



*Connecting Individuals with Disabilities to Live, Learn, Work and Play in their Communities*



[www.eastersealswise.com](http://www.eastersealswise.com)

## Reintegration

John was seventeen years old when he enlisted in the military. He proudly served for ten years in the infantry unit of the Army Special Forces. While the image of “coming home” celebrates reuniting families and friends, John had a difficult time re-integrating into civilian life.

He echoed the feelings of so many who have served, “in the military, you are taught to suppress your emotions so that you can survive in a hostile environment. In civilian life the structure is not there, no one is controlling you. It’s not black and white.” When you come home, you are expected to express your emotions, and show empathy. For John, re- learning the importance of sharing feelings was a key factor in the Easter Seals Military Nurturing program, which has helped his relationships with his wife and his family.

John initially struggled with feelings of frustration with others when faced with seemingly unimportant discussions or things that often ended in flares of temper. He was re-introduced to listening and nurturing skills through the program and his family has seen a change in the way he can now relate to them.

John is able to listen to his wife express her own frustrations and needs and not immediately tell her to “fix the problem if she doesn’t like it,” or that he “doesn’t want to hear it” as he may have been directed in the military. He said he now understands the value to both of them, of simply being present to listen to his wife express her feelings.

The program also helped him learn more about his Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and how it affects him not only emotionally and mentally, but also physically and chemically. He now has a greater understanding of how PTSD affects his daily relationships with others. The program empowered him to have the resiliency to not give up in his personal life as well as to continue to advocate and fight for his disability services. John has advice for others who may be struggling, “I would recommend the Nurturing Program to anyone, even if you don’t have children or a spouse, because it will help you with any relationship.”



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**For more information on how to register  
for the Military Nurturing Program,  
please contact Debbie at:  
414-963-5932**



## A Message from our CEO



*Bob Glowacki*

Bob Glowacki  
CEO, Easter Seals  
Southeast Wisconsin

The guns had fallen silent after five years of war. A war fought on almost every continent in the world. Millions of men returning home with injuries needed therapies and support. As they returned to our shores, Easter Seals opened our doors and tapped into the talents of our staff to bind wounds, provide therapy and help that former soldier return to his life he had left behind.

We all wish those guns had remained silent, but on September 11th, much like on December 7th, our country was attacked. But, unlike in 1941, the burden of this war fell on the shoulders of only 1% of our population. Men and women would do multiple tours of duty, leaving their families and their jobs to fight in far off places. Just as quickly, these men and women would be shipped home and return to a home life after being at the frontlines just weeks before. They were back to being moms and dads, but in many cases, did not have a job to come back to. The unemployment rate for those serving in Afghanistan and Iraq has been significantly higher than our national average of 7.5%. Once more, their support network had evaporated as they returned to civilian life.

As we did over 60 years ago, Easter Seals is once again opening our doors and applying our skills to help our returning military and veterans of all wars to be successful. We are partnering with local veterans groups like DryHootch of America that know the needs of returning military members and understand the military culture. Easter Seals will be their partner in creating a rally point where the community can come together. Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin will tap into our skills and experience to connect individuals to employment and help families re-connect after long term absences.

Nationally, Easter Seals has partnered with Col. David Sutherland who reported directly to the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the issues facing our returning military and the needs of the families of the fallen. Their partnership is the creation of the Dixon Center, a virtual center creating a clearinghouse of information for local communities seeking proven strategies to support the 1% of Americans who have sacrificed so much.

Meeting the needs of our community is the role of Easter Seals. For nearly 80 years, we have changed, adapted and expanded to create a world of possibilities in the lives of those we touch. You make that possible by your support as donors, volunteers and partners.



Easter Seals Southeast WI and DryHootch of America have partnered to open a new Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Waukesha County.

This facility will serve as a rally point for service members to visit and seek community resources, support, and camaraderie all in a drug/alcohol free environment. While at the FOB, individuals will learn of programs available to them to aid in their transition home, while enjoying the support of those who have navigated the path.



On Monday, June 24th DryHootch's newest FOB opened its doors to support and resources at our Workforce Training Center. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held in honor of the new facility that included over 40 attendees.





Mason was a typical child who had the expected vocabulary of words and phrases of a 15 month old, but only three months later, he became silent. Mason was two years old when he was diagnosed with autism.

His mom, Carissa, was told that Mason would have a two year wait for autism services through the state, since she did not have private insurance that would cover them. Two years seemed like an eternity and she was determined to get Mason help as soon as possible. That is when she turned to Easter Seals to help her learn what she could do to get a head start to help her son, as they waited for funding to become available.

The program meets the needs of children with autism on wait lists and ensures that we are equipping families with the tools they need for their child to succeed. We launched Start Early to help children like Mason immediately after their diagnosis.

Carissa and Mason were the first to participate in the program which includes an educational component that teaches the family how to become their child's "therapist." The classes are taught by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and focus on how to facilitate communication and interaction, modify behaviors, toilet training or other autism related delays that parents may struggle with.

"I have learned so much and am so grateful for their services. I am not sure what we would have done without Easter Seals help. The team was amazing to work with and their real life knowledge helped me to understand and implement home therapy. We are very prepared to move forward with what we learned that will have such a great impact on our child's life."



**"The team was amazing to work with and their real life knowledge helped me to understand and implement home therapy. We are very prepared to move forward with what we learned that will have such a great impact on our child's life."**

## Don't let kids like Mason wait for the help they need now.

**In Wisconsin, close to 500 children are currently on a two year autism waiver list waiting to receive funding for early intervention services.**

**Support our Start Early program with a gift today. Your generosity will help families waiting to Start Early....and Start Strong!**





# Walk With Me



Participants, staff, family and friends gathered during Polish Fest at the Potawatomi stage on Friday, June 14th for our 7th annual Walk With Me. They were entertained by the music of the All-Star SUPERband and rubbed elbows with Laura Langemo of Fox6 News and Roscoe of the Milwaukee Admirals before the one-mile family fun walk along Lake Michigan.

## Another Great Year!

***This year, Walk With Me raised over \$75,000!***



Thank you to Associated Bank for returning as our Presenting Sponsor



Regional Sponsor, Mass Mutual



B. Artin Haig, our most seasoned walker at the young age of 99!



CVS Caremark employees helped raise over \$8,000!



National Founding Sponsor, Century 21 team







Honorary Ambassador Apollo and his parents, Darin and Haley



Honorary Ambassador Pavieon and her mom, Angela



Honorary Ambassador Marcus and "Team Rizzo"



Honorary Ambassador Janice and her team "JAN'S AMIGOS"



Two of the many volunteers who made our walk successful



Fun with Roscoe from the Milwaukee Admirals!

**The Milwaukee lakefront provided a beautiful backdrop for Walk With Me and Polish Fest is a wonderful host sponsor.**



Pledge your final support and watch our thermometer rise at [www.eastersealswise.com](http://www.eastersealswise.com)

Thank you to Paul Gaertner of White Dog Photography and Design, Brian Chart and JP Russell for the wonderful photo memories.



Local Sponsors







Hi, my name is William Hemminger (a.k.a. Hemi). I've gone to Easter Seals Camp Yellow Ribbon since it started in 2010. I get very excited around this time of year because I know that means it's almost time for camp. I am very excited for camp and look forward to all the fun and interesting things that are planned every year.

There are many reasons that I am excited for camp. One is seeing all my old friends and meeting many more at camp. Another is just getting to know the camp leaders because they are fun, and caring. The final reason why I am excited for camp is because you get to do a lot of fun things from swimming and archery, to sharing stories around the camp fire.

Camp means a few things to me, but, the one big thing is it means I get to make memories and help support the people that I know and am happy to be with.

This camp is probably one of the best things that I have ever gone to and I hope someday that I get to be one of the leaders.



## Hemi's top 5 reasons why you should come to camp

1. You'll have the best time!
2. You'll make life long friends!
3. You'll never get bored because there is a schedule full of fun activities!
4. There are some pretty awesome leaders!
5. There are many opportunities to laugh, make memories, and learn something new!



**Thank you to the following partners who make this camp possible.**







## Just one of the kids

Each year, Easter Seals Autism Department hosts inclusive sports clinics to encourage families to get out and play. This past June, we partnered with Wisconsin Lutheran College to host our Home Runs 4 Autism Sports Clinic. Over 35 participants and their families attended this first year event.



Our sports clinics encourage kids with autism to overcome barriers that might hinder their participation in sports and allows them to have a fun day playing with their family members and new friends.



Peer modeling allows for children with and without disabilities to imitate positive social interactions through their role models like collegiate athletes, siblings and their parents.

**Watch our website for our upcoming Football Clinic Date!**

## Save the Date

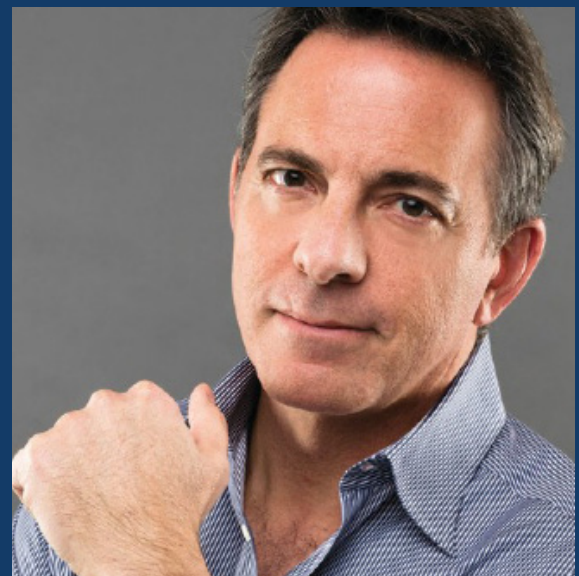


### Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin THOUGHT LEADERS LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013

Crowne Plaza Milwaukee-West  
Grande Crowne Ballroom

presented by media sponsor

**BizTimesMedia**



Don't miss your chance  
to hear keynote speaker  
**Dan Pallotta**

**Featured speaker at TED 2013**

Dan is best known for creating the multi-day charitable event industry, and a new generation of citizen philanthropists with the AIDS Rides and Breast Cancer 3-Day events, which raised \$582 million in nine years. He is president of Advertising for Humanity, which helps foundations and philanthropists transform the growth potential of their favorite grantees.

**Online registration available in August**



**Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin**  
**2222 South 114th Street**  
**West Allis, WI 53227**

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**[www.eastersealswise.com](http://www.eastersealswise.com)**



# HIRE ME

## Job Wanted for Joe



### Experiences and Qualities:

- Experience assisting others
- Follows Directions and Specifications
- Extremely Polite and Friendly
- Experience working with a variety of individuals
- Excited to learn
- Detail Oriented
- Dependable

### Desires:

- Entry level Retail/ Senior Service Industry
- Team Atmosphere
- Structured Environment
- Repetitive Tasks
- Located in the Wauwatosa/Brookfield/Butler/  
Menomonee Falls area
- Between 15 & 20 hours a week

**If you know a business that would  
 benefit Joe, call Jason:**

**262-953-2242**

**See how your investment in 2012 has  
 impacted those that we serve.**

Our Annual Report is online at:

**[wi-se.easterseals.com/Giving](http://wi-se.easterseals.com/Giving)**

Last year Easter Seals received over \$163,000 in funding through the United Way of Waukesha County to help support our Workforce Training Center, after school and summer respite programs.

***When giving at the office this fall, support Easter Seals  
 Southeast Wisconsin.***

**United Way in Waukesha County**  
 Proud supporter of our Workforce Training Center

