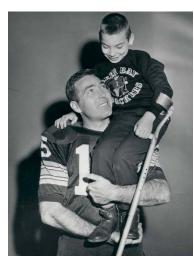


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## Campers, Farmers, Veterans Alike Benefit from Easterseals Wisconsin



Easterseals Wisconsin has a rich history dating back to 1926, celebrating its 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The organization has adapted to fit its clients needs over the years, offering camp and respite services, vocational rehabilitation services, and referral and educational services. Madison, WI – As the world slowly transitions into 2021, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 is still ever-present, in our personal and professional lives alike. In a normal world, Easterseals Wisconsin would just be kicking off their fundraising season, gearing up for Winter Warm-Up in downtown Wisconsin Dells, Starry Night in Madison, Golf Outings in the Dells and in Marathon, Sporting Clays in Johnson Creek. Summer campers getting fired up, eager cannon-ballers ready to make waves in the pool, zip-liners heating up the wire. Veterans and their families packing their bags to attend the first of two Veterans Family Camps at Camp Wawbeek. Farmers have begun tilling the ground, breaking up winter, and welcoming in spring. Entrepreneurs eager to pack up the artwork they've been creating all winter, ready to set up at the first festival of the season. As individuals with disabilities, they have connected with Easterseals Wisconsin and the opportunity to fulfill their desire for independence because of the program or service the organization has provided.

Since 1926, Easterseals Wisconsin has provided services that help children and adults with disabilities. The organization has managed to survive through WWII, the Great Depression of 1929, the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, and multiple pandemics. And even through some of the most difficult times, Easterseals Wisconsin has managed to stay vital because of the support of the communities they serve. Clients, client families, and business partners alike have been committed to keeping the organization's mission alive and well – no matter the cost.

Easterseals Wisconsin has been fortunate to partner with amazingly generous individuals and businesses throughout the state. Teaming up at fundraisers, matching donation gifts, volunteering their time and energy to promote a mission they so deeply believe in. This past year has shown us how resilient we can all be, and that even though times may be tough, we dig in our heels and figure out new ways, re-evaluate, and take a new direction so that we can continue on with what is important to us.

Easterseals Wisconsin would like to say *thank you* to so many who have been a part of continuing the rich traditions of Easterseals Wisconsin. The clients they support, their families, and their communities *thank you*. The organization has received heartfelt gratitude for what they do and realizes that the services they offer are vital to so many.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all but one of the organization's 2020 fundraisers was cancelled. To date, three fundraisers in 2021 have already been cancelled. Due to these circumstances, we are urgently asking for support virtually. If you are interested in supporting Easterseals Wisconsin, please join our 2021 annual campaign online. Learn more at <u>eastersealswisconsin.com/donate</u>.

**About Easterseals Wisconsin:** For 95 years, Easterseals Wisconsin has provided services that help children and adults with disabilities gain greater independence. Easterseals Wisconsin's primary services – vocational rehabilitation, respite services, camping and recreation, information and referral, and public education – benefit close to 10,000 individuals with disabilities and their families each year throughout Wisconsin.