



Transforming lives since 1946. Empowering children and adults with disabilities and their families to pursue their own goals and dreams. Serving individuals from Southwestern Indiana, Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Spring 2026



Meet Youth Ambassador Paige Musgrove.

Paige Musgrove loves playing softball, camping, swimming, and performing with her cheer and dance squad. Paige is an enthusiastic, determined, and competitive 13-year-old from Evansville, and she's excited to share her story as Easterseals Youth Ambassador for 2026.

Paige was born with dwarfism, and her short stature can make some tasks more challenging, like opening doors and reaching items. She works hard in Easterseals physical therapy sessions to improve her range of motion, balance, and confidence. Therapy has been especially important after Paige's many surgeries, enabling her to regain strength, endurance and mobility to pursue her dreams of greater independence.

Tune in to the Easterseals Telethon Friday, April 17, on ABC25/CW7 to meet Paige. Plan to make a generous gift to Easterseals and empower local individuals with disabilities to achieve their goals!

Watch Paige on the Telethon
Friday, April 17, on ABC25/CW7!

We're celebrating 80 years, thanks to generations of supporters - including you!

In 1946, community leaders saw a gap in services for local people with disabilities. They took a big step to fill the need by starting the organization that would become our local Easterseals. They funded equipment and expenses for out-of-town treatment, but that was just the beginning. The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center opened in 1957, providing essential disability services close to home.

Through the years, new generations of leaders and supporters recognized changing needs, introduced new programs, expanded the original building, and added other locations. Today - 80 years later - local people are still stepping up to fulfill the mission.

Learn more about the eight decades of history that continue empowering our friends and neighbors to pursue their dreams. **Pick up your copy of the Feb./March Evansville Business magazine or visit evansvilleliving.com/a-second-family/**



Cover photo by Zach Straw/Evansville Business

Celebrating eight decades of difference!

It's official: 2026 is here and at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center we are celebrating our 80th anniversary!

Pick up the new edition of *Evansville Business* which features the organization and officially kicks off the celebration. Stay tuned for announcements of upcoming events and stories highlighting eight decades of changing lives.

Be sure to follow us on social media – we will be making posts throughout the year about services past and present. These posts are sure to include several fun, old pictures. We are enjoying digging through the archives but if you have any pictures or stories to share, we would love to have them. You can contact me at kschneider@evansvillerehab.com or 812-437-2612.

In addition to the 80th anniversary celebration, the big priority this year is to determine the best way to meet the growing need for our services. As that demand continues to increase, it is critical for us to ensure that everyone (at all income levels) has access to the same high-quality level of service and expertise. While we continue to accept virtually all insurance types (including Medicaid), we offer financial assistance for Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Audiology Testing and Services, and Psychology Testing and Services.

We continue to see an increase in the need for services across the board but particularly in the First Steps program, which serves children 0–3 years of age. This growing demand is a leading indicator of future space needs. We will need more room to serve those clients as they age into clinic-based therapy. We are in the process of evaluating the best way to do that but we know that space constraints at our current main campus compromise our mission impact. As soon as we decide on a plan of action, we will share that with you, so watch for updates on that as well!

This year offers a unique opportunity to celebrate the people we serve, our dedicated staff at all levels of the organization and you – businesses and community members who provide financial support, volunteer efforts, and advocacy assistance. We've been in this together for eight decades and our success depends on our partnership with and support from all of you.



Kelly Schneider, President/CEO

**Follow our socials for exclusive
80th anniversary content!**



 EastersealsRehabCtr
 eastersealsrehabctr
 EasterSealsSWIN1
 EasterSealsSWIN

eastersealsrehabcenter.com
812.479.1411

Thanks for making Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights a record-breaking success!

The entire community played a part in supporting the 32nd annual Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights, which raised a record \$239,980 to provide Easterseals services!

More than 12,750 cars and carriages visited the "magical mile" of holiday lights in Garvin Park from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day! It was the biggest and brightest show ever, featuring 90-plus dazzling displays. Hundreds of people attended the Bright Lights Run/Walk. Dozens of volunteers and sponsors made the event possible.

Special thanks to Ritzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Teamsters Local 215, Electrical JATC, IUPAT DC91, Evansville Police Department, ABC 25/CW 7, 99.5 WKDQ, 105.3 WJLT, KISS 106, 103GBF, WGBF-AM, WBKR, Lamar Advertising, and Evansville Living. We also appreciate the support of the Evansville Department of Parks & Recreation!

Mark your calendar for the 2026 Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights, open nightly Thanksgiving-New Year's Day, and for the Bright Lights Run/Walk on Dec. 2!

Creative Ways to Make a Charitable Impact

When you think about charitable giving, you might think of writing a check or making an online gift. Savvy donors know there's often a more tax-efficient way to support causes they care about: donating appreciated assets.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

One of the most powerful yet underutilized giving strategies involves donating stock or mutual funds that have increased in value. When you donate appreciated securities held for more than one year directly to a nonprofit, you typically avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation while still receiving a charitable deduction for the full fair market value. For example, if you purchased stock for \$5,000 that's now worth \$15,000, donating it directly to charity could avoid the capital gains tax on the \$10,000 increase. You receive a charitable deduction for the full \$15,000, and the nonprofit receives the complete value—everyone wins.

Real Estate Gifts

Donating real estate that has increased in value can provide similar tax benefits. Some donors even retain life use of a property while receiving immediate tax benefits through a retained life estate gift.

Important Considerations

Every donor's situation is unique. Always consult with your financial advisor and tax professional before making any charitable giving decision that could have tax implications. They can help you determine which strategy best fits your specific situation and ensures you maximize both your charitable impact and your tax benefits.

For more information on creative ways to make a difference for our clients, please contact Rob Henson, VP of Major Gifts/Planned Giving at rhenson@evansvillerehab.com or 812.202.9384.



\$50 or 3/\$100

Deadline 3/11/26

Drawing 3/13/26

Rules at eastersealsrehabcenter.com

812-437-2600

Call or buy in person - 3701 Bellemeade Ave. Evansville, IN

Max 5,000 Tickets Sold!

1st PRIZE
\$25,000

2nd PRIZE
\$15,000

3rd PRIZE
\$5,000

4th & 5th Prizes
\$1,000 Each!

Indiana Raffle License #002228

2026 Easterseals ALL CASH RAFFLE Order Form

Call 812-437-2600 or complete this form & mail with payment info.

Orders & payment must be received by March 11 deadline.

Number of Tickets ____ @ \$50 each or 3/\$100 Total 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 _____ ACR2026NEWS

Scan QR Code for local Easterseals impact stories.



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





Register, volunteer, or donate to “iCan Bike!”

Individuals with disabilities, age 8 and up, can learn to ride a regular two-wheeled bicycle at **“iCan Bike” Monday-Friday, June 1-5.**

Each “camper” attends “bike camp” for 75 minutes daily. They progress through a series of adapted roller bikes while receiving individual assistance. Most participants are successfully riding a regular bicycle with no adaptations by the end of the week! They also receive their own safety helmet and an iCan Bike t-shirt.

iCan Bike is held at Evansville’s National Guard Armory. Spots are limited, so **REGISTER BY THE MAY 6TH DEADLINE!** Cost is \$200 per person. Scholarships are available through support from generous donors.

Volunteers are needed to assist participants and must be at least 15, able to walk/run beside a bike, and available daily during bike camp, 8:00am-12:30pm &/or 1:00-4:30pm.

To register or volunteer for iCan Bike—or to financially sponsor a participant—contact Patty Balbach, 812-479-1411, ext. 268, pbalbach@evansvillerehab.com.

Many thanks to Mr. Fence!

We are so grateful to Mr. Fence of Evansville for their incredible generosity! Led by Shawn King, the company donated all materials and labor and installed a new high-quality fence at our Powell Ave. Group Home. This exceptional gift has created a safer, more secure, and more beautiful space for the adults who call Powell home!

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.

Save the Date! LemonAid Stand in June!

It’s not too early to think about summer! Save the date for the LemonAid Stand for Easterseals Thur., June 25, at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. Follow us on Facebook for details as we get closer to the event!

Thank you, Evansville Endowment Fund!

A big thank-you to Evansville Endowment Fund, a supporting organization of Community Foundation Alliance, for a generous \$19,210 grant! These funds will replace and expand driveway, parking and patio areas at our Fuquay Group Home, improving safety and accessibility for clients, staff, and visitors. Pictured at the check presentation are (back row, l. to r.) Marcus Hester, Kyle Kempf and Susan Harp from the Endowment Fund board, and Kelly Schneider, Christy Gogel, Laurie Seals, and Todd Rowe from Easterseals; (front row, l. to r.) Fuquay residents Samantha Archer, John Michael Sims, and Noah Heichelbech, and staff member Jon Ashby.





Easterseals Adult Ambassador Megan Durre is all about advocacy.

Megan Durre's Easterseals story started when she was a child growing up on Evansville's West Side. Megan has cerebral palsy, and therapy services at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center enabled her to reach developmental milestones, enjoy activities with her friends, and succeed in school.

After graduating from Reitz High School in 2018, Megan returned to Easterseals with her sights set on the future. Reaching new therapy goals empowered her to continue her education at IVY Tech Community College. Megan obtained an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education and earned a certificate in Business Administration.

Now Megan has her eye on a career. She's working with Easterseals Employment Services to find a fulfilling position leading to greater independence in the community.

Megan is passionate about advocating for herself and others, especially in the area of accessibility. "I feel like it is important to advocate for people with disabilities because if you don't, you don't get what you want and need," she said.

Megan didn't hesitate when she was asked to serve as this year's Adult Ambassador. "I said YES because I feel like my story can help people watching the Telethon to know what Easterseals has to offer and how they can help other people who need services."



Thanks to our volunteer Board of Directors for guiding, governing, and supporting the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center.

2026 Board Chair - Julie Burczyk (Tools 4 Teaching).

Executive Committee - Julie Burczyk (Tools 4 Teaching), Shelby Collins (Ascension Medical Group), Erica Esche (National Vet Help), Geoff Gentil (Field & Main Bank), Michele Graham (Harding Shymanski & Co. PSC), Brant Kennedy (Harding, Shymanski & Co. PSC), Bill Norman (Amcor), Carrie Roelle (Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn), John C. Schroeder, Director Emeritus (Wabash Plastics), Jeffrey Wedding (State of Indiana - Indiana State Psychiatric Hospital Network).

Board Members - Larry Barnhill (Heritage Federal Credit Union), Anne Thrasher Boyd (Anne Thrasher Boyd State Farm), Andrea Braun (Fifth Third Bank), Amanda Kruse Corlett (Mead Johnson), Allie Ingler (Deaconess Women's Hospital), Darin Lander (Old National Bank), Kyle Markle (Donaldson Capital Management), Andy Martin (Liberty Federal Credit Union), Oliver Paradis (Alcoa), Jason Perry (CenterPoint Energy), Siobhan Pietruszkiewicz (Community Volunteer), Michelle Schmitt (Old National Bank), Jaimie Sheth (JD Sheth Foundation), Eric Teppen (German American Bank), Brian Williams (Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn).

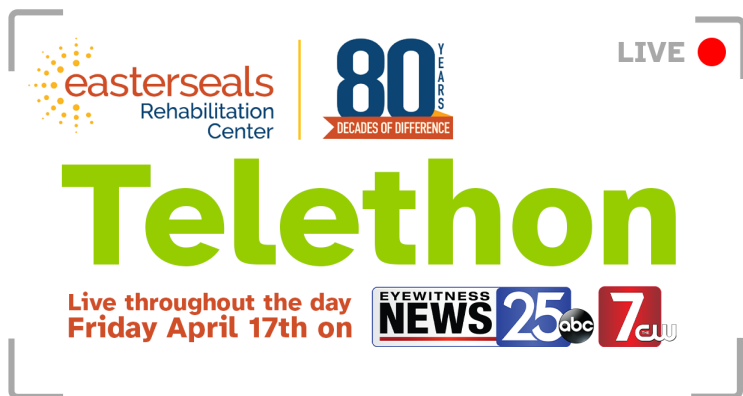


2026 Board Chair Julie Burczyk brings thoughtful leadership, steady vision, and a deep commitment to inclusion as she helps guide Easterseals in serving individuals with disabilities and their families. Julie also owns Tools 4 Teaching, an educational supply and toy store that supports teachers, parents, and caregivers with hands-on learning resources for children of all abilities.



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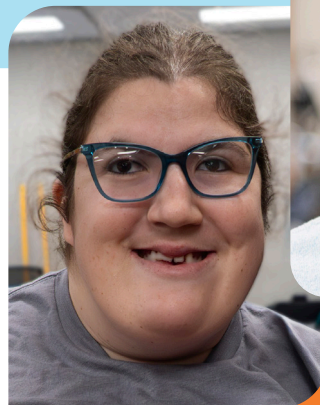
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ABC25/CW7 presents the 49th annual Easterseals Telethon Friday, April 17!

Tune in FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 5AM-7PM, as the Eyewitness News team brings you exclusive coverage during newscasts, interviews with special guests, and compelling video stories. The station's commitment allows *all* proceeds to fund inclusive early education and essential therapies, empowering local kids and adults with disabilities to achieve their dreams. Be a part of the Easterseals mission! Call special numbers on the screen, watch for "text to give" options, or donate at eastersealsrehabcenter.com. Follow EastersealsRehabCtr on Facebook for Telethon updates!

Meet Local Ambassadors
Megan Durre (left) and
Paige Musgrove on the
2026 Easterseals Telethon!



Sponsors match ALL donations made during the show! ABC25/CW7 generously donates 100% of production and air time so ALL DONATIONS STAY LOCAL!