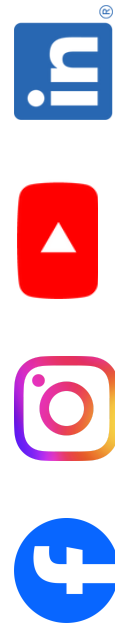


[www.easterseals.com/wcpenna](http://www.easterseals.com/wcpenna)



# 2023 Annual Report

Forging the Way to 100%  
 Equity, Inclusion, and Access





# A Message from James G. Bennett, President and CEO

2023 was a year of growth as we continued to forge our way to 100% equity, inclusion, and access for children and adults with disabilities and other needs. Over the year we've celebrated milestones, embraced new opportunities, and made meaningful strides toward a better tomorrow for many of the children and adults receiving our services. We are continuing to strive for excellence in our programming through best practices, ensuring that we can meet our clients where they are with the right services.

As you page through the Annual Report, you can read about several of our ambassadors like Grant, Maggie, Sam, and Ella. Their stories explain the progress they have made in the time they have spent with Easterseals' devoted and knowledgeable staff. Seeing the year through our clients' successes motivates me for the year ahead. As always, I am grateful to have your support as we work together to ensure that children and adults with disabilities have equal opportunities for equity, inclusion, and access. We couldn't continue to bring smiles to so many faces without your continued support. Thank you.

"There are few opportunities available like this in a friendly, accepting atmosphere, and Easterseals fills this essential life need!" - Club Lily Parent

In 2024, Jim's career reached 50 years at Easterseals.



## A Note from Damian Salvi, Board Chair

This year, I continued to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania. I remain committed to Easterseals because of the impact I've personally experienced in my own community. When our daughter was in high school she became a summer day camp counselor for Easterseals, and my wife, Diane and I would assist at the camp frequently. The satisfaction we gained observing and helping these children was overwhelming. It was then I realized the remarkable impact this organization has on those with disabilities and wanted to learn and contribute more to Easterseals.

Easterseals has long provided exceptional services for children and adults with disabilities. Whether a disability is visible or invisible; physical or mental; genetic or acquired through life; the vision and mission of Easterseals is as critical and relevant today as it was over 100 years ago. One in four individuals live with a disability today, and they each deserve access to the programs and services that will enrich their lives and allow them to navigate the world at large. On behalf of the board, I am confident that Easterseals will continue to carry out its mission with the creativity and dedication that have defined its history. We are grateful to our donors and supporters for helping Easterseals lead the way to 100% equity, inclusion, and access for people with disabilities, families, and communities. With universal support, we know this mission is attainable.

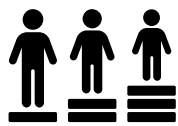


Damian has served on the Board of Directors for eight years.

## Mission & Overview

**Mission:** Leading the way to 100% equity, inclusion, and access for people with disabilities, families, and caregivers across PA through enhanced health and well-being to elevate communities. Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania (ESWCPA) accomplishes the mission through well-designed programs based on best practices including early intervention and autism services enhanced by medical rehabilitation assistance, workforce training and job placement, community residential living, camping and recreation opportunities, early childhood education, and respite assistance among a myriad of other services.

**Overview:** Since 1935, Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania (ESWCPA) has been providing direct services to PA residents affected by disabilities or other needs. As a vital resource for all people with disabilities in communities across the state, ESWCPA provides programs and support that enhance quality of life and create opportunities for greater independence. ESWCPA's strength is in our diverse and inclusive culture. We are committed to making sure our leaders, staff, volunteers, and partnerships are as diverse as the communities we serve. ESWCPA, in action and advocacy, prioritizes equity, inclusion, and access.



Equity



Inclusion



Access

### What are Equity, Inclusion, and Access?

**Equity:** Ensuring people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else in terms of participation, choice, and independent living.

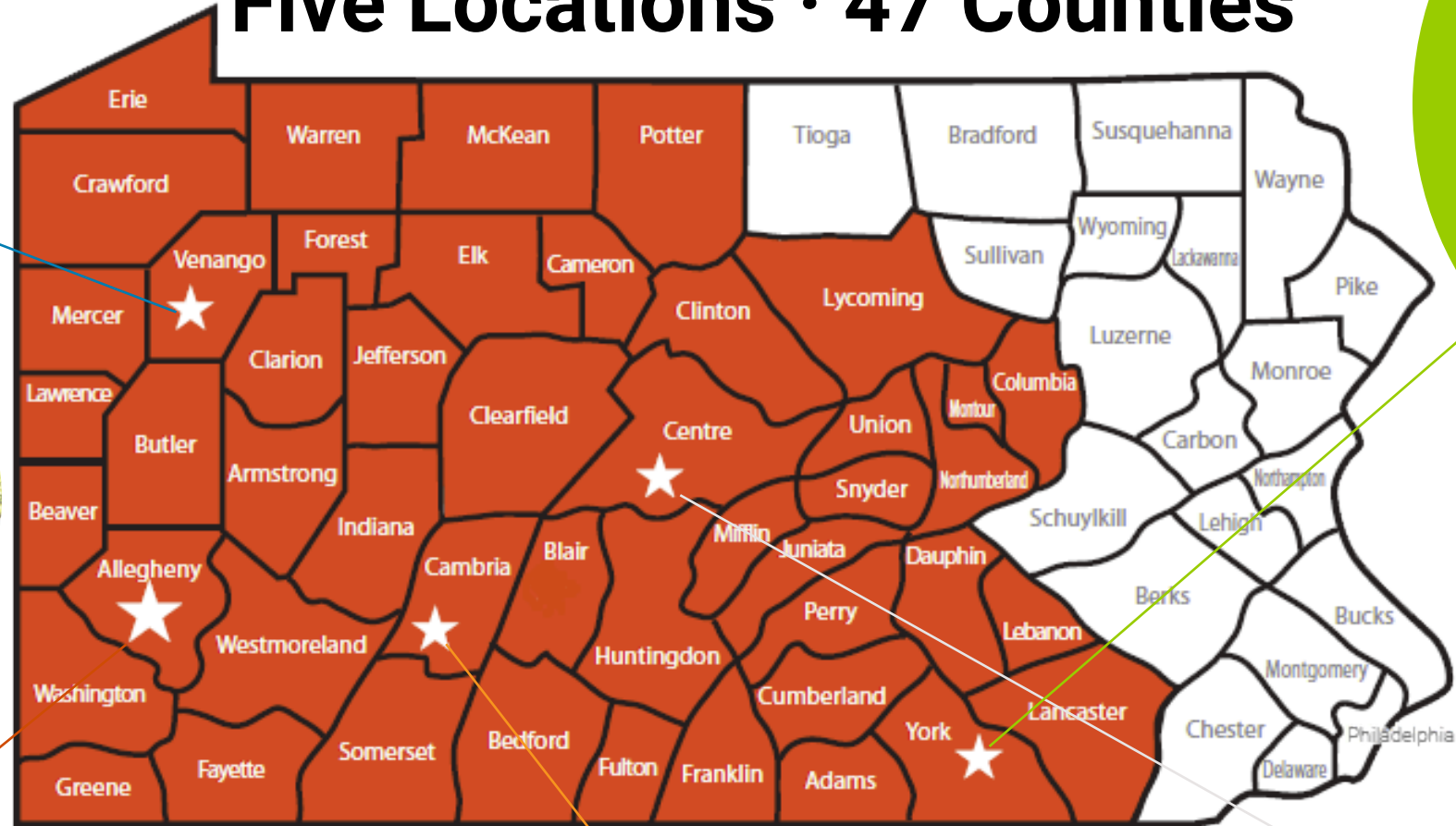
**Inclusion:** Providing resources and opportunities for everyone to participate; creating a sense of belonging and community so that people feel welcomed and valued.

**Access:** Ensuring that systems are designed so everyone can fully participate in public and professional life.

**All** are integral to the experiences of people with disabilities.

# Easterseals Western & Central Pennsylvania

## Five Locations · 47 Counties



### Franklin

509 13th Street  
Franklin, PA 16323  
814-437-3071  
Services:  
Residential Services  
Therapeutic Recreation



### York

2550 Kingston Road, Suite 219  
York, PA 17402  
717-7413891  
Services:  
Interpreting Services  
Camp and Recreation Programs  
(Camps for Children from Military & Veteran  
Families; Residential & Day Camps)



### Pittsburgh

*Headquarters*  
Six Parkway Center, Suite 150  
875 Greentree Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220  
412-281-7244  
Services:  
Adult Day Services  
Approved Private Schools  
Employment Opportunities



### Johnstown

232 Walnut Street  
Johnstown, PA 15091  
814-535-5508  
Services:  
Outpatient Speech and  
Hearing Services



### State College

383 Rolling Ridge Drive  
State College, PA 16801  
814-238-4434  
Services:  
Child Development Center  
School-Aged Summer Camp



# 2023 Ambassadors

**Grant** LOVES “school” as he calls it. He’s excited to go! When Grant was three years old it became clear a traditional preschool setting wasn’t possible. At just 15 months old Grant was diagnosed with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, a severe seizure disorder. He also has a global developmental delay, autism and seizures. Two years after enrolling in Easterseals Approved Private School Program, Grant has grown more than his family could ever have imagined. In just two short years, Grant, who is nonverbal, can communicate simple every day things in his own way like requesting drinks of water or choosing what he’d like for breakfast. It may not be “normal”, but it is Grant’s way.

## Grant Approved Private School Student



**Sam** is a very active high school student who participates in a variety of sports and engages with his friends, fellow students and teachers throughout the school. He was diagnosed with Down syndrome at birth and began services at Easterseals at 3 years of age. When he first came to Easterseals, Sam was only able to say a few words and had difficulty communicating with others. Speech therapy helps Sam learn functional skills to say words clearer and speak in sentences. His new communication skills enable him to easily follow directions and prepare for his future.

## Sam Outpatient Speech Therapy Client



**“Sam’s speech and communication skills have come a long way and continue to develop with weekly sessions at Easterseals.” - Sam’s Mother, Georgeann**



## Maggie Recreation Program Participant

**Maggie** is an energetic preteen who loves her family and pets. At just three months old, she was diagnosed with epilepsy and development delays. Then, in preschool she was diagnosed with an intellectual disability. When Maggie was little, she was able to enroll in the same activities as her twin with some tweaks. However, once she started kindergarten, she needed to participate in activities with other individuals with disabilities and found Easterseals’ Challenger baseball program. After baseball, she participated in other Easterseals activities. These programs have allowed her to make friends and interact with her peers and adult helpers in a meaningful way.

Jen, Maggie’s mother commented, “We know Maggie will need a lifetime of care and support. We anticipate as she gets older, she will benefit from more of Easterseals’ programs...We feel fortunate to have found Easterseals.”

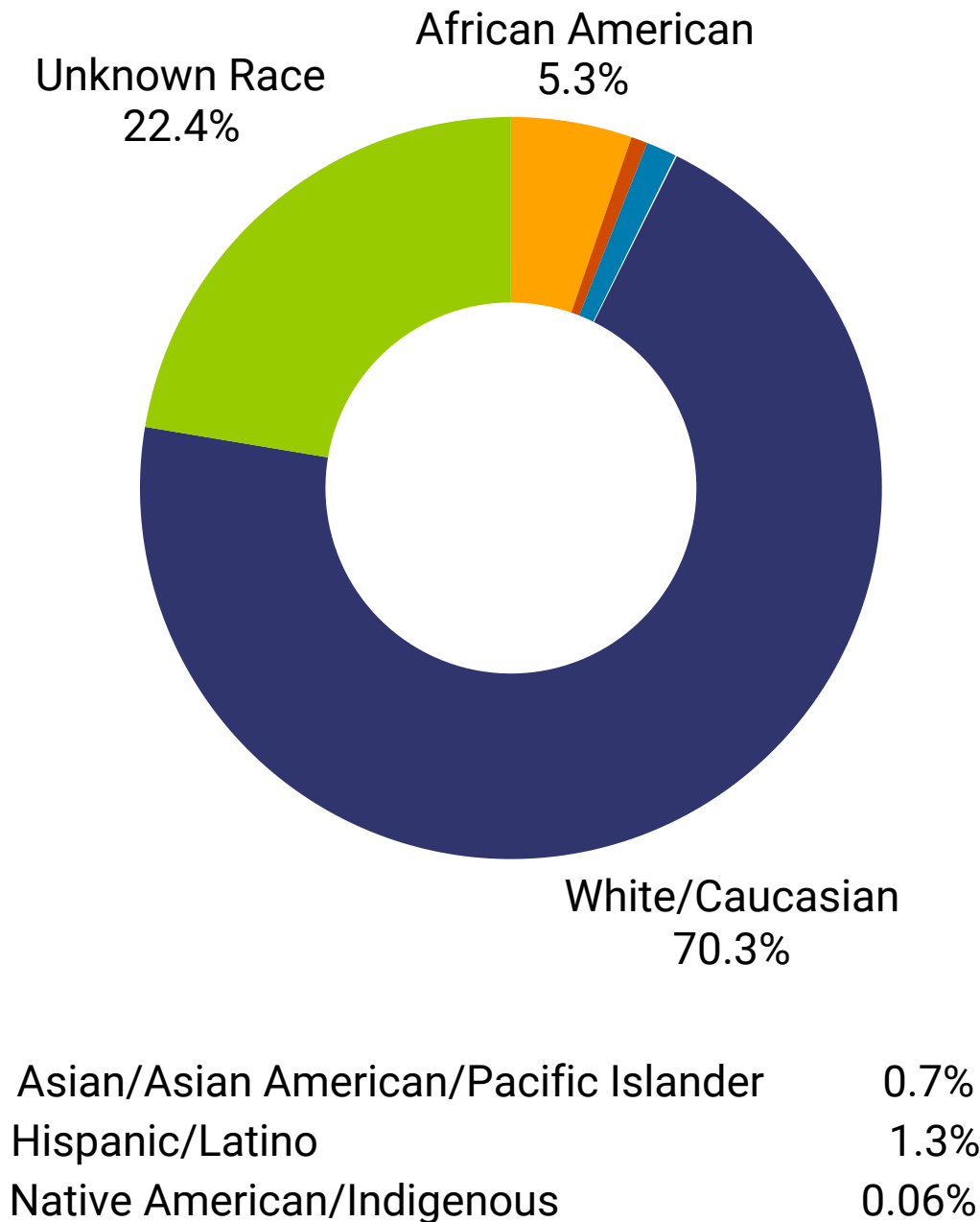


## Ella Child Development Center Attendee

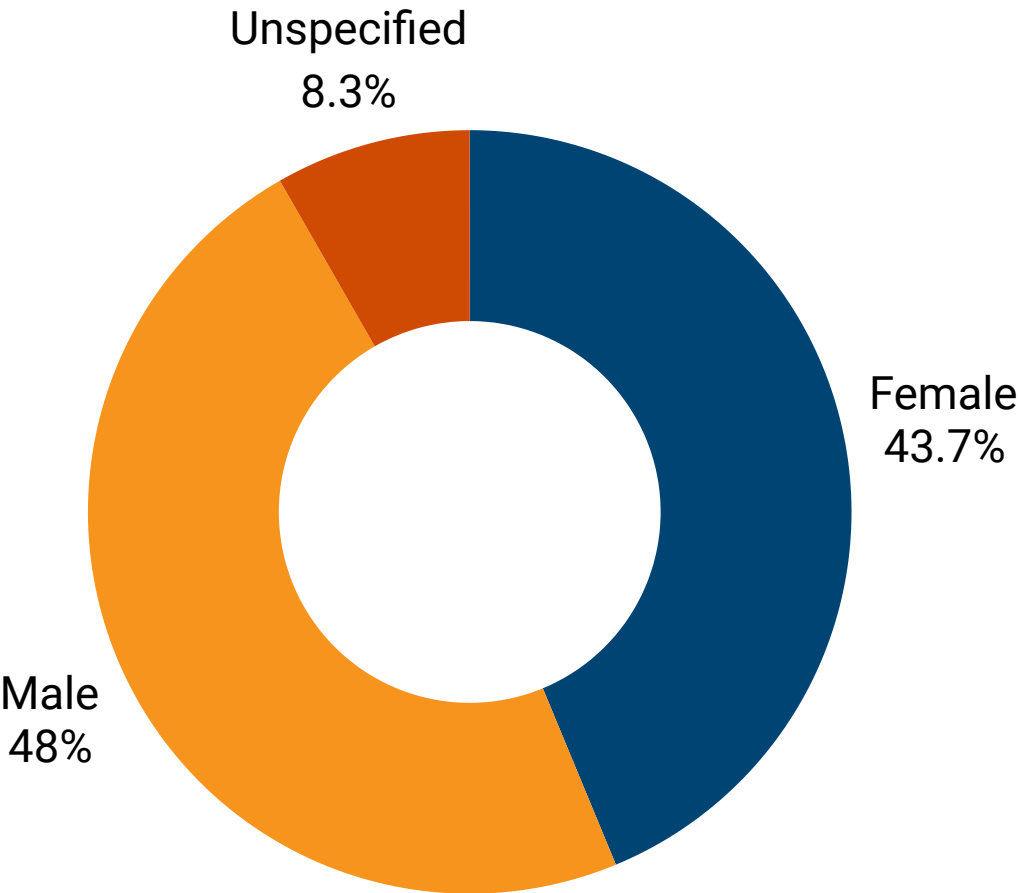
**Ella** is a smart, kind, loving, artistic, animal-loving little girl. Ella also happens to have autism and a global developmental delay, which she was diagnosed with at 2 years old. Currently, Ella is considered nonverbal, but she uses some verbal words, sounds, and many American Sign Language (ALS) signs to communicate. Ella was introduced to an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device to communicate as well. Ella started going to Easterseals shortly after her diagnosis. Since starting at Easterseals, Ella has been in an inclusive environment, receiving Central Intermediate Unit #10 (CIU) services, participating in daily activities and routines, expanding on her different modes of communication, and making friends and connections. Easterseals has been a supportive resource for Ella’s family as they learn to navigate parenting a child with her needs.

# Service Data 2022-2023

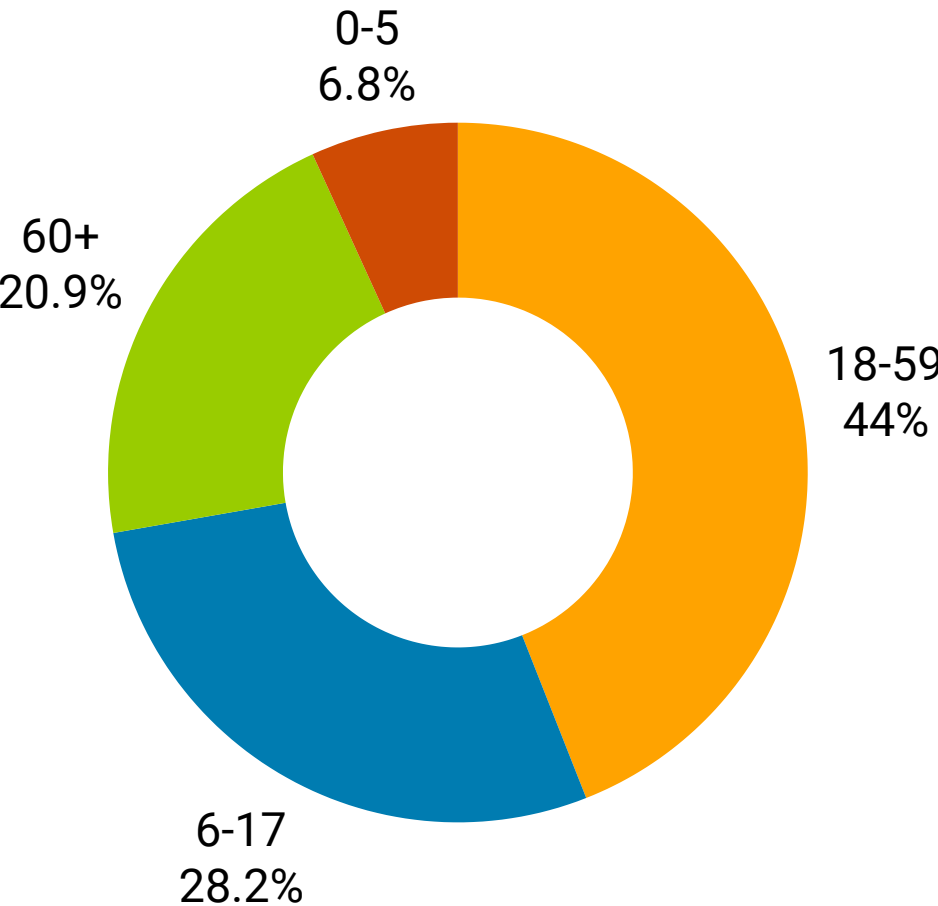
Participants By Race/Ethnicity



Participants By Gender



Participants By Age



# Over 100 Years of Service

## Tragedy Leads to Inspiration

In 1907, Ohio businessman Edgar Allen lost his son in a streetcar accident. The inadequate medical services available to save his son prompted Allen to sell his business and launch a fundraising campaign to build a hospital in his hometown of Elyria, Ohio. Once the hospital was established, Allen was surprised to discover that the staff would often conceal children with disabilities from public view. Motivated to make a difference, Allen founded the National Society for Crippled Children in 1919, which became the first organization of its kind. In the spring of 1934, the organization launched its first Easter "seals" campaign to raise funds for its services. Donors showed their support by placing these seals on envelopes and letters. Cartoonist J.H. Donahey from the Cleveland Plain Dealer designed the first seal, inspired by the right to live a "normal" life.

Following World War II, the organization recognized the growing needs of returning veterans and their families. The National Society for Crippled Children expanded its mission to provide comprehensive services tailored specifically to adults and veterans re-entering civilian life. These programs addressed employment opportunities, physical rehabilitation, and community reintegration, offering critical support to people who had dedicated themselves to the nation's service. This expansion not only highlighted the organization's adaptability but also underscored its commitment to fostering independence and dignity for all individuals during a pivotal moment in American history.

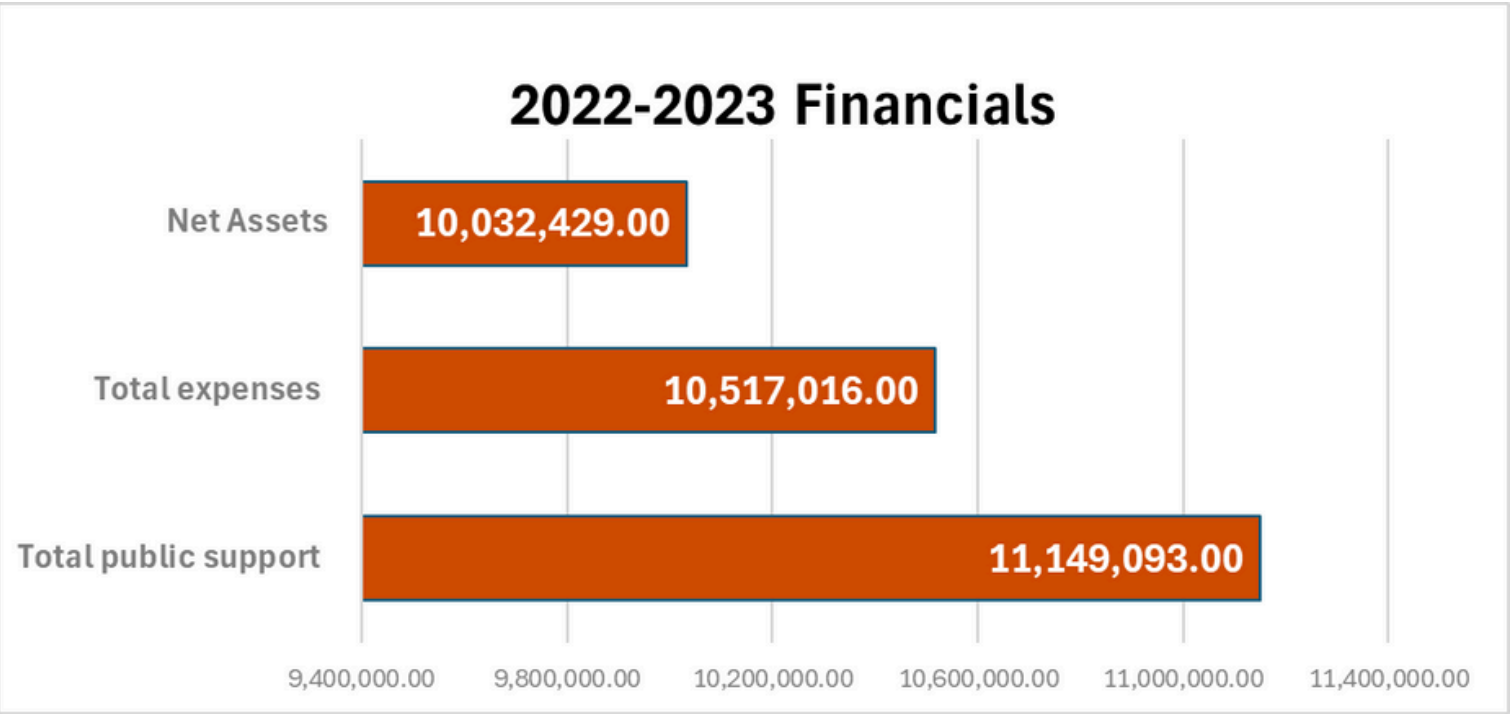
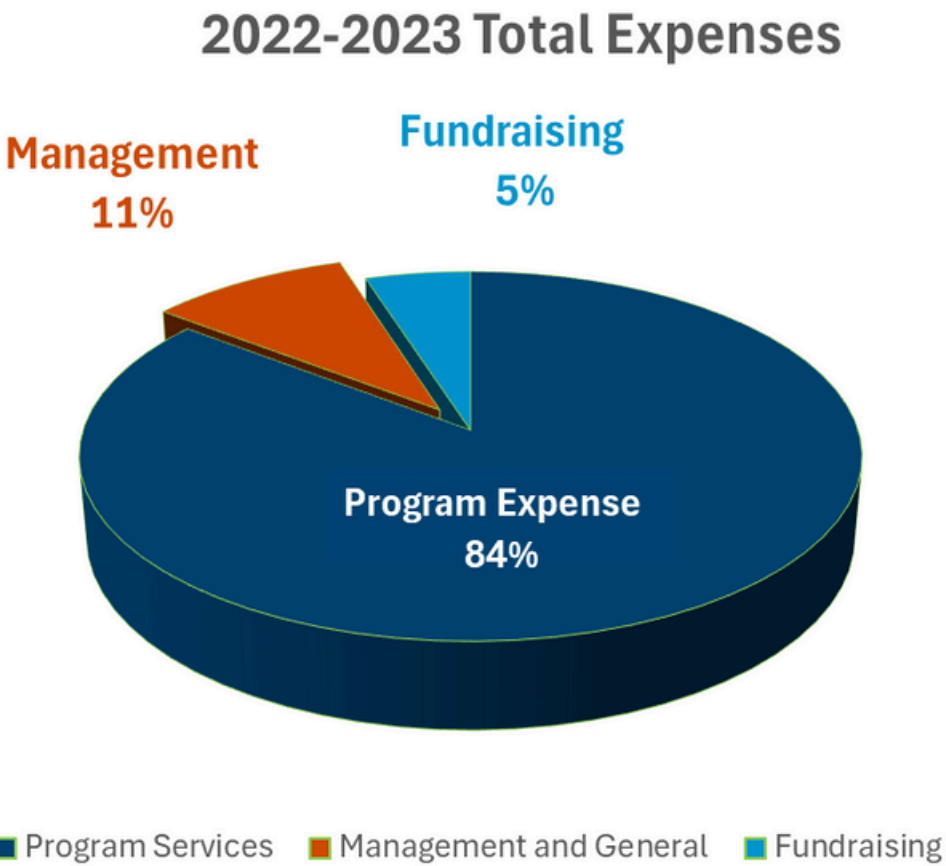
## Americans with Disabilities Act

Prior to the passing of the ADA on July 26, 1990, Easterseals was a leading advocate for the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and actively lobbied in Washington and across the country for its adoption. Easterseals also created some of the most powerful advocacy pro-ADA public service campaign with messages to support the law and its implementation.

Founder, Edgar Allen



# Financials





# Our Team

## 2022-2023 Board of Directors

**Damian Salvi**

Chairman

**William Warfel**

1st Vice Chairman

**Kimberley Miller**

Treasurer of the Board

**Elijah Wynkoop**

Secretary

**Peter Licastro**

Immediate Past Chairperson

Allayn Beck

Ann Rollo

Rosemarie Cooper

Gary Sandhu

James Dolanch

Brian Shaffer

Susan Gallant

J. Ross Stewart

**“Twice a year, my kids are lucky to experience a great getaway, with all the activities they love. Ziplining, fishing, arts and crafts, and campfires to name a few. They always return home after the weekend happy with great stories and experiences. Being a military member, I don't always have the time to do all the outdoor activities they love. I'm really grateful that Easterseals gives them that opportunity.” - ‘Operation Military Kid’ Parent**

## Management Team

**James G. Bennett**

President & CEO

**Douglas Cheney**

VP, Compliance & Quality Assurance

**Doug Clewett**

VP, Human Resources

**Matthew Ernst**

VP, Programs & Business Development

**Lori J. McCann**

VP, Development

**Theresa Smith**

VP, Finance

## Johnstown Advisory Council

**J. Ross Stewart**

Chairman

Loreen Bencie

Martin J. Kuhar

Gene Berkebile

Frank Lapinsky

Kathy Burkett

Chris Lugar

Tim Clark

James L. Ostinowsky

Mary Ellen Denny

Damon Pentz

Susan Good, Au.D

Mark D. Persun, Esq.

Daniel Honkus

Timothy Smith

Barry Thomas

# Corporate and Foundation Support

## Corporate and Foundation Supporters

FedEx

Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Williams Phillips Charitable Trust

PNC Charitable Trust

Bridge Builders Community Foundations

City of Johnstown, American Rescue Plan Act

Lee Initiatives Health and Wellness Endowment

Centre Foundation

Kiwanis Club of State College

The Foundation For Enhancing Communities

Highmark

The Hershey Company

McAllister Foundation

**“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.”**

## Event Support

1st Summit Bank

Achieva Family Trust

Ameriserv Financial/

West Chester Capital Advisors

Amway

Assured Partners

Baltimore Life Companies

Bayada Home Health Care

Bayada Pediatrics

Central PA Law Group

Chan Soon-Shiong Medical Center at

Windber

Clark Hill

Corle Building Systems

Concurrent Technologies Corporation

D.E. Gemmill Inc

Dented Keg Brewing Company

East Hills Engineering Associates

Elliott Group

Follow Charlie Car Wash

Fragasso Financial Advisors

Freelance York

Garrety Glass

Giant Eagle

Glatfelter Insurance Group

Hanover Auto Team

Henderson Brothers Retirement

Hershey Entertainment

H.F. Lenz Company

Holla Spirits, LLC

IBEW Local Union #5

James Zeszutek

Jendoco Construction Company/

Peter C Dozzi Family Foundation

Jersey Mike's

Joseph C Hazel Inc

JWF Industries

Kabler/Thomas Financial Group

Keller Engineers

Keystone Payroll

Lamar Advertising of York-Lancaster

Lamar Advertising of Williamsport

Maher Duessel

Med-Van Transport

Memorial Highway Chevrolet

Metz Lewis Brodman Must O'Keefe

National Center for Defense

Manufacturing and Machining

Nicely Done Sites

NiSource Charitable Foundation/

Columbia Gas

OSS Health

Overhead Door Company of Johnstown

Paycom

People2.0

Persun & Poole Attorneys at Law

Riggs Industries

Rust-oleum

Seven Mountains Media

Shiloh American Legion Post 791

Shoefly

Sisterson & Co. LLP

Slovenian Savings & Loan

St. Clair Health

Susquehanna Post 2493 VFW

The Bistro

UPMC

Viking Athletic Association

Von's United Beverage Co

Wessel & Co

WTW

Xerox

York College of PA

# Annual Highlights

## Franklin - Accessible Van

Residential Community Homes in Franklin added a new wheelchair-accessible van! The van helps transport up to 10 residents traveling to community events, doctor visits, and family visits. Funding was made available through grants from the Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Williams Phillips Charitable Trust and PNC Charitable Trust.



## Johnstown - New Sound Booth

Audiology Services in Johnstown has a new sound booth thanks to a grant through the City of Johnstown's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The office also received a new Pediatric Visual Reinforcement Audiometry (VRA), which provides the technology to test hearing in babies and toddlers as young as six months old. Dr. Sydney Black notes patients are happy with the new sound booth, "A few Veterans reported feeling extremely claustrophobic in the previous booth. The new booth is well lit and larger. Patients have experienced a lot less hesitation when entering the booth." Another patient in a wheelchair appreciates how the sound booth is accessed without a ramp and easy to maneuver once inside the sound booth.



# Your Support Matters

## Corporations and Foundations


- Programming and general operating grants
- Event sponsorships
- Corporate gifts
- Business tax credit opportunities


## Individual Giving

While we rely on the generosity of foundations and corporations, individual giving lays the foundation for our financial and programmatic success. There are many ways members of the community can support Easterseals.

- Monthly gifts
- Annual giving
- Honorary or memorial gifts
- President's Circle membership
- Fundraising events
- United Way donations
- IRA designations and Donor Advised Funds
- Planned giving, designating Easterseals in your will
- Matching corporate gifts
- In-kind gifts

### To Contact Us or Learn More:

 412-281-7244

 [www.easterseals.com/wcpenna](http://www.easterseals.com/wcpenna)

 6 Parkway Ctr, Ste 150, 875 Greentree Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15220



**The Johnstown office celebrated their new sound booth with an Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.**