

# GIVING UP WAS NEVER AN OPTION!



In August 2009, Catherine welcomed her son Christian into the world. He was born prematurely, but succeeded with the help of Easter Seals RI Early Intervention services in reaching each milestone including making noises, head control and even rolling over.

Unfortunately, five days before Christmas, four-month-old Christian fell asleep on the couch with his caretaker, and suffered from a co-sleeping incident that left him clinging to life. Catherine found her son suffocated on the couch, gasping for air.

"His entire body felt lifeless," said Catherine.

Christian was rushed to a local children's hospital where he was put on life support. Once he was stabilized the doctors told Catherine that her son was most likely going to die, and if kept alive would probably never walk, talk, or know that she was his mother.

Miraculously, Christian started breathing on his own two weeks later, but there was still a tough road ahead. He suffered from a great deal of brain damage.

A month later, Catherine was able to bring her son home. However, before leaving the hospital, doctors suggested she seek services for Christian and recommended Easter Seals RI.

Once home, Easter Seals RI visited the family for an evaluation and suggested increasing the number of therapy visits Christian was receiving.

As time passed by, Catherine slowly started seeing her son progress. During each session Christian's physical therapist worked on stretches to manage his high muscle tone, as well as exercises to help strengthen and improve his head control. Over time Christian was introduced to speech, music and aquatic therapies.

Eventually, Christian graduated from Early Intervention and started receiving physical therapy services through the Easter Seals RI Outpatient Program.

Today, five-year-old Christian is showing great success! He can walk 20 steps in his walker, use an iPad with minimal help, and has relatively good hearing. Even though he still has many obstacles to overcome, such as cortical vision impairment, quadriplegic cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and a G-tube for food intake, he has a great attitude towards life.

"Christian is the bravest little man I know," said Catherine. "I don't know where we would be without Easter Seals. They gave me hope when I had none!"



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We gratefully acknowledge the hard work accomplished by our Board of Directors. This dedicated group of volunteers willingly gives their time, talent and treasure to help ensure the success of Easter Seals RI.

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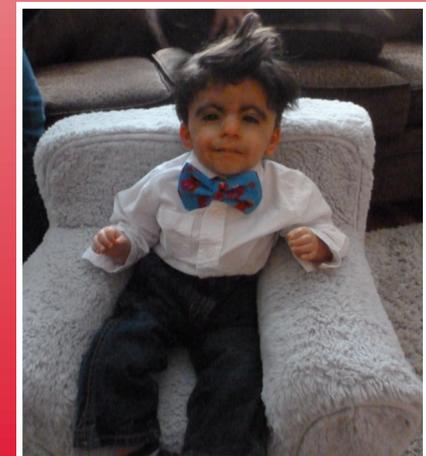
**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**  
*We gratefully recognize 807 additional gifts received under \$1,000. Too numerous to list individually, we appreciate the warmth and support our donors demonstrate in making these gifts.*

*We make every effort to acknowledge our donors appropriately. If we have made an error, please contact the Development Office.*

*Gifts received after August 31, 2014 will be acknowledged in the 2015 Annual Report.*

# Easter Seals Rhode Island

2014 Annual Report  
For 12 months ending August 31, 2014



**EASTER SEALS RHODE ISLAND**  
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Dear Friends,

Before you move forward, it is always best to pause and look back. It is important to study the route you've taken and the lessons you've learned. First, take a moment to examine what lies ahead, reassess your plans and goals, make adjustments, and then keep going.

At Easter Seals RI, we've seen tremendous growth over the past year. We've re-evaluated programs, grown our relationship with the community, and helped hundreds of people.

Since our inception, we have focused on using our resources wisely to create programs that people need and fill gaps in service to ensure that all children and young adults with disabilities or special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities. Quite simply, this is what we do. This is what is important to us. This is the reason we exist.

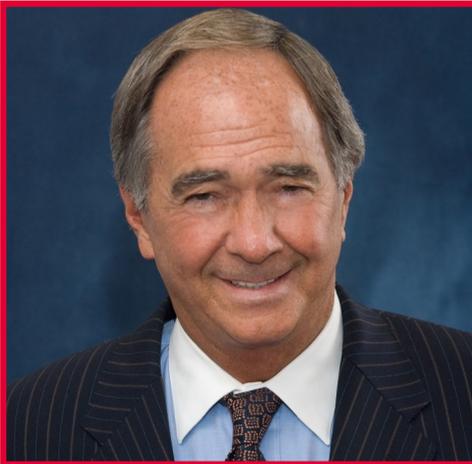
We pride ourselves on the efficiency with which we run Easter Seals RI. We are frugal with administrative costs—**Easter Seals RI spends nearly 90 cents of every dollar on program and services for our clients.** Combined with local state resources and strategic collaborations, we are able to deliver the services that people need. This is a responsibility we don't take lightly as we know people are depending on us to help them work toward independence.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of YOU—our generous friends, donors, volunteers, staff, and families. Because you believe in our important work, we are able to carry this tremendous load and support the success of the 557 people we serve. Thank you for helping us to become the successful and well-respected agency that we are today.

Sincerely,

Larry J. Gammon  
President & CEO

Tracey Colucci  
Chairman of the Board



*Easter Seals Rhode Island provides exceptional services to ensure that children and young adults with disabilities and special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities.*

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM AN INCREDIBLE YEAR!



## RAISING AWARENESS & FUNDS TOGETHER

Our VIP (Very Important Partners) Campaign saw great success this year with the addition of two new teams: Ferry Orthodontics and T's Restaurants. Each team hosted their own events raising nearly \$30,000 combined. Ferry Orthodontics held the Ferry Orthodontic Scavenger Hunt throughout South County in 2013, and T's Restaurants held a hang-tag promotion during March. Each team, consisting of employees, family members, friends and patrons, reached deep into their community contacts to share the mission of Easter Seals RI and raise awareness of our programs and services.



## GENEROSITY MEETS COMMUNITY

Easter Seals RI received an outstanding amount of support from several foundations totaling more than \$43,000. Thanks to the generous contributions from the John E. Fogarty Foundation, Shriners Charities Trust, and the Rotary Club of Wakefield we were able to transform our Board Room into the new Visual Learners classroom. Through countless other gifts, we purchased a therapeutic equipment sanitation machine, and provided Outpatient therapies to small groups of families in the South Kingstown area.



## BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Our Early Intervention and Outpatient services continued to grow over the past twelve months. We welcomed many new clients and their families into our programs, and expanded the services offered to our clients. We added a new Visual Learners group to our Early Intervention services that assists clients with developmental disorders, as well as those on the Autism Spectrum. The Outpatient program purchased an Interactive Metronome which has opened the door to a new world of opportunities for children and young adults who need assistance with attention, coordination, language processing, reading and math fluency, as well as control of impulsivity.



**"Easter Seals gave us the direction to help Mason get where he needed to be and to reach his milestones on his own terms!"**

~Maria King, Mother to Early Intervention client Mason

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## REVENUES

Program Service Fees & Grants	\$1,175,325
Public Support	\$21,8664
Other Revenue	<u>\$6,813</u>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>\$1,400,802</b>

## EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,168,431
Support Services	\$132,526
Fundraising	<u>\$141,535</u>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,442,492</b>

*Our Financial Statement, audited by Baker Newman Noyes, is available at Easter Seals Headquarters.*

*Please note these financial numbers are unaudited and subject to change.*

**"Doctors do not always have the answers you are looking for, but Easter Seals RI provided my family with insight, positivity, and assurance that everything will be OK!"**

~Erin Cronin, Mother to Early Intervention client Jack



# PEOPLE SERVED

<b>PROGRAM</b>	
EARLY INTERVENTION	452
OUTPATIENT	105
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>557</b>



Easter Seals RI clients are the reason we do what we do. Each client has their own personality and special trait that make them who they are. On the cover, we have clients of all ages that are participating in Early Intervention and Outpatient services, learning at group therapies, and attending events.