



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

Fall 2025

Promoting independence, expanding opportunity, creating family.

Home is a special place to feel secure, comfortable, and encouraged. Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities may find that special “heart connection” within an Easterseals Group Home in a local residential neighborhood. Caring, professional staff provide 24-hour care in a welcoming environment with a warm family feeling.

Empowering individuals to reach their goals for independence is a high priority for Easterseals Direct Support Professionals. DSPs assist each client in pursuing their own interests, whether at home, through work or volunteer involvement, at community events, or with a wide range of activities available through Easterseals Aspire Day Services.

Group Home residents stay very busy pursuing their dreams. Here are a few photos to help you catch up!

Helmuth Group Home resident Christy Conner loves bringing people together for celebrations. Aspire DSPs Stephanie Bell (l.) and Anne Powell (r.) are happy to pitch in with party planning.



Jon Beard, an Aspire client who lives at the Alvord Group Home, loves animals! Jon enjoys making a difference as a volunteer for It Takes a Village animal rescue.



Group Home residents Noah Heichelbech and Rett Larimore (front l. to r.) recently lived their dream of attending an Indianapolis Colts game, assisted by Aspire DSPs Brett Makovic and Adam Cole (back l. to r.).

Now enrolling new group home residents!

Vacancies are now available for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to join our Group Home program. Residents also have the opportunity to participate in Aspire day services. To learn more, contact Christy Gogel at 812.437.2646 or cgogel@evansvillerehab.com

We are future ready!

In the recent Annual Report, we discussed how meeting the community need for therapy services has created immense growth in Easterseals' therapies. Our team has grown to 47 staff therapists and 35 contracted therapists for a total of 82 therapists currently operating under the Easterseals umbrella. (Ten years ago there were 56 total therapists – 35 staff and 21 contract.) This is undeniable evidence of our impact and clarifies that we need more space to meet the community's need, not just for today.

As we look toward our momentous **80th Anniversary in 2026**, we are **future ready** - strategically strengthening our operations to ensure Easterseals remains a permanent, vital resource for the region. To that end, we are exploring options, including the possibility of consolidating services onto **one unified Evansville campus** that would provide essential room for continued growth.

In order to make the growth in therapies possible, our Board of Directors and Leadership Team made intentional efforts to strategically invest in our current and future workforce. Over the last 24 months we completed a comprehensive review to **align salaries and pay rates** across the entire organization to levels that are **highly competitive** within the regional market. This ensures that our therapists, other program staff and specialists, and support staff are compensated fairly for their expertise and dedication.

Our goal is simple: to create a workplace where all 300+ current staff and future staff feel **respected, challenged, and deeply connected** to the life-changing mission of Easterseals. We believe that by caring for our employees, they, in turn, can provide the highest quality of care to our community.

Another goal is a resolute focus on **organizational sustainability** to ensure that Easterseals is equipped—financially, professionally, and structurally—to continue to meet the complex and growing needs of people with disabilities for **decades to come**.

Sustainability begins with our people. We have dramatically accelerated **specific professional development strategies** aimed at cultivating the next generation of leadership and expertise across all levels of the organization. This proactive approach ensures we have a resilient talent pipeline, capable of innovating and adapting to future challenges in the healthcare and non-profit sectors. By investing in our staff, we are investing directly in the quality and consistency of the services we will provide 5, 10, and 50 years from now.

The success of this journey—from securing a new facility to elevating our services—**absolutely depends on you**. It happens with your **feedback**, your **input**, your **support**, and your vital **partnership** in our mission. We are truly **in this together** to serve those who need us the most.

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.



Kelly Schneider, President/CEO

Check out our new web site!

It's more accessible, easier to navigate, and mobile friendly! Visit eastersealsrehabcenter.com and let us know what you think!

Thanks E'ville Iron!

Congratulations to long-time friends of Easterseals, the **E'ville Iron Street Rod Club**, for a hugely successful **50TH ANNIVERSARY FROG FOLLIES!** We are so grateful to E'ville Iron for allowing Easterseals to be a part of the event Aug. 22-24 AND for generously supporting our mission for decades!

Golfing & Giving Mark Your Calendar!

Thanks to everyone who made the 26th annual Easterseals Golfing Fore Kids a big success, especially lead sponsors **D-Patrick Ford** and **D-Patrick Honda**! This fun scramble has raised more than \$1,168,716 since it began! Save the date for next year. Join us at Cambridge **Thur., Sept. 3, 2026**! For details contact Anna Raben, 812-437-2607 or araben@evansvillerehab.com.



Fun, Fashion & Fundraising

A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who joined us for the Easterseals Style Show at Bally's on Oct. 2! We're so grateful to our amazing models who lit up the runway, including former local Easterseals Ambassadors (l. to r.) Evan Carter, Eleanor Daywalt, and Sophie Weinzapfel. Special thanks to our generous sponsors and to Grace & Company and Kingdom Cords for providing the seasonal styles.



Congratulations to these physical therapy graduate students who recently received Lisa Fisher Memorial Scholarship Awards from Easterseals! Left to right: Paige Line (UE), Katherine Rushika (IU), Mallory Weber (UE), Emily Bickel (UE), Jerryn Swingle (UE), Jossie Hudson (UE), and Cecelia Ritter (UE). Scholarship applications from speech-language pathology grad students are being accepted now until Nov. 30. Visit eastersealsrehabcenter.com for details.



Lisa's legacy

Lisa Fisher spent her entire 34-year career changing lives at Easterseals as a speech-language pathologist, director of speech & audiology, and VP of clinical services. Lisa passed away in December but her legacy continues. Lisa's family joined with staff in September to name therapy scholarships in her memory and unveil a memorial plaque at ESRC. Family members attending the dedication included (left to right) John & Teri Dickey, Lacey & Heather Nally, Ann Dickey, Jeff Fisher, Brittany & Matt Fisher.

The Easterseals HOP-N-ING curriculum, presented by Tools 4 Teaching, helps preschool and elementary students understand what it means to have a disability and how to be a friend to all. The online program features short videos about five animated characters plus links to teaching aids and suggested books. As part of HOP-N-ING, students can hop to collect pledges for Easterseals. HOP-N-ING is fun, flexible, and FREE for teachers! Contact Makenzi Lee, 812-474-2348 or mlee@evansvillerehab.com.



Give, volunteer & share our life-changing mission.

eastersealsrehabcenter.com

Contact us for a tour!

812.479.1411

EastersealsRehabCtr

eastersealsrehabctr

EasterSealsSWIN1

EasterSealsSWIN

Thank you, Alcoa Foundation, for changing young lives!

A generous \$50,000 grant from Alcoa Foundation is supporting Easterseals services for children with complex needs.

A multidisciplinary approach by caring professionals working together with families is essential when children are dually diagnosed with mental health conditions and developmental disabilities.

With Alcoa's assistance, Easterseals provides assessments and therapies regardless of a family's financial means at the Neurodevelopmental Center (NDC), a collaboration with Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare. Special thanks to Alcoa's Shannon Frazer, who delivered this meaningful grant to the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center!



Celebrating Alcoa Foundation's generous grant on Sept. 3rd were (l. to r.): Todd Rowe, Easterseals VP of Development; Pam Kirk, Mission Communications Specialist; Shannon Frazer, Alcoa; Emily Reidford, VP of Mental Health Services; and Kelly Schneider, Easterseals President/CEO.

United Way volunteers turn caring into action at ELC!



Planned giving is simple, yet powerful.

You might assume that planned giving is complicated, but it can be simple! It is an efficient and fulfilling way to fund vital services that benefit our clients and community. Planned giving is a commitment made now to benefit Easterseals in the future, often through your estate plan. Two powerful yet simple options are:

1. Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA: If you are 73 or older and must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), you can direct a portion to Easterseals as a QCD. This amount counts toward your RMD and has beneficial tax implications.

2. Donating Appreciated Assets: Donating stocks or mutual funds that have increased in value is highly effective. You can often claim a charitable deduction for the full fair-market value and may potentially reduce capital gains tax. This allows your gift to be larger and more cost-effective for you, turning investments into life-changing opportunities for the people we serve.

Planned giving can be as simple as updating a beneficiary form or consulting your financial advisor. By including Easterseals in your planning, you ensure a lasting legacy. There are many creative ways to support the work that changes lives. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Rob Henson, VP of Major Gifts & Planned Giving, 812-437-2629 or rhenson@evansvillerehab.com.

Many thanks to all who gave their time on United Way of Southwestern Indiana's "Day of Caring" Sept. 19! At the Easterseals Early Learning Center, volunteers assisted children of all abilities as they navigated an indoor obstacle course in the "ELC Olympics." Special thanks to these companies for encouraging employees to volunteer: CenterPoint Energy, Heritage Federal FCU, Humana, One Main, PTI, Reckitt, and Traylor Brothers.



Easterseals has a new vehicle in its Transportation fleet, thanks to the Evansville MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization and Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.! They partnered with us to obtain funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility for Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Program. Staff will utilize the new 2025 Chrysler Braunability van to transport clients of our Residential Services to and from medical appointments, community outings, shopping trips, volunteer and work opportunities, church and entertainment activities - wherever they need to go in the community! Special thanks to Evansville MPO Transit Transportation Planner Jennifer Scott, shown on right in photo with ESRC Transportation Manager Karen Brooks.



Easterseals Rehabilitation Center
3701 Bellemeade Avenue
Evansville, Indiana 47714-0136
P 812.479.1411 • F 812.437.2634
eastersealsrehabcenter.com

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Evansville, Indiana
Permit No. 1953

Experience Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights, the "magical mile" of holiday lights in Garvin Park, Thanksgiving-New Year's Day!



Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights NOV. 27-JAN. 1

Drive through
dazzling Garvin Park
Sun.-Thu. 5-9PM
Fri.-Sat. 5-10PM
Christmas Eve &
Christmas 5-10PM
Carriage rides available
weather permitting.



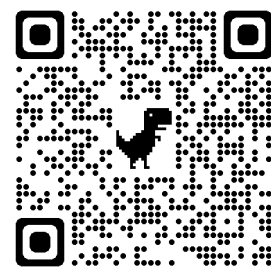
Bright Lights WED., DEC. 3

5K Run 5:45PM
1-Mile Walk
6:30PM
Costume Contest!
Food Trucks!
Register at
[runsignup.com/
BrightLights](http://runsignup.com/BrightLights)



Andy The Elf Returns!

Find Andy in a new
spot each week
(until 12/24) for
a chance to
WIN PRIZES!
Rules at
[RitzysFantasy
OfLights.com](http://RitzysFantasyOfLights.com)



Make magical memories while
supporting life-changing
Easterseals services.

Over 90 elaborate displays -
the most ever!

Affordable & festive family fun -
just \$7 for most vehicles!

RitzysFantasyOfLights.com

Thanks to all light display sponsors, volunteers and major sponsors:

Ritzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Teamsters Local 215, Electrical JATC, IUPAT DC91, ABC 25/CW 7, 99.5
WKDQ, 105.3 WJLT, KISS 106, 103GBF, WGBF-AM, WBKR, Lamar Advertising, Evansville Living.

Special thanks to EVANSVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION!