



# PARTNERS IN ACCESS

Easterseals Western & Central Pennsylvania newsletter



**We are zipping into the fall! Back to school, football, fall foliage and everything pumpkin spice season is upon us.**



**Remember the positive impact you're making in the lives of children and adults with disabilities, veterans, and older adults in our communities.**

**Our 2025 Easterseals floral wall calendar is the best way to help you do that! We have a limited number of calendars left. If you would like to receive a beautiful reminder of the life-changing difference you make every single day of the year for the people who benefit from our services e-mail [sroush@eastersealswcpenna.org](mailto:sroush@eastersealswcpenna.org) and request one now.**

**Available while supplies last.**

[www.eastersealswcpenna.org](http://www.eastersealswcpenna.org)

# Central Area Events Wrap Up

## YORK GOLF OUTING



It was a great day for golf at the York outing in August. Our golfers enjoyed a beautiful day at Heritage Hills Golf Course with contests, a visit from Miss Pennsylvania and an impactful speech from LTC. Paolo Sica, PANG. The Sica children have enjoyed attending the ESWCPA camps for military children and LTC. Sica shared how meaningful they are to his family.

Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors and golfers for a fun day!



## YORK / HARRISBURG WALK WITH ME



The York/Harrisburg area Walk With Me event was held at Lake Tobias Wildlife Park and we got up close and personal with the giraffes Thanks to our many sponsors, volunteers and walkers. Everyone had a great time.

“ I had such a fun time with my family at the Easterseals Walk with Me event this past weekend! Having it held at Lake Tobias was so much fun. 🦒🦊  
Easterseals is an incredible organization that makes a significant impact in our community. They ensure that having a disability doesn't limit anyone from living life to the fullest. ~Aysa Urich, WellSpan Health ”



# Welcome Natalie Long to the Child Development Center!



Natalie took on the role of Program Coordinator at the CDC in early June. She has a Rehabilitation and Human Services Degree and a Special Education Minor from Penn State University and has worked with both children and adults with disabilities in various settings such as homes and schools.

Natalie and her husband have two boxers Judge (6) and Gabby (4), who they just rescued. She enjoys reading in her free time, as well as attending Penn State Hockey and Football games!

"I really enjoy working at the CDC because not only do I get to work with kids, but I can help and advocate for them to get the services they might need from early ages."

The school year is in full swing at the CDC. The Center still has spaces for 4 year old children, reach out by phone to 814-238-4434 or email, [nlong@eastersealswcpenna.org](mailto:nlong@eastersealswcpenna.org) for more information or to take a tour.

## Wasson Farm Visit



The annual field trip to Wasson Farm for pumpkin picking, train riding, and a hay ride was fun for all!

The 12 Days of Christmas Fundraiser is just around the corner! The CDC is now accepting donations of gift cards and items to be raffled off during the event. Stay tuned for more information on purchasing the raffle tickets.



**December 9th - December 20th**

# Alumni Staff Share Fond Memories

While we do not have an event to welcome back our staff and participant families yet, we were glad to hear from so many of our former camp counselors recently. Easterseals leaves a lasting impact on the staff as well as the participants. Many of our former camp and recreation staff pursued jobs in this field.

"I completed my Bachelor's degree in Disability Services from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, inspired by the incredible impact Easterseals had on my life. I moved to Las Vegas to pursue a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy to continue my work and commitment to the disability community. Building strong relationships with campers and their families kept me returning to camp season after season. The excitement of seeing everyone again was one of the best parts! ~ Abigail



Photos Abigail shared from her time with Club Lily



Here are some of the words our alumni staff used to describe their time with us. Do you know someone that would love to work in this field? Camp staff is always needed, reach out to Nick Spease, Director, Camps & Community Programs by email at, [nspease@eastersealswcpenna.org](mailto:nspease@eastersealswcpenna.org) or call 717-741-3891

# Year End Giving

Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania couldn't provide all of its amazing services without support from our generous donors. As you plan your year end giving, remember there are so many ways to support this valuable work.

- Online Giving at [www.eastersealswcpenna.org](http://www.eastersealswcpenna.org).
- Remember ESWCPA during Giving Tuesday and local Give Days in your area.
- Planned Giving: add ESWCPA when completing your estate planning.
- Send a check to your local Easterseals Western and Central PA office.
- Sign up to give monthly.
- Give through a Donor Advised Fund.



**Giving Tuesday**  
**December 3, 2024**

## Easterseals Helps Families Through Respite Care

Recently, Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania's residential programs hosted a man with disabilities at one of our homes in Franklin for a weekend away from home. The man lives fulltime with his family, but caregiving 24/7 is hard, nonstop work. His family was looking for a service to provide short term respite care.

It was a fun weekend! The man loved spending time with staff and befriended the two men who live at Park. He's asked to go back numerous times since his stay. This is one more way Easterseals can serve the disabled community and their families, leading the way to 100% equity, inclusion, and access.



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# Remember Our Veterans This November



ES Gaming is hosting a special Veterans Game Night on November 7th on Discord. This event is all about camaraderie, community, and support. Ahead of game play we will discuss mental health in gaming and resources for Vets. Let's share stories, play some games, and make new connections in a relaxed, fun atmosphere.

Go to the link below to join the fun!

<https://discord.com/invite/4ZZwAvJRBg>

## Get Social with ESWCPA!

Follow us and stay up to date on your favorite programs and events.



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# First Annual Partner in Equity Reception Honors Band Together Pittsburgh

Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania will honor those who share their vision to ensure individuals with disabilities thrive at the annual Partners in Equity Reception, Wednesday, November 6 at Sienna Mercato II Tetto Glass Top Bar in Pittsburgh.

This year the event honors John Vento and Ron "Moondog" Esser, founders of Band Together Pittsburgh.



In 2016 the duo formed Band Together Pittsburgh, a nonprofit organization employing the power of music to engage youth on the autism spectrum and their families.

Their "Clubhouse," a safe space in the back room of Esser's pub called, "Moondog's Pub and Music Venue" in Blawnox, PA gives youth on the autism spectrum a place to interact with peers, learn new skills, and create great music. In addition to the "Clubhouse," Band Together Pittsburgh has programs for youth on the autism spectrum including Drum Circles, Live Concert Productions, Professional DJ's (DJ services delivered by people on the autism spectrum), Live Performances, and Autism Open Mics.

Partners in Equity's major sponsors include Lamar Advertising Company, Fragasso Financial Advisors, HB Retirement, Maher Duessel, Pittsburgh City Paper, Sisterson & Co. LLC, and Unity Printing Company. Tickets start at \$75 and include the award presentation, heavy appetizers, and entertainment. Get your tickets for the Partners in Equity Reception at <https://www.eastersealswcpa.org/equity/donate/tickets> or call ESWCPA at 412-281-7244.





## 75 Wonderful Years in Johnstown



This year marks the 75th Anniversary of Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania in Johnstown, serving children and adults with speech and hearing disabilities, as well as autism, apraxia, ADHD and developmental delays in Cambria and Somerset counties.

To Thank You for your support over the years, we would like to invite you to help us celebrate with an After Hours Mixer from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm on November 14th at the Frank J. Pasquerilla Convention Center, Johnstown.

RSVP to Brandy Rogers at 814-535-5508 or [brogers@eastersealswcpenna.org](mailto:brogers@eastersealswcpenna.org)

## Just one of our many success stories from a happy customer



Janet would like to say thanks to Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania and audiologist, Dr. Sydney Black for helping her hear better when she is spending time with her family and friends. Janet appreciated that Dr. Black spent time fitting her hearing aids and following up with her hearing aid care.

This is a very special thanks because Janet was employed as the Division Director of ESWCPA's Johnstown office for many years. Her past dedication to grow our speech and hearing programs continue to help many individuals in our community today. *Thank You Janet*

**Don't Miss the Sounds of the Holidays!**

Are you having problems hearing your loved ones?

**We can help**

- Hearing Tests
- Hearing Aids
- Hearing Aid Repairs



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Our Services are available to everyone! We accept most insurances

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