



Chad's Story



For many people, finding a job that they're truly passionate about can be difficult. For an individual with a disability, additional challenges can exist such as the need for additional training, job exploration, transportation or even finding a workplace culture that values inclusion. Easterseals is here to help overcome these challenges and has a variety of options available to meet the individual interests and needs of job seekers experiencing barriers to employment. Chad is a great example of someone who was able to explore his interests and build his skills in multiple programs at Easterseals.

In 2004, Chad started working on the workforce at the Waukesha Training Center. At the time, he struggled with communication and was hesitant to try new things. He was very reserved and kept to himself for the most part and it could be difficult for him to engage with his coworkers. His disability, along with his inability to read, write, or recognize numbers, also made completing his work tasks difficult.

A few years later Easterseals merged with the Waukesha Training Center and added Career Connect. This program focuses on building skills through volunteer opportunities, community navigation and exploring various jobs in the community. Chad continued on the workforce, but he also participated in Career Connect 2-3 days a week where he was able to work on building soft skills necessary for employment. Career Connect would often visit Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) to volunteer and would stop by WCTC's Hub, which is the college's cafeteria and student center. It was during that time that Easterseals staff members noticed how much Chad enjoyed the area and atmosphere of the space. Chad also participated in the LilyWorks Food Service Training program to learn a variety of skills including food prep, sanitation, and customer service. He took great pride in his

work and took extra care in all of his tasks. Chad was also able to make progress socially and was able to gain a sense of comradery with his coworkers and training staff. In particular he really connected with others in the kitchen and formed a strong bond with Chef Josh VanBibber. Easterseals staff, as well as Chad's family has noticed how much these relationships really contributed to the growth of his social skills.

His experience and personal growth in training at LilyWorks helped him to be able to pursue a temporary work opportunity at a place he had really enjoyed—WCTC's Hub. Chad did well with the temporary experience and with some help from Cheryl, a job developer, Chad was able to get an interview for a job as a dishwasher for Lancer Catering (the vendor that runs WCTC's cafeteria, Cheryl helped Chad prepare for his interview and once he was hired, she continued to support Chad in adjusting to his new position as a dishwasher at WCTC.

Chad was able to persevere through many trials and challenges on his journey to employment with the help of a strong support team that includes his family, group home manager, and Easterseals staff. He is proud to be a member of the team at WCTC and is thriving in his new environment. He is more comfortable in social situations and relaxed to the point where he joins in on the work fun. Because of his hard work, positive attitude and dedication, Chad was named the SOAR award winner in 2017. SOAR (Strength, Optimism, Achievement, Respect) is an award granted to an individual who demonstrates these qualities and Chad was a shining example of all of these. His family, support teams and Easterseals are all incredibly proud of how far he has come over these past few years and are excited to watch him continue to grow as an employee and member of the WCTC/Lancer Catering team!

Walk With Me 2018



Wednesday, June 27th, 5-8pm

Milwaukee County Zoo

\$15 registration includes parking and all day zoo admission!

Kids under 12 are FREE!

Enjoy the zoo and walk to raise awareness.
Support area families impacted by disabilities!



Yesha

Team Yesha



Emile

Emile's Bear Pack



Ben and Maggie

Team Leaning Tower of Giraffes



Grayson

Team G Money

Thank you to our sponsors!



For more information, go to www.walkwithme.org/Milwaukee or contact Emma at emmap@eastersealswise.com.

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Save the Date...

5/31 Project SEARCH Completion Ceremony:
Children's Hospital of WI

5/31 Project SEARCH Completion Ceremony:
Froedtert Hospital

6/1 Project SEARCH Completion Ceremony:
ProHealth Waukesha Memorial Hospital

6/5 Project SEARCH Completion Ceremony: Andis

6/20 Project SEARCH Completion Ceremony:
St. Joseph's Hospital

6/27 Walk With Me



Help individuals like Chad get the job of their dreams!

By supporting our job training programs like Career Connect, Project SEARCH, and LilyWorks Catering you are helping people like Chad find a fulfilling job in the community. Chad was able to succeed because of the training and support he received made possible by donors like you. Please consider making a gift or donating online today!

Featured Partners

Thank you to the many partners who have committed support to our signature events in 2018. Their generosity and support allows us to be able to continue provide high quality services to more than 3,500 individuals with disabilities in Southeast Wisconsin. We are incredibly grateful for their support!

Schaus Family Fund - A big thank you to Roger and Cindy Schaus of the Schaus Family Fund for their longtime support and partnership. Since 2006 the Schaus Family has pursued their shared goal of creating opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Kelmann Restorations - Kelmann Restoration is a family-owned, locally-operated and nationally-recognized property restoration company—but more than that, they are committed community leaders and advocates. Since 1973, Kelmann has prioritized personal relationships and service. We are proud to once again partner with Kelmann in 2018.

ITP (Information Technology Professionals) - ITP has worked alongside us for many years. They say "We are so impressed with the programs and services that that Easterseals provides to the community. We are proud to be their partners again in 2018, both in serving their technology needs and supporting their programs. Our partnership is a long-standing one and we feel fortunate to have found several ways to participate alongside them."

M3 Insurance - Since their founding more than 45 years ago they have strived to give back in ways that have real value. That's why they donate their time and money to local organizations that help make people's lives better. Easterseals is grateful for M3's continued support.





Safe Babies Healthy Families

Plans for the annual **SBHF Graduation Picnic** are underway! Last year 18 children graduated the program and 8 parents were recognized for graduating with high school or college degrees. We are expecting this year to be just as much fun so be sure to look out for more details about our upcoming graduation picnic being held late July!

For more information on our Safe Babies Healthy Families program contact Karen Villarreal at 262.953.2205 or karenv@eastersealswise.com.



LilyWorks Catering

Our very own **LilyWorks Catering** team served up some delicious dishes at Waukesha County Business Alliance's **Savor the Flavor** event this past March. Over 300 people attended the event and were able to enjoy the evening sampling food and mingling with the chefs and cooks themselves. LilyWorks was a part of a select few food vendors who participated in the event. **Josh and Chad** represented the LilyWorks team this year and did a phenomenal job! Chad is also the focus of our featured story for this month, be sure to read the cover story to learn more about his journey and successes!



Project SEARCH

Our **2018 Completion Ceremonies** for our Project SEARCH program will be coming up soon! This year we have 37 participants completing the program. These interns have completed their programs at sites including ProHealth Waukesha Memorial Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Froedtert Hospital, and Andis. The ceremonies will be a time for interns to reflect on their time in the program and also provide an opportunity to share their stories and achievements with their families, coworkers, and the community.

Check out our website to learn more about all of the interns looking for jobs!



Recreation

Believe it or not summer will be here soon, which means it will soon be time for our **summer camp** and **summer recreation programs** to begin. Our participants had a ton of fun during our spring recreation session! There were snowmobile rides, ceramic classes, bowling, community outings to Sprecher Brewery and **Cat in the Hat** and of course our Candy Land themed prom!

For more information and materials to sign up please visit our website or contact Chelsea McCracken with questions at chelseam@eastersealswise.com or (414) 550-2294.



Thank You Cristo Rey!

Over the course of the past school year we have had several students from **Cristo Rey High School** join our Community Engagement team. Cristo Rey utilizes a work-study educational model where students spend 4 days a week in classes and 1 day each week is at work with us here at Easterseals. There are 58 companies in the area that have Cristo Rey students as part of their teams and Easterseals is proud to be one of those partners. Students have helped with various tasks including data entry, acknowledging donations, preparing for signature events, and helping out with programs by making phone calls or providing support when we have special activities in our West Allis Adult Day program.

Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Kathy!

Volunteers are essential to the work that we do each and every day at Easterseals. We have some incredible volunteers that support both day-to-day needs (working in the Safe Babies Earn as You Learn store or providing engagement and fun for participants in our Adult Day programs), and one-time projects (preparing gardens for planting in spring, painting projects or helping at one of our signature events). Kathy Bush is one of our Safe Babies Healthy Families program volunteers and has continued to support this amazing program through her service for over 3 years!

"Kathy is such an amazing volunteer," says SBHF program manager Karen Villarreal, "she has such a passion to support the work we do. Not only does she save us a lot of time with data entry, but she is always watching out for our families as well. She worked on a project inspired by her past volunteer work where she put together some laundry baskets with basic essentials, and thought that some of our families could benefit as well. Our families have appreciated these items, more than we can say. She is one of the most generous and caring individuals I know. We are so lucky to have her as part of our team".

Why you became a volunteer...

I started volunteering because I felt I had something to offer. Being a teenage mother myself (36 years ago) I really wanted these families to have the best chance possible to be successful. My husband and I had very supportive families but not everyone does and this maybe their best chance to break that chain.

How this program has impacted you...

The biggest impact has been seeing how passionate the caseworkers are. The relationships they have with the families and the progress they make with them is inspiring. They make sure these children have every opportunity to be ready for school and be successful.

Why others should consider becoming a volunteer...

Being a volunteer is very rewarding and everyone is great to work with. You know you're working with an organization that is really making an impact in our community. Every day I go there is a happy day for me!

Get Involved

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Visit our website to see the many opportunities we have for you to get involved or contact **Emma Pohl** at emmap@eastersealswise.com or **414-963-5934**.

Employee Highlights



Our Team

Ever wonder what it's like to work at Easterseals? Here's a snapshot of different ways that our employees are involved and engaged in Easterseals! In February, we celebrated all of our employees at our annual **Employee Appreciation Party**, where we recognized several outstanding employees and their achievements over the past year with our **Living Our Values award**. Our 2017 recipients were Luisana Waukau (Birth to Three), Kelly LaBarr (Financial Services), and Kate Buschmann (Project SEARCH). Throughout the year, our employees enjoy employee spirit days, department celebrations, and group outings including a group cycling session at CycleBar and attending an Admirals game together. New this Spring, Easterseals created a kickball team and has plans to create other sports teams to allow employees to get involved!

Job Opportunities

If you or someone you know are interested in joining the fun, check out our website for job postings at www.easterseals.com/wise/who-we-are/careers-at-easter-seals/join-our-team.html

Spring 2018



www.eastersealswise.com

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Matthew could be your next great employee!



"Matthew has been a quick learner and has consistently and efficiently completed his work from the first day he spent with us. Matthew has one of the most impressive work ethics I have seen. I truly wish that everyone worked as hard and diligently as Matthew. "

- Andre Pells

Assistant Patient Care Manager
Waukesha Memorial Hospital

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- Accurately stocking medical supplies and linens
- General housekeeping including:
 - Cleaning and sanitizing bathrooms and nurse work stations
 - Vacuuming and dusting
- Thorough, hardworking, with a positive attitude
- Attentive, great memory, and a quick learner

EMPLOYMENT DESIRES

- Seeking part-time (30 hours per week) employment in the Brookfield or Waukesha areas
- Available weekdays from 8am-6pm
- Interested in jobs with cleaning, laundry, or maintenance component
- Also interested in jobs with stocking tasks

If you know a business that needs an employee like Matthew, please contact Ally O'Leary, Project SEARCH Manager at (262) 953-2206 or allysono@eastersealswise.com