



PARTNERS IN ACCESS

Easterseals Western & Central Pennsylvania newsletter



**Winter doesn't slow down
the fun at Easterseals!**



Trust in Easterseals

Easterseals has been a trusted nonprofit working to empower individuals with disabilities for more than 105 years. With over 70 affiliates across the country, the programs and services may vary but the essential work and advocacy to improve the lives of disabled individuals remains consistent. Recently Forbes released their top 100 charities for 2024 and Easterseals was ranked 39th. Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania is proud to be a part of this organization.



Forbes

America's Top 100
Charities 2024

91% Fundraising Efficiency

Easterseals Western & Central PA Programs

Pittsburgh Area

- ESWCPA Headquarters
- Approved private school sites specializing in education and therapy services for children with autism and/or multiple disabilities. Ages 3-10
- Job training and employment opportunities for adults and veterans with disabilities

Johnstown

- Outpatient speech and hearing services for children and adults with disabilities, autism and developmental delays
- Veterans' evaluation services for hearing disabilities
- Job training and employment opportunities for adults and veterans with disabilities

State College

- Lance and Ellen Shaner Child Development Center (CDC) providing inclusive, high quality care and education for children of all abilities. Ages 6w-4

Franklin

- Residential homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. 24/7 care in a quality environment
- Job training and employment opportunities for adults and veterans with disabilities

York Area

- Recreation opportunities
- Club Lily a monthly residential camp for adults with disabilities offered year round
- Day Camps, a weekly summer camp for children with disabilities.
- Project Beacon, weekend residential camps for children of military families
- Interpreting services for the deaf and hard of hearing

Miss Pennsylvania Represents Easterseals and Disabilities

Congratulations to Miss Pennsylvania 2024, Paige Weinstein, who recently competed in the Miss America pageant. While she was not named Miss America, her post on Facebook on the day of the pageant was inspiring, "It has truly been the greatest honor of my life to represent the wonderful state of Pennsylvania."



Paige was a special guest at ESWCPA's annual golf outing at Heritage Hills Resort in York, held last August.

In addition to reigning as Miss Pennsylvania, Paige is also the founder and CEO of a nonprofit helping people with disabilities called Beauty For All. Beauty For All sells gift boxes full of adaptive makeup tools and products that cater to people of ALL ages, genders, skin tones and abilities. Paige explains, "Beauty For All is an innovative approach to curating a more inclusive beauty and fashion industry, designed to make ALL ages, genders, skin tones and abilities feel confidently beautiful and courageously unique in their own skin."



To learn more about Beauty For All, visit Paige's website at www.paigeweinstein.com

“Just Goes with Thanksgiving” 57th Turkey Bowl Keeps Holiday Tradition Alive



The Turkey Bowl began in the backyards of the Crooks and Dovey families 57 years ago, as a game played before the Thanksgiving Day feast. In 1971 the forces of Dovey were renamed the Bears, the forces of Crooks renamed the Bulls.

During the last 5 decades uniforms were introduced, as well as officials and rules. The leadership reins were handed over to Tim Clark (Bears) and Bob Gardill (Bulls). Many of our local businessmen and a few that travel back to their hometowns for the holiday make up the outstanding athletes that have given their time, money and skills as Bulls or Bears.

The most significant decision regarding the annual tussle was made in 1972 when the players decided to use the game to raise money for Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania.

Since 1972, the annual Turkey Bowl has raised over \$600,000 for Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania

Thank you, Bulls and Bears!

Johnstown's 75th Anniversary Celebration

A special thanks to everyone who attended Johnstown's 75th Anniversary celebration, hosted by Cambria Regional Chamber at the Pasquerilla Center. Since 1949, Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania has served the city of Johnstown and surrounding communities.



Upcoming Events

Johnstown Office Olympix – March 20, Richland Fire Hall

Walk With Me Pittsburgh – May 17, Kennywood Park

Johnstown Golf Tournament – June 18, Windber Country Club

Walk With Me Centre County – June 28, Talleyrand Park Bellefonte

Walk With Me York/Harrisburg - September 27, Lake Tobias Wildlife Park

Interested in volunteering at an event near you? Reach out to Colleen Felentzer at cfelentzer@eastersealswcpenna.org. Plus, visit us online at www.eastersealswcpenna.org to participate, sponsor, or donate to an event. Event committees are a great way to support Easterseals!

**SAVE
THE DATE**

First Annual Partner in Equity Reception was a Success!

The first annual Partner in Equity Reception was held at Sienna Mercato in Pittsburgh. The event honored John Vento and Ron "Moondog" Esser. The two founded Band Together Pittsburgh, a platform for people on the autism spectrum to create music. Partner in Equity honors people who work to bring equity, inclusion, and access to people with disabilities. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported Easterseals and programs for people with disabilities.



That's a Wrap for Holiday Parties



Speech and Language Therapy students in Johnstown played reindeer games to celebrate the holiday season.



Children from the Child Development Center in State College went caroling at the Nittany Residence senior center to spread some holiday joy. Returning to the center, everyone enjoyed a holiday party and some holiday lights limbo!



Students from Approved Private Schools East Campus enjoyed a holiday party with teachers, family, and special guests!

W I N T E R

Residential Camp Schedule Released for 2025

Club Lily, adults 18 and over with disabilities
All Club Lily camps are held at Camp Victory

Winter 1, Feb. 14-16, snow date 21-23

Winter 2, Mar. 14-16, snow date 21-23

Spring 1, Apr. 11-13

Spring 2, May 16-18

Summer Camp, Jun. 1-5

Summer retreat, Aug. 15-17

Fall 1, Sep. 19-21

Fall 2, Oct. 10-12

Fall 3, Nov. 14-16



Military Families
Project Beacon, Apr. 4-6
at Camp Victory
Camp Kidet, Jun. 20-22
at Camp Hebron
Kids A.T. Camp, Jul. 6-11
at Camp Allegheny
Camp 5 Star, Jul. 25-27
at Joy El Camps
Project Beacon, Oct. 3-5
at Camp Victory

Central PA's Bowling Program Receives Shirts from a Generous Sponsor



Many thanks to the DTF Superstore York location for printing and donating T-shirts to all three bowling programs this fall. A rainbow of colors and a big bowling ball brought out the smiles in our York, Mechanicsburg and Harrisburg bowlers!

Pictured from the York bowling program L-R, Allison, Paul, and Travis

2024 Holiday Card Features Artwork from One of Our Own

Paul isn't just an active bowler (see above) he is a talented artist. This year the Easterseals Western and Central PA holiday card used his artwork as the main design. Paul's favorite author is Tommie dePaola and he has adopted a similar signature. Paul loves to share his artwork and you can see some of his drawings at the York office and the East Lincoln Lanes where he bowls.

