

Angels of Change

Stories about the lives **YOU** are changing and the difference **YOU** are making.

*You Give...
Limitless Possibilities*

A note from Easterseals Oregon President & CEO

Dear Donors, Friends, and Volunteers:

As always, thank you very much for all the support you give to Easterseals Oregon so we can help people in need right here in our communities in Oregon. We are fortunate to have people like you who care so much for humanity—you are all “Angels of Change”.

We have asked those helped by Easterseals Oregon to tell us their stories so that we can share them with you. I hope these stories bring you joy, confidence, and peace knowing your gift enables us to bring hope, compassion, love, and stability to people’s lives. We never take any gift for granted and work hard to maximize every dollar and every volunteer hour given to us.

Should you have any questions about your gift, our programs, or perhaps want to learn more about how to help, please do not hesitate to contact me—I always look forward to speaking with you.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

Carol Salter

Carol Salter, President & CEO
Easterseals Oregon
503-228-5108





Your gift to Easterseals Oregon gave Connie hope to feel alive!

"When I became disabled, I felt my life was over. I wanted to die because I lost my sense of purpose. I thank everyone at Easterseals Oregon and God for giving me a second opportunity at life, and for not giving up on me. I'm so happy my heart is beating out of my body!" - **Connie*** (Eugene)

A big THANK YOU from Easterseals Oregon Staff

"The work I do for the Easterseals Oregon Senior Community Service Employment Program is not for the paycheck, it is for the pay back that I get from our participants as they move from helplessness to hope; from hope to confidence; from confidence to success. Every day I grow professionally and personally through my involvement in our participants' journeys." – **Anne** (Beaverton)

"My outlook in life in particular is what brought me to Easterseals Oregon. Simply, to make a difference in the lives of others, whether it is professional or personal. I subscribe to a quote by Maya Angelou, "People may not always remember what you said or what you did, but they will always remember how you made them feel." – **Oscar** (Salem)

"I work for Easterseals because I feel it is imperative to show compassion and provide a pathway for success to the men and women who have made the ultimate altruistic choice to defend our freedom, and yet suffer from addiction, homelessness, and disparity." – **TJ** (Medford)

Your support helped John find work where he feels happy and accepted.

John* has a Masters degree in Higher Education, a doctoral coursework completed in Educational Leadership, and an Advanced Certificate in Nonprofit Management. After many years in higher education, he found himself without work due to the economic downturn. His social security and a small retirement fund were keeping John barely afloat. As the cost of living kept going up, his social security did not, and his retirement fund was almost depleted. John was on the verge of being homeless. At times, he had to choose between buying food, keeping the lights on, or keeping a roof over his head. He also felt worried for his beloved companion, his dog. He decided to go back to the job market, except now that he was older, it made it harder for him to be employed. For over seven years he searched for work, being rejected over and over again. He often felt lonely and hopeless.



He came to Easterseals Oregon **Senior Community Employment Service Program** for help. We immediately identified many barriers that prevented him from finding work. The obvious was his disability, which mainly impacted his fine motor skills and mobility. However, we were amazed of his work history. During his "younger" years, John worked for highly esteemed universities as a director for student affairs. We were also able to identify his qualifications and skills. He is a prolific writer, has computer and general office skills, and excellent interpersonal skills. John was not our typical participant who needed extensive computer or work etiquette training.

He started his job training with three nonprofits, paid by generous donations from donors like you. He was able to increase his network and connections within his community—allowing people to get to know him based on his skills and not his age. After two years of training, John was offered a full-time job managing the "Dog Visitor" program with a local agency working on the "End Loneliness" campaign. Your contribution gave John a chance to find a well-paying, flexible position that leverages his passion for working with animals and assisting vulnerable populations. — **Staff from Salem**

Your gift of compassion and love for humanity, taught Julia how to read, gain confidence, and get a job.

Julia* is a teenager who has a bubbly personality and is always smiling. She doesn't know that her challenges and delays may impede her from succeeding in life. She has so many abilities and potential of succeeding in life, but it will take kind and compassionate people to see her potential and abilities to reach success.

Julia was born with developmental delays. She has a hard time with speech and language, and couldn't read. As she was getting older, the future seemed very dark for Julia. "Who would hire someone who can't read and learn?", her family questioned and worried. Julia came to Easterseals Oregon **Connecting Communities Program** and found an accommodation for her disability. During her time in the program, she didn't feel confident that she could learn, and struggled with English and reading classes, job readiness workshops, and meeting with her case manager. However, with persistence, lots of support, words of encouragement, working at her pace, and creating "life goals", Julia began to show progress in her reading. It took two years, but she finished reading a book for the first time in her life.

Once we reached several milestones with Julia, she started to learn computer skills and began to meet with her Job Developer in hopes of finding a suitable job. The staff (who Julia loves and hugs a lot when she stops by) helped her create a resume, a cover letter, and expose her to job fairs. They taught her how to submit online job applications and spent hours coaching and doing mock interviews with her. It was in March of 2018 that Julia received a call from McDonald's requesting to be interviewed. After completing the interviews, she was offered a full-time position.



Julia had some difficulties in the beginning, but with the support, patience, and assistance of Easterseals Oregon staff, she has been employed at McDonald's for over one year. The staff at McDonald's loves her and ensures she is included in everything... and she's still reading as many books as possible...at her own pace. - **Staff from Gresham.**



Your gift helped send Sally to summer camp where she grew to be more independent.

Sally* experiences a developmental disorder that creates challenges with communication, social interaction and behavioral issues. These challenges make it difficult for Sally to find activities that accommodate her special needs.

In 2018, Sally attended **Easterseals Oregon Summer Camp Program** for the first time. Lisa*, Sally's mother, discovered the camp program online, which is specifically for adults and children with disabilities or special needs. She felt this would give Sally the opportunity to make friends and be more independent.

When Lisa dropped Sally off at camp, she was beyond nervous about leaving her daughter in the care of others, as she spends her days taking care of Sally. After meeting the Camp Director, counselors, and talking with other parents who were dropping off their children, she became more comfortable with Sally being on her own at camp.

While at Easterseals Oregon Summer Camp, Sally discovered new abilities, gained independence, made new friends, and built lasting memories. Camp gave her the opportunity to experience the outdoors, nature, and be around others who were just like her. Sally, for once, wasn't "different" than everyone else.

When Lisa picked Sally up from camp, she wasn't sure what to expect. On their drive home, Sally talked the entire three hour car ride about all her adventures, friendships she made, and how much she loved camp. Lisa was so happy her daughter had a great experience at camp. Sally attended camp again this year, and Lisa said Sally plans to attend for many years to come.

- **Camp Volunteer from Molalla**

* Names of participants have been changed due to privacy.

You're the reason we're able to help our Veterans and families in desperate need, like helping Bill find a job he loves.

Bill*, an Air Force veteran, served in Germany at the Rhein-Main Air Force Base as a Special Purpose Vehicle Mechanic. After completing his service, he returned home to work as a CAT Operator at his family's logging company before deciding to start his own landscaping business. Soon his business encountered hard times and his aging parents were struggling to manage their company and home upkeep. Bill decided to return home to care for his parents until they passed away in 2015.

After their passing, Bill had to take care of handling his parents' estate. He had to sell everything to pay off loans and medical bills, and soon he had to move into an apartment. Bill couldn't find work and, with no income, he lost his apartment and became homeless. He slept under bridges when he couldn't get a bed at the local homeless shelter. One night at Medford Gospel Mission, he was connected to **Easterseals Oregon Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program in Medford**. "It was on November 2, 2018," Bill recalls with such relief in his voice. Due to a lack of current work experience, it became difficult for him to find employment in Jackson County. Through the program, he utilized the free computer classes and worked closely with his Program Manager. They did mock interviews, helped with resumes and job applications which he had never done before, and he even received tips on how to dress for success. Bill finally met his goal to obtain his food handler's card, a requirement for a position at Rogue Valley Manor. Easterseals paid for his classes using donations from donors like you. He got the job at Rogue Valley Manor and he's now a Dishwasher earning \$11.50 an hour, full time.

Bill was serious about getting a job and being financially stable. He took the skills he learned from the Easterseals program and was successfully employed. Bill told us, "I love my job and can't get enough of it. Thank you for helping me." We are so proud of Bill!
— **Staff from Medford (Jackson County)**



Lives Changed in 2018



1831 PEOPLE SERVED
WITH DISABILITIES OR SPECIAL NEEDS



175 FOUND HOUSING
PREVIOUSLY HOMELESS



463 PLACED IN JOBS
PREVIOUSLY UNEMPLOYED



55 CAMPERS SERVED
WHILE ALSO PROVIDING RESPITE CARE
FOR CAREGIVERS

WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to give and make a difference for people in need right here in our communities. **To make a gift to Easterseals Oregon** today, this **Holiday Season**, or before year-end, choose the best method for you:

- Mail a check or credit card information in the **Enclosed Envelope**
- Call us at **503-228-5108**; we can help facilitate the best way for you to make your contribution.
- Donate online at: **www.easterseals.com/oregon**
- Send your IRA gift to: **Easterseals Oregon 7300 SW Hunziker St, Suite 103, Portland, OR 97223**
- Do you have a **Charitable Trust** account or an **Oregon Community Foundation** account? Call your representative and add Easterseals Oregon to your Donor Advised Funds list
- Gift of Time: visit our website for **Volunteer Opportunities**: **www.easterseals.com/oregon/get-involved/volunteer/**
- Add Easterseals Oregon to your **Will and/or Estate Gift**

100% of your gift goes to your favorite Easterseals Oregon program(s); just let us know what truly inspires your giving.

Thank YOU from the bottom of our HEARTS!