



Partners in Access

Easterseals Western & Central Pennsylvania newsletter

Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania spent 2023 sharing, growing, and learning with our families. Throughout the 47 counties served, individuals with disabilities and their families were supported with various programs in their communities. Filling the specific needs in each community, Easterseals Western and Central PA continues to advocate for equity, inclusion, and access for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Pittsburgh Area

- Adult day services
- Approved private school sites specializing in education and therapy services for children with autism and/or multiple disabilities ages 3-10.
- Employment services

Johnstown

- Outpatient speech and hearing services

Franklin

- Residential homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. 24/7 care is provided in a caring and quality environment.

State College

- Lance and Ellen Shaner Child Development Center (CDC) providing inclusive, high-quality care and learning opportunities for children of all abilities.

York Area

- Recreation opportunities
- Club Lily, for young adults 18 years and older and Day Camps for kids
- Interpreting services for the deaf and hard of hearing
- Project Beacon, camps for children of active, reserved and veteran military families

W I N T E R

James G. Bennett
President & CEO

York Area Staff

Nick Spease
Director, Camping &
Community Services

Liz Bunting
Therapeutic
Recreation Program
Specialist

Sue DuMars
Major Gifts &
Community
Engagement Manager

Tammy Gross
ASL Coordinator

York Office
2550 Kingston Rd.
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York Area Happenings

This year the York area Easterseals Western and Central PA office offered 21 community recreation opportunities, 4 adventure sports offerings and 20 camps. Serving children as young as 5 through our oldest camper at age 70, our staff continues to provide fun activities and programs for participants to make friends and enjoy amazing experiences. A total of 258 individuals participated in our recreation and camps in 2023, 153 children and 105 adults.

Our interpreting services, coordinated by Tammy Gross supported 126 deaf or hard of hearing individuals. This service allows those individuals to schedule an interpreter for meetings, appointments and special events.



2023 York Area Ambassador

Maggie Allen was diagnosed with Epilepsy and Developmental Delays at three months old. To control her seizures, Maggie has tried countless medications, diet therapies but she continues to struggle with health issues.

Despite these challenges, Maggie's family strived for normalcy in her childhood. Prior to kindergarten, Maggie participated with her twin in typical activities with a few tweaks. However, her family soon realized that Maggie would benefit from adapted activities with other individuals with disabilities like those available through Easterseals. These modifications have allowed her to make new friends in a specialized environment. "We were looking for a baseball program and found the Challenger program through Easterseals."

Today, Maggie is a loving preteen who adores her family and pets. She will need a lifetime of care and support. As she gets older, she will benefit from more of the Easterseals programs. "I had always heard of Easterseals and made donations, but I never really knew the full extent of their programs and services. We feel fortunate to have found Easterseals," said her mom.

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Mark your calendars and share with anyone in the central PA region that may benefit from attending one of our camps. Club Lily and Project Beacon are held at Camp Victory in Millville, PA. If you have questions about camps or are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Nick Spease our Director of Camping and Community Services, nspease@eastersealswcpenna.org

Upcoming Camp Offerings for 2024

Club Lily: January 19-21 (snow date January 26-28)

Club Lily: February 16-18 (snow date February 23-25)

Club Lily: March 8-10 (snow date, March 15-17)

Project Beacon: April 5-7

Club Lily: April 12-14

Club Lily: May 17-19

Club Lily: June 2-6

Camp Kidet: June 21-23

Teen Challenge: June 27-30

Camp 5 Star: July 26-28

Kids A.T. Camp: August 2-4

Club Lily: August 16-18

Club Lily: September 20-22

Club Lily: October 11-13

Project Beacon: October 18-20

Club Lily: November 15-17



Club Lily -adult overnight camps for individuals 18 years old and up

Project Beacon,-overnight camps for military children ages 5-17

Teen Challenge, Camp 5 Star, Kids A.T. Camp - camps for children of military families

<https://www.easterseals.com/wcpenna>

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York Area Happenings

Upcoming Recreation Offerings for 2024

Bowling in Cumberland County

- Session 1: Fridays January 1 - February 23
- Session 2: Fridays March 15 - May 10
- Session 3: Fridays May 31 - July 19
- Session 4: Fridays August 9 - September 27
- Session 5: Fridays October 18 - December 13

Bowling in Dauphin County

- Session 1: Thursdays January 4 - February 22
- Session 2: Thursdays March 14 - May 2
- Session 3: Thursdays May 23 - July 18
- Session 4: Thursdays August 8 - September 26
- Session 5: Thursday October 17 - December 12

Bowling in York County

- Session 1: Wednesdays January 3 - February 21
- Session 2: Wednesdays March 13 - May 1
- Session 3: Wednesdays May 22 - July 10
- Session 4: Wednesdays July 31 - September 18
- Session 5: Wednesdays October 9 - December 4

"Mikey loves this bowling program! He looks forward to it every week and he talks about it often. He's made some new friends as well. It helps Mikey develop more social skills being with his bowling peers who have similar conditions as himself." – Jim, parent

Bowl with us in 2024!

"Maggie has participated with Easter Seals Bowling for over five years and has loved every minute of it. It provides her a place to be with her peers in a fun environment with no pressure. No one is hurrying her along because she tends to mosey rather than walk. No one takes her turn because they want to increase the overall team score. She loves to there with her friends. If they want to talk with each that's great, if not they just watch the other bowlers, happy to be with each other. She loves to talk with the staff (AKA helpers) about their pets and her school. This program gives her a chance to have an after school activity like her siblings. We're so thankful that she has another place to belong." – Jen, parent

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State College Staff

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Director, Child
Development Center

Gretchen Confer
Program Coordinator
Child Development
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Lance & Ellen Shaner
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CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

in State College

The Lance & Ellen Shaner Child Development Center serves children ages 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. Diversity is a valued and celebrated element of our program. Children learn from peers in this rich environment and develop a strong sense of acceptance and understanding of differences. Children from a variety of socio-economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds and with varying abilities attend Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania's Child Development Center.



2023 Walk With Me Ambassador

If you missed the Walk With Me in 2023 you may not have heard about our ambassador Ella. Ella is a smart, kind, loving, artistic, animal loving little girl. She also happens to have Autism and a Global Developmental Delay.

Since starting at Easterseals, Ella has been in a fully inclusive environment, participating in daily activities, expanding on her different modes of communication, making friends and connections, and has been fully accepted for her differences. Easterseals has not only supported Ella with her challenges, but her family as well as learn to navigate parenting a child with special needs.

W I N T E R



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

At the CDC, children are afforded the opportunity to explore their spacious classrooms, participate in small and large group activities, expend their energy on the playground or while riding bikes and so much more.

Field trips throughout the year give the children an opportunity to see their community and learn through experiencing.

During the fall semester the children have been learning about seasons, holidays, traditions and different cultures. A focus throughout all the classrooms has been Acceptance, Safety, and Kindness. Through classroom pets, books, music and play the children are making new friends and learning about the world around them every day.

If you have questions or would like to tour the center please call 814.238.4434.



Coming in 2024

Our classrooms will receive new reading material this year thanks to a grant from the Centre Foundation through the Diane V. Moore Memorial Fund. We have also received a Field of Interest Grant through the Centre Foundation for an accessible school-aged swing. Many thanks to the work being done at Centre Foundation and the donors providing the funding!

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