

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Summer 2025

Congratulations to Tribute honorees Patty Balbach and Debbie Wink!

Congratulations to 2025 Easterseals Tribute honorees Debbie Wink, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Patty Balbach, Physical Therapist. Throughout their careers, Debbie and Patty have empowered thousands of individuals to achieve their dreams. They continue changing lives every day.

Debbie Wink is marking her 46th year with the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. One of her passions is working with clients who are deaf or hard of hearing, especially those with cochlear implants. She was one of the first 50 SLPs in the world certified in Auditory-Verbal Therapy.

Patty Balbach is celebrating her 45th year with Easterseals. Patty is an encourager, motivator, and friend to her clients. She is particularly passionate about working with children and with individuals who have spinal cord injuries.

At the June 4th Tribute, the honorees received Community Impact Awards presented by ESRC President/CEO Kelly Schneider. National Easterseals President/CEO Kendra Davenport joined in the celebration, and many local supporters, staff and clients also attended the event in the Crescent Room at the Easterseals Early Learning Center. ●



Celebrating at Easterseals Tribute are (L to R) Kendra Davenport, National Easterseals President/CEO; Patty Balbach, Honoree; Debbie Wink, Honoree; and Kelly Schneider, Easterseals Rehabilitation Center President/CEO.



Dreams come true at iCan Bike!

Quinn Reisinger is overjoyed with her progress at Easterseals "iCan Bike!" Volunteers Lily Strueh (left) and Ryan Scheu (right) are just as excited! Quinn and other participants achieved their dreams of riding a bicycle at iCan Bike "day camp" June 9-13. Participants progressed through a series of adapted bikes with assistance from volunteers. By the end of the week, most were riding a regular two-wheeler on their own! For info on next year's iCan Bike, including donating, volunteering, or registering a participant, contact Patty Balbach, 812-479-1411 x268. ●

The heart of Easterseals

I read an article recently that gave advice on Strategies to Achieve Career Longevity. I've made a few adjustments to better fit a non-profit.

- 1. Have an Impact on People:** Be close to activities that fulfill the mission.
- 2. Be a Thought Leader:** Identify what's next? What's out there? What do we need to help our clients get better and to live their fullest lives.
- 3. Be a Reputation Enhancer:** Be known for what you do.
- 4. Engage in Long-Term Projects:** Be part of the solution to address critical company and community needs.

On June 4th, we honored our two longest-tenured therapists with Easterseals Community Impact Awards: **Debbie Wink, Speech-Language Pathologist (46 years)** and **Patty Balbach, Physical Therapist (45 years)**. Since you are reading this newsletter you most likely know them – at least by reputation. They both joined Easterseals when we were still known as The Rehabilitation Center and there were just over 30 staff members. Today there are about 300 employees.

Each of these therapists impacted hundreds of children and adults – empowering them to live more independent lives. They've been thought leaders, building specialties and unique expertise. (Read more about them on page 1 of this newsletter.) These specialties made them extraordinary reputation enhancers – Easterseals is known throughout the region for the services they provide. Together they have provided nine decades of service – talk about engaging in long-term projects!

As we reflect on their contributions, we are reminded that the heart of Easterseals lies not just in our mission, but in the people who carry it forward—year after year, decade after decade. Both Patty and Debbie have built strong legacies of integrity, resilience, and service, and we celebrate them. They've made people feel seen. They've made every person they've helped feel valued and worthy.

We are fortunate that so many long-term staff members share this commitment to making a difference. More than 20 employees have been with us for at least 25 years. In addition to Debbie and Patty, four other employees have also been part of Easterseals for 40 years or more! Many thanks and congratulations to: **Becky Sitzman - 40 years; Kay Behnke - 41 years; Marcia Longist - 44 years; and Sharon Flemming - 44 years.**

As we celebrate these remarkable milestones, we're not just honoring years of service; we're recognizing a profound dedication to our mission and the countless lives transformed. The incredible longevity of Debbie, Patty, Becky, Kay, Marcia, and Sharon is the essence of Easterseals. Their enduring presence reminds us that **true career longevity** in the nonprofit world isn't about simply holding a position; it's about living the cause, continuously seeking new ways to serve, nurturing a reputation that enhances our organization's standing, and serving clients in ways that transform their future and ours.

I want to assure you that I witness this kind of dedication every day, not only in staff who have served for decades, but also in employees who are just starting their careers with Easterseals. It's truly exciting to see so many caring professionals sharing the passion for our mission. Here's to the past, present, and a bright future shaped by their service. ●



Kelly Schneider

Kelly Schneider, President/CEO

812.479.1411

eastersealsrehabcenter.com



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youtube.com/user/EasterSealsSWIN1



The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's MISSION is to make profound, positive differences in the lives of local people with disabilities every day, and to change the way our community defines and views disability.

OUR VISION is a community in which all individuals and families are accepted, valued and included, and have equal opportunity to achieve their goals, dreams and aspirations.

Easterseals Telethon on ABC25/CW7 shares mission of empowerment.

The 2025 Easterseals Telethon aired live from the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center Friday, April 11. **Youth Ambassador Ethan Hills** and **Adult Ambassador Greg Butler** were among the many local individuals and families who shared their stories. Easterseals services empower Greg and Ethan to reach important goals and achieve greater independence!

The annual broadcast was hosted by the **Eyewitness News** team. For the 48th consecutive year, **ABC25/CW7** generously donated production and air time, allowing all money raised to support inclusive early education and essential therapy services. The final total of \$907,797 reflected a year of generous support from the community.

Townsquare Media stations **99.5 WKDQ, My 105.3, KISS 106, WBKR, and 103GBF** provided live coverage throughout the day, sharing the Easterseals mission with the entire Tri-State.

Top supporters received Mayor's Awards, and **Mayor Stephanie Terry** proclaimed "Easterseals Day" in Evansville. Many thanks to all Telethon volunteers, sponsors, Pacesetters, donors, and friends for coming together to change lives! ●



ABC25/CW7 Telethon hosts and station leadership, Easterseals board members, Ambassadors and their families, and other guests reveal the "final tote" and thank the Tri-State community.

Easterseals Psychology Internship alumni reunite at state conference.

Alumni of the Easterseals Psychology Internship program gathered for a reunion while attending the Indiana Psychological Association's Spring Ethics Conference. The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center partnered with IPA to bring the conference to Evansville. Psychology professionals from around the state attended in person or participated virtually. It was a perfect opportunity for faculty, staff, and alumni of our Easterseals Psychology Internship program to reconnect! We loved catching up with these Doctors of Psychology who are now making a difference in our own community and across the country! ●



Remembering Easterseals in your will...

A simple way to make a lasting impact.

Did you know that you can make a charitable gift with your last will and testament? This kind of gift is surprisingly simple to set up and an incredible way to shape the future. Many assume estate planning is complex, but with the guidance of a legal professional, designating a charitable gift is straightforward. A simple amendment to your existing will, or inclusion in a new one, is all it takes to make a lasting difference.

Even a modest percentage of an estate can provide vital resources, directly impacting our clients' lives. From therapy services to equipment, scholarships for future therapists and more, your gift can make a lasting impact.

Your legacy will extend far beyond your lifetime. By including Easterseals in your will, you ensure that your values and compassion continue to benefit generations to come. You become a part of a lasting solution, leaving an imprint on the world that will inspire and uplift for decades. It's a testament to your belief in a better future, a powerful way to leave a truly enduring mark.

For information, contact Rob Henson, Vice President of Major Gifts & Planned Giving, at 812-437-2629 or rhenson@evansvillerehab.com. ●

Mark your calendar for coming events!

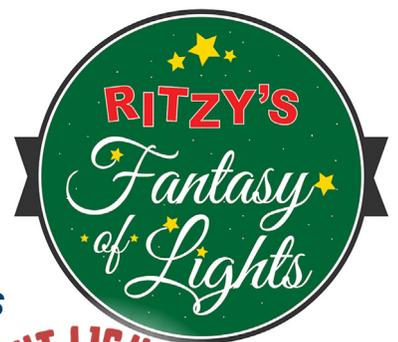
Find details at EastersealsRehabCenter.com, have fun & make a difference!

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, AUG. 22-24: 50TH ANNUAL E'VILLE IRON STREET ROD CLUB "FROG FOLLIES." Vanderburgh Co. 4-H Center. Fri.-Sat. 8am-4:30pm, Sun. 8am-2pm. \$5 per person (kids under 12 free).

CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF FROG FOLLIES! Enjoy thousands of pre-1948 street rods, a craft show, swap meet, concession stands, and special 50th anniversary activities! E'ville Iron generously donates a portion of Frog Follies admission proceeds to Easterseals! **Also enter the half-pot raffle at the Easterseals tent for just \$5 per chance!** Help Easterseals by volunteering at our half-pot tent! Contact Makenzi Lee, 812-474-2348 or MLee@evansvillerehab.com.



THURSDAY, AUG. 28: EASTERSEALS GOLFING FORE KIDS! Join us for this fun scramble at Cambridge Golf Course. DOUBLE SHOTGUN! 8AM OR 1PM! Reserve NOW while sponsorships, teams & individual spots are still available. Contact Sara McKeehan, 812-437-2609 or smckeehan@evansvillerehab.com.



THANKSGIVING THROUGH NEW YEAR'S DAY: 32ND ANNUAL RITZY'S FANTASY OF LIGHTS, 5-9PM NIGHTLY, GARVIN PARK! The dazzling drive-through light show will feature EVEN MORE NEW DISPLAYS! And yes, ANDY THE ELF returns! Details at RitzysFantasyOfLights.com.

WED., DEC. 3, 5-9PM: BRIGHT LIGHTS FOR EASTERSEALS 5K RUN/1-MILE WALK: Enjoy Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights in a special way! On this night only, the "magical mile of holiday lights" is closed to vehicles and open for a festive run/walk experience. Find details and register at rungsingup.com/brightlights.



Holiday World welcomes 3,000 Play Day guests & supports Easterseals!

Thank you, Holiday World, for welcoming more than 3,000 children with disabilities, their teachers and caregivers, to the 33rd annual "Play Day!" on May 9. The park generously donated the day's admission fees of approximately \$40,000 to Easterseals!

Play Day is a highlight of the year for many kids with disabilities. School groups get discounted tickets, Holiday World team members give extra attention to guests, and children enjoy the park at their own pace.

Since 1993, Holiday World has hosted an estimated 76,700 Play Day guests and donated a cumulative total of approximately \$691,970 to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center!

Holiday World recently introduced an updated accessibility guide, which includes a sensory rating system for all rides in the park. The guide and ratings, compiled with the help of Easterseals, makes it even easier for guests of all abilities to join in the fun all season long! Access the guide at holidayworld.com/park-info/accessibility/

If your school group hasn't participated in Play Day and would like information on next year's event, we'll add you to the contact list. Just email a request to Makenzi Lee at Easterseals, MLEe@evansvillerehab.com. ●

WIN a 2025 Nissan Versa S or \$20,000 cash!

2nd prize \$5,000 • 3rd prize \$1,000



BUY TICKETS:

- ▶ \$50 per ticket or 3 for \$100
- ▶ Max. 3,000 tickets available
- ▶ Call 812.437.2600 M-F, 8a.m.-5p.m. (CDT)



Chance to WIN 7 additional tickets!

Buy your ticket by 5 p.m. July 11 to be automatically entered in the **WildWheels Offer** for a chance to win SEVEN extra tickets!

Deadline to enter: July 16, 2025 | Drawing date: July 18, 2025

For a full list of rules, visit www.EastersealsRehabCenter.com IN Raffle License #002228

Sponsored by: **OLD NATIONAL BANK**



2025 Easterseals Cool Car, Cold Cash Raffle Order Form

Must be received by Friday, July 11, 2025, to be entered into WildWheels Offer.

Number of Tickets _____ @ \$50 each or 3/\$100 Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Check made payable to Easterseals Rehabilitation Center Money Order

Debit Card (no credit cards) Account # _____ Exp: _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email my receipt to _____ Signature _____ NEWS2025

Mail to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, 3701 Bellemeade Ave., Evansville, IN 47714 | 812.437.2600



Congrats, Easterseals Early Learning Center grads!

It's on to kindergarten for the class of 2025! 31 children received diplomas from ELC's Mitchell LEAD Academy, an inclusive preschool with a wide-ranging curriculum for kids of all abilities. Best wishes to these graduates as they take their next big step to a bright future! To learn more about the Early Learning Center, call 812-474-2244. ●

