



Changing the way the world defines and views disability by making profound positive differences in people's lives every day.



A Father's Love and Legacy



EMPOWERMENT

Your Year-End Gift Empowers Us All



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM ESSC

In this special issue

A Special Holiday Message from our President and CEO

PAGE 2

Your Year-End Giving Empowers Us All

PAGE 3

A Father's Love and Legacy

PAGE 4

Your Giving At Work

PAGE 5-6

Meet our ESSC Board of Directors and Office of Advancement Staff

PAGE 7

We Are Grateful to Our Corporate Partners

PAGE 8



Another Holiday Season is upon us, a time to gather, reflect, and reconnect. I am so grateful to our extraordinary ESSC community and incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together. Your continued support ensured that we not only weathered the unexpected, but thrived through times of continued uncertainty and constant change. I am thankful for you.

A few highlights from the year:

- Safely transitioning from telehealth to physically re-opening Autism Therapy to in-person services.
- Welcoming back our youngest participants to the Child Development Centers.
- Celebrating the grand opening of our new Brea Senior Day Center and newly expanded Child Development Center in Ventura.
- Returning to our signature community event, Strides for Disability Family Fun Walk in Long Beach.

At Easterseals, we are resilient problem solvers who see possibilities and who work to realize opportunities even through the most difficult obstacles. The last two years serve as living proof.

We remain steadfast in our vision to make Southern California the most inclusive community. And, we're making real progress—every day, expanding upon our life-changing services for individuals with disabilities and their families.

I look forward to your continued partnership and support, as together we advance full equity, inclusion and access. It really does take a village!

From all of us at Easterseals Southern California, we wish you a joyful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Mark Whitley

President and CEO

Easterseals Southern California



EMPOWERMENT

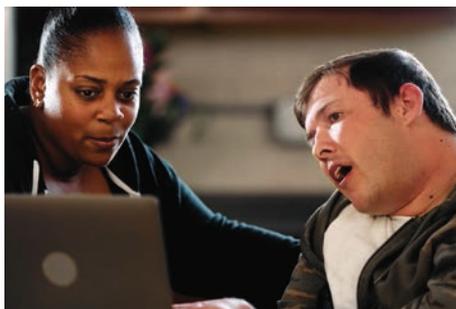
Your Year-End Gift Empowers Us All

*Inclusive communities
are strong communities!*

THANK YOU for sharing in our belief that everyone should feel included and empowered. Together, **WE** continue to fulfill the mission of changing the way the world defines and views disability.



During these past two years, **WE** have *all* experienced some challenging times. Despite these challenges, you have continued to ensure that our 14,000+ participants are fully supported. Together **WE** have provided meals to families with food insecurity, connectivity to those without internet access and continued to provide services through telehealth as well as home and community based programs.



Easterseals Southern California is YOU and ME! Our communities grow stronger as **WE** ensure that everyone has equitable access to the programs and services that meet their needs and the opportunity to **thrive**.

During this season of giving, make a gift that will help build pathways to full equity, inclusion and access for people with disabilities—strengthening your community and **EMPOWERING US ALL!**

**Whether it's a one-time gift or a monthly commitment—
TODAY is the day!**

**Use the enclosed envelope, or visit
social.easterseals.com/empowerment**

A Father's Love And Legacy

Before there were ultrasounds and sonograms in the field of obstetrics, doctors relied on a stethoscope to hear a heartbeat and a tape measure to make sure the baby was growing. Today's imaging technology has drastically improved diagnoses through all stages of gestation, but that wasn't the case in 1969 when Jason was born. He arrived with a nuchal cord birth injury resulting in severe impairment and disabilities. When he was a few months old, his grandmother noted that he didn't seem to be progressing like other babies his age. It was soon after that Jason was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

"What made me choose **Easterseals Adult Day Services** was the genuine caring staff and administration."

For Jason's dad, Joe, much of his life has been sculpted by doctors visits, therapists, medical equipment, insurance and finding ways to help his son navigate life and access the multitude of needed services. Joe found just that six years ago when he was referred to Easterseals Southern California. "What made me choose Easterseals Adult Day Program was the genuine caring staff and administration," said Joe. Patricia Ledesma has been Jason's caregiver for over 30 years. When Jason joined Easterseals, Patricia came with him. She joined the staff and is now working at the Brea center. "The best part about Jason is that he is always happy. He brings joy to everyone around him," Patricia remarks.



Recently, Joe became a Legacy Society member by including Easterseals Southern California in his living trust. After making sure Jason's future is provided for, Joe's generosity now extends to future participants of ESSC's Adult Day Services. His bequest will allow others facing challenges like Jason's to have access to vital services for adults with developmental disabilities in a safe and caring environment. ■



How Will You Be Remembered?

Throughout our lifetime, most of us strive to make a difference in the lives of others. We give back, as we are able, to charities and organizations that are near and dear to our hearts, and for many, that includes Easterseals. Nevertheless, as many of us make plans for the future, we must think about the legacy we want to leave after we're gone. We must think about how to make the world a better place for future generations.

Through a planned gift, you can ensure that Easterseals Southern California will continue to grow and offer life-changing opportunities for generations to come. Donors who include ESSC in their estate plans, are inducted into the Legacy Society, an honorary association of donors recognized and appreciated by our 3,000 staff members and the 14,000+ clients and families that we serve every day.

For more information on planning your estate, contact the Office of Planned Giving at (714) 201-5027 or plannedgiving@essc.org.

Thanks to Easterseals Childrens' Services Anze and Abraham are Prepared for Elementary School

Finding safe, reliable childcare for her oldest son had initially made Illya feel hopeless. Between the steep fees and long waiting lists, nearby options felt out of reach. It wasn't until she was introduced to Easterseals's Child Development Center that she realized there was an affordable, trustworthy option close to home.

"My oldest son, Anze, was able to start at Easterseals when he was three, and it was great that he was able to take advantage of the program right away," Illya shared.

Her second son, Abraham, joined his brother when he was old enough to enroll. As her children progressed within the program, Easterseals was there, ready to provide the services and support their family needed.

"When our family was struggling financially, when we really had no support, Easterseals was there."

"Initially, Abraham and Anze were shy," shared early childhood educator Breanna, a teacher at

Easterseals. "Abraham struggled to participate in large groups while Anze had a difficult time expressing his emotions. This made it difficult for them to concentrate on learning and having fun."

From childcare to speech therapy, the team at Easterseals worked alongside Illya to assist her family in the ways they needed it most.

"Easterseals was a blessing," Illya added. "When our family was struggling financially, when we really had no support, Easterseals was there."

Anze and Abraham, six and five respectively, now attend elementary school. Illya and her family feel prepared and ready to take on the new school year because of the sturdy foundation built in



Easterseals' Child Development Services program.

When it comes to the Easterseals Child Development Center, Illya has found that she's not the only fan of the program. Her children love it, too.

"I really liked Easterseals," Her son, Abraham, shared. "I really liked the activities, and I really liked my teacher." ■



HONORING OUR VETERANS:

Navy Veteran Sanjeeta Begins Building a Solid Post-Military Career

Before her nine years of military service in the U.S. Navy, Sanjeeta Thomas worked as a nurse in her home country of Fiji. She left home, and the nursing profession behind, to immigrate to the U.S. to support her struggling family.

Unable to use her foreign degree, she took her expertise and joined the Navy where she became an Operational Specialist. Sanjeeta, a single mother and primary provider for a household of five, left active-duty service amid the pandemic in early 2020.



"It was a difficult and challenging time for me, dealing with my involuntary medical separation from the Navy and then facing unemployment as a single mother and primary provider for my family during a pandemic was terrifying," she said. "But with the assistance and support from the Easterseals Bob Hope Veterans Support Program (BHVSP) my family made it through the first year of the pandemic and we are now in a good place."



The BHVSP team helped her create a solid resume, gave her referrals to additional community resources, and opportunity! As a true testament to her resilience and perseverance, Sanjeeta is now working as an Administrative Assistant with the Us4Warriors Foundation. She also is completing the Registered Dental Assistant Program at PIMA Medical Institute and is expected to graduate later this year. ■

Let Us Count the Ways You Can Create Impact with Your Holiday Giving Spirit

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, the holiday season of giving is upon us. And there are many ways to include Easterseals Southern California in your philanthropy. Ring in the season and reap the benefits of year-end giving while changing the way the world defines and views disability.

Double Your Impact

— Employer Gift Matching Program —



Did You Know...

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees.

Contact us at development@essc.org to find out more

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Through Amazon Smile, you can create meaningful impact not only during the holiday shopping season, but all year round!

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>
2. Sign-in and confirm Easterseals Southern California as your AmazonSmile charity.
3. Continue shopping—all donations are automatic!
4. Bookmark smile.amazon.com so you can support Easterseals Southern California every time you shop throughout the year.



Mark Whitley, CEO and President

Board of Directors

Mark Bertrand (*First Vice Chair*)
Vice President, Space & Defense
Boeing Capital Corporation

Maureen Cormier
Division Vice President CVS

Andre Filip (*Chairperson*)
Chief Executive Officer
ELA Advertising

Hans Getty
SVP & Regional Manager
U.S. Bancorp - Corporate &
Commercial Banking

Jodi Huston (*Second Vice Chair*)
SVP & Regional Banking Manager,
Westside Region City National Bank

Barsam Kasravi, M.D.
President, Medicaid Health Plan for CA
Anthem Blue Cross

Paul Kott
Paul Kott Realtors, Inc.

Marilyn Lindheim
Community Member

Beatriz Mallory
CEO, HispanAmérica Health

Mike Murtaugh
Senior Partner
Murtaugh Treglia Stern & Deily LLP

Nic Novicki
Actor, Comedian, Producer

Tony Pagano (*Secretary*)
Community Member

Tom Porter
Vice President, Corporate Services
Edwards Lifesciences

Molly Pyott (*Past Chairperson*)
Community Member

David Ritblatt
Founder and CEO delibrainy LLC

Claudia Villamizar
Operations Manager Huntington
Learning Center

Jenni Wilson
Plant Controller
Packaging Corporation of America

David Wolf (*Treasurer*)
Executive Vice President American
Business Bank

Office of Advancement Staff



Linda Glasco
*Director, Events
and Sponsorships*



Erin Peltier
Manager, Events



Norita Jaeger
*Manager, Development
and Campaigns*



Julie Reynoso
Director, Development



Brynne Dunn Jones
*Director, Corporate
Partnerships*



Brenda Tamara
*Development
Coordinator*



Asli Ozguz
*Assistant Director,
Development*



Nancy Weintraub
*Chief Advancement
Officer*



**Unleash
Your
Generosity**



**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Nov 30, 2021

**Save
the
Date**

social.easterseals.com/empowerment



1063 McGaw Avenue, Suite 100
 Irvine, CA 92614
 (714) 834-1111 ext. 7950
 www.easterseals.com/southernca



CHANGE
 THE WAY YOU SEE DISABILITY

We are grateful to our Corporate Partners

Easterseals Southern California is truly grateful to its corporate partners for their generous support of our programs and services while joining us in our mission to change the way the world defines and views disability.



* Gifts received as of 09/01/2021