

Easterseals New Jersey 46th Annual Raritan Valley Workshop Dinner & Dance Benefits Employment Programs for People of All Abilities

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By Api Podder

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– Fundraiser celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month –

Press Release – New Brunswick, N.J. – September 21, 2016 – Easterseals New Jersey, a nonprofit organization that enriches the lives of people living with disabilities and special needs, will host the [46th Annual Raritan Valley Workshop Awards Dinner & Dance](#) on October 20, 2016 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Pines Manor in Edison, New Jersey. Guests will enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing, a gift auction, 50/50, and awards presentations.

Hosted by “The Voice of Central Jersey” [1450 WCTC](#)’s Bert Baron, the fundraiser celebrates [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) (NDEAM) by bringing light to the more than 200 individuals with disabilities or special needs engaged in Employment Services at the organization’s Raritan Valley Workshop (RVW) in New Brunswick. The evening will recognize the outstanding achievements of program participants as well as the community of businesses and individuals who help support them.

Honorees to be recognized for their dedication to the Easterseals New Jersey mission include: the Asmar Family (Monsignor Maroun Asmar, Mary Smith, and Paul Amar), Continuous Commitment Award; Interlink Products International Inc., Customer of the Year; and Walmart North Brunswick, Employer of the Year. Additionally, program participants, Joseph Clements, Ronald Carroll, Saamin Hardman, and Kimberly Paitakis will receive Employee of the Year recognition for their exemplary work performance and commitment to excellence.

Reflecting the important role disability plays in workforce diversity, this year’s NDEAM theme is “[#InclusionWorks](#).” Observed each October, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a diverse workforce inclusive of their skills and talents.

“Our program participants bring an immense amount of pride to the work that they do,” says Brian Fitzgerald, CEO and president of Easterseals New Jersey. *“Employment provides them with a rewarding opportunity to contribute to society, while employers benefit from a loyal and hard-working workforce. It’s a win-win situation!”*

The local community is encouraged to show their support by purchasing tickets to the event for \$135 per person. Donations of auction items for the fundraising event are also needed. Corporate tables and advertising opportunities are available.

Tickets or further information can be obtained by visiting the Easterseals New Jersey [website](#).

About the Raritan Valley Workshop

The Easterseals Raritan Valley Workshop has supported individuals on their road to independence since 1967 by promoting employment resources and opportunities for adults with disabilities. Easterseals job training and employment services help people with disabilities develop skills to successfully enter the workforce and independently earn an income, or to return to work after an illness or injury.

The lives of many individuals with disabilities are positively impacted by the employment opportunities presented to them through a flow of sub-contract work handling packaging and fulfillment services for area businesses. Recent cuts in funding for social service programs means the workshop now has to rely even more heavily on subcontract

work in order to keep its participants employed.

About Easterseals New Jersey

Easterseals New Jersey is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that has enriched the lives of people living with disabilities and special needs, and those who care about them, by providing opportunities to live, learn, work, and play in their communities since 1948. Annually, nearly 9,000 people or families in New Jersey affected by developmental disabilities, including autism, physical disabilities, mental illness and other special needs participate in our programs designed to help them address life's challenges and achieve their personal goals. For more information on Easterseals New Jersey and its statewide disability services, please contact 732-257-6662 or visit www.eastersealsnj.org or www.facebook.com/eastersealsnj.