Easterseals was the place to go when he faced a new mobility challenge. "I've received services there my whole life," he said. Matt has cerebral palsy and usually gets around efficiently with his manual wheelchair. But it was difficult to maneuver on thick carpeting at his job. It was especially tough when Matt needed to carry items in one hand and propel his chair with the other.

Rusty assessed Matt's needs and recommended a high-tech attachment that temporarily transforms his wheelchair from manual to power-assist operation. Now Matt can propel his chair farther and faster with much less effort! It makes his job easier, and it also enables Matt to fully participate in family activities. It made a big difference during summer visits to Holiday World and Mesker Park Zoo.

Each person's situation and goals are different, and so are the solutions. To learn more, call 812.492.0659, email rschimmell@evansvillerehab.com, or visit "Our Programs" at eastersealsrehabcenter.com.



Rusty Schimmell

Reflections on an anniversary year of challenges, determination and resilience – with many reasons to celebrate!

It's hard to believe that 2021 is nearly over.

With the surge of the Delta variant of COVID-19, the year hasn't progressed as we had hoped and put a damper on celebrations of Easterseals' 75th anniversary locally. Despite the new challenges, there's a lot to celebrate: We helped more than 5,000 clients who made 35,000-plus visits for physical and occupational therapy, audiology, speech and psychology services. We provided thousands of days of support in group homes, community living services, day services, work center and community employment, and much, much more.

We're proud that families we serve have received the supports they need to be more independent and achieve their goals and dreams. Especially noteworthy is the continuation of programs in our Easterseals Early Learning Center. The staff and leadership there worked very hard to be sure those services NEVER CLOSED throughout 2020 and 2021, allowing parents to continue working, knowing their young children were in a safe, educationally rich environment.

As I reflected on this year and the history of Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, I realized that we have truly come full circle since 1946. That year, Evansville leaders came together to create a rehabilitative services facility, largely in response to a polio pandemic ravaging the country at the time. Thus, our organization was born. Perhaps that start provided a foundation of resilience and determination that has served us well during the current pandemic.

Clearly, the leadership and support from this community has been the key to our success for the last 75 years. For that I thank you and I celebrate each and every one of you! Happy 75th Anniversary! ●



Kelly Schneider

Kelly Schneider, President/CEO

Congratulations, Melissa Market!

Congratulations to Easterseals Rehabilitation Center Group Home Coordinator Melissa Market for a well-deserved honor. Melissa recently received the 2021 Pinnacle Award from INARF, the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities!



The annual award recognizes the state's outstanding professional level staff member employed by an INARF member organization.

Melissa began her Easterseals career in 1990 as a Group Home Direct Support Professional. She had found her passion! She advanced to assistant manager, manager, and coordinator. Her dedication has touched the lives of many residents and inspired many colleagues.

Melissa embodies the qualities the Pinnacle Award honors: Commitment to the mission and vision of her organization, excellence in motivating others to make a difference, and creativity in supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. THANK YOU, MELISSA, for living the Easterseals mission every single day! ●

- 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.

let's connect!

812.479.1411

www.eastersealsrehabcenter.com
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instagram.com/eastersealsrehabctr



youtube.com/user/EasterSealsSWIN1

Empowering Jackson to achieve his dreams...

Jackson Schultheis doesn't give up when things get tough. **With your help**, Easterseals empowers this determined 3-year-old from Evansville to keep working hard toward independence!



Jackson has a rare neuromuscular condition called Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2. Just four weeks after he was born, hospitals began testing newborns for SMA, but Jackson's condition went undiagnosed at that critical time. His muscles began to atrophy and his family fought for answers. After a long battle, Jackson finally began receiving innovative treatment to stop the progression of SMA.



Jackson Schultheis works hard in therapy with Easterseals Physical Therapist Kaylan Seng.

It was just the beginning of the hard work for Jackson. He's been tackling most tasks by scooting or rolling on the floor because he is unable to stand, walk, or get in and out of his wheelchair on his own. With Easterseals therapy, things are changing!

Jackson is building strength and endurance. He's learning to use muscles in his arms and legs. He's learning to crawl. And he's working very hard to transfer in and out of his wheelchair independently! **"Jackson has made gains I never thought I would see in my lifetime,"** said his mom Elissa. "I firmly believe my son's care team at Easterseals are angels on earth, and I will never be able to express how eternally grateful I am."

Easterseals supporters are crucial members of the team! Many thanks for everything you do to make essential services possible for Tri-State children and adults with disabilities. ●

Make a life-changing difference with a year-end gift.

While 2021 has brought hope for brighter days, many of our friends and neighbors are still facing the ups and downs of uncertain times. This continues to be a difficult period for many Tri-State children, adults and families affected by disability, who often face added financial burdens along with other unique challenges:

- How does a child with disabilities learn to speak, walk or write in times of social distancing?
- How can a preschooler with complex medical conditions learn and thrive alongside their classmates?
- When an adult who had a stroke is limiting contacts for health reasons, how can they receive custom equipment to live independently?
- How does a child with autism cope with increased anxiety when rules and routines keep changing?

The answer is the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, its many life-changing programs, and YOU! Easterseals has honored its commitment to be here for thousands of individuals during these difficult times. It has been challenging to meet changing needs in new ways. Expenses rose while program revenues dropped, and fundraising revenue continues to suffer due to all the uncertainty.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED so Easterseals can continue serving individuals and families for the rest of 2021 and beyond. **Will you join in our mission by making a year-end donation before Dec. 31?** Your gift is still critically needed, and **YOU WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IMMEDIATELY.** Your support will empower people of all abilities to dream of limitless possibilities—and to achieve their own personal goals!

You may give securely online at EastersealsRehabCenter.com, mail your gift in the enclosed envelope, or contact Laura Terhune, V.P. of Philanthropic Partnerships, 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!** ●

*All Abilities.
Limitless
Possibilities.*

Easterseals expands mental health community outreach.

Every day, area children, adults and families are touched by the ongoing mental health crisis. Easterseals is committed to making a difference. In August, Easterseals adopted programs that were previously provided by Mental Health America of Vanderburgh County. Valuable information, education and resources are now provided under the Easterseals umbrella, while MHA's board plays an important role as a mental health advisory board.

To learn about the following programs, please contact Emily Reidford, former Executive Director of MHA, who joined Easterseals as VP of Community Outreach & Education. Call 812.426.2640 or email ereidford@evansvillerehab.com. You can also visit eastersealsrehabcenter.com/our-programs/mental-health-community-outreach for details and links to other resources.

- **Kempf Bipolar Support Group** – First & third Mon. of each month, 7:00PM: Individuals with bipolar disorder, friends, family members, and others are welcome. Generously supported by the Kempf Family. Facilitated by Easterseals and Ascension St. Vincent Evansville. *Now meeting virtually due to Covid-19. For details and a Zoom link, call 812.426.2640 or email ereidford@evansvillerehab.com.*
- **Survivors of Suicide (SOS) Support Group** – First & third Wed. of each month, 6:30PM: This group offers an opportunity to gain strength and share insights with others who have experienced this tragic loss. Facilitated by Easterseals. *Now meeting virtually due to Covid-19. For details and a Zoom link, call 812.426.2640 or email ereidford@evansvillerehab.com.*
- **Free Mental Health Training Programs** to build a healthier community include CALM Workshop, QPR Training, Mental Health First Aid, and Resiliency 101.
- **Community partnerships & additional resources** include the Southwest Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition, Resilient Evansville, and FACES System of Care.

If you're struggling or concerned about someone else, call the local Suicide Prevention Hotline at 812.422.1100.

Build it and they will shine!

As Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights has grown into a major holiday event, there's been a growing challenge—where to securely store 70 elaborate light displays! The problem has been solved by generous donors, businesses, labor organizations, and volunteers. Through their teamwork, a display storage building now stands near Garvin Park! Join us for a ribbon cutting and help us thank our generous community partners **Oct. 27, 10am, at 409 Millner Industrial Blvd.**



Holiday shopping funds therapy!

The Diamond Galleria "5+5=Love" Program – Show your special card from Easterseals when you shop at The Diamond Galleria, 6245 Vogel Rd. You receive 5% off & Easterseals gets a 5% donation! To get your free card, visit Easterseals Rehab Center 8am-5pm M-F or call Megan Irish, 812-474-2348.

Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of your total purchase price to Easterseals when you shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/35-1087526. Join AmazonSmile and choose "Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center" as your charity. **To shop on your phone, download the Amazon Shopping app, find "settings" & tap on AmazonSmile!**

Easterseals Night with the Thunderbolts!



COME JOIN IN ON
THE GROUP FUN!

EASTERSEALS
REHABILITATION CENTER

THURSDAY
FEB. 10TH, 2022

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM
GAME STARTS AT 7:00 PM



YOUR GROUP LOCATION WILL BE ON THE
UPPER PARTY DECK: AREA 216-218

TICKET PRICES ARE: \$12.00/PER PERSON

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE SEATING AVAILABLE

A PORTION OF THE TICKETS SOLD WILL BE DONATED BACK TO
EASTERSEALS REHABILITATION CENTER

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Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights will shine bigger and brighter than ever!



Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights—the perfect event for festive family fun—returns **BIGGER AND BRIGHTER THAN EVER** from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day (Nov. 25-Jan. 1). Drive through Evansville's Garvin Park with your loved ones to enjoy 70 elaborate scenes—the most in the event's history! Plus, for the first time, ALL displays in this “magical mile of holiday lights” will feature LED lights. 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. 1 for the Bright Lights 5K & Fun Walk.** ●

Drive Through Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights Thursday, Nov. 25-Saturday, Jan. 1

Sun.-Thur. 5-9PM • Fri.-Sat. 5-10PM
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 5-10PM
Closed to vehicles Dec. 1

Choose how to get your tickets!

- In advance at bidpal.net/ritzysfol21
- 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

Quantity Discounts

Discounted tickets are available in quantities of 50 or more! They make great gifts and greeting card enclosures! Contact Carolyn Franklin, 812.437.2607 or cfranklin@evansvillerehab.com.

Carriage Rides

Horse-drawn carriage rides are offered nightly through Dec. 31, weather permitting (except Dec. 1). \$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!

Enjoy festive family fun!

Polar Bear Express

Courtesy of Jim Back, CFP®
Financial Advisor Edward Jones®

Tuesdays ONLY - Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21

- Ride with Santa Claus on the SUV Limousine party bus as he reads a special story! Follow EastersealsRehabCtr on Facebook for updates, pricing, and boarding location.



Edward Jones
Jim Back, CFP®
Financial Advisor

“Bright Lights” 5K Run/1-Mile Fun Walk

Wednesday, Dec. 1 ONLY, 5-8PM

Wed., Dec. 1 ONLY, Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights will be closed to vehicles and open ONLY to runners, walkers, and individuals using wheelchairs or other mobility equipment. Social distancing and masks are encouraged. **Sign up for the 5K OR the 1-mile fun walk!**

For details, updates, and a link to register, follow EastersealsRehabCtr on Facebook. Special thanks to volunteer race director Rhonda Trail!



Many thanks to all light display sponsors, volunteers, and major sponsors:

Ritzzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Teamsters Local 215, Electrical JATC, IUPAT DC91 Local 156, ABC 25/CW 7, Lamar Advertising, 104.1FM-WIKY, HOT 96, 93.5 The Lloyd, 107.5 WABX, and Evansville Living. Special thanks to the EVANSVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION for their exceptional support!



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Thank you, ABC 25/CW 7, for Telethon '21!

The Easterseals Telethon returned as an exciting, six-hour live show on ABC 25 this year, thanks to the station's exceptional commitment! After 2020's shortened "virtual" broadcast (due to the pandemic), we were grateful to gather at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center on July 18 with sponsors, donors, volunteers, staff, individuals we serve, and the Eyewitness News Telethon team. Special thanks to Brad Byrd, Shelley Kirk, Brandon Bartlett, Gretchen Ross, Jake Boswell, Wayne Hart, Ron Rhodes, and the many behind-the-scenes professionals who made the show possible. For the 44th consecutive year, ABC 25/CW 7 produced and aired the show at NO COST to Easterseals! That generosity allows ALL money raised to provide essential therapies and inclusive early education. Many thanks to all who helped Easterseals reach a "final tote" exceeding \$900,000. ●



Brad Byrd of Eyewitness News interviews Child Ambassador Evan Carter, his mom Diamond, and grandmother Monich during the Easterseals Telethon.

HELP US RAISE SOME DOUGH!

We are teaming up with Azzip Pizza in the Pot of Dough Fundraiser. From September - November, any time you visit Azzip, 5% will come back to us!

All you have to do is scan our barcode or use the code online. Keytags are also available.

Every visit will also give us chances at the \$10,000 Grand Prize drawing!

Supporting: **Easterseals Rehabilitation Center**



Online Code: **304020**



POT OF DOUGH
 FUNDRAISER



SCREENSHOT THIS TO USE IN-STORE.

More info at azzippizza.com/we-give-azip