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**Easter Seals Vice President Wins Award
from the Boston Center for Independent Living**

March 10, 2014 – Youcef “Joe” Bellil of Easter Seals will be honored March 21 with the Marie Feltin Award from the Boston Center for Independent Living. The award is given to individuals who are leaders for full and equal participation for all in the community.

Bellil has been a leading advocate for accessibility and independent living for people with disabilities for nearly 30 years.

A former Easter Seals client, volunteer and board member, Bellil has been serving as Easter Seals vice president of public affairs for the last nine years. In this capacity, he works closely with state legislators and disability advocates to promote legislation benefiting people with disabilities.

He also is active with the Easter Seals Youth Leadership Network, helping teens and young adults with disabilities broaden their horizons and gain the skills and self-confidence they will need to be successful adults.

In addition to his work with Easter Seals, Bellil is a Governor’s appointee on the Statewide Independent Living Council. He also is on the boards of the Disability Policy Consortium, the MetroWest Center for Independent Living, the REDD Group (a grassroots advocacy organization) and the Bay State Wheelers, a nonprofit sports organization for people with disabilities.

Bellil has a bachelor’s degree from Worcester State College and a master’s from Anna Maria College, both in business administration.

Easter Seals Massachusetts provides services to ensure that children and adults with disabilities have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play. Nonprofit and nonsectarian, Easter Seals offers technological assistance, employment and training services, recreational activities, youth transition and leadership programs, veterans’ services, rehabilitation services and public awareness programs. For more information, call 800-244-2756 or go to www.EasterSealsMa.org.

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