

life to the fullest

2021
Annual Report

life to the fullest

Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana is helping individuals and families live life to the fullest through programs and services that foster equity, access and inclusion.

By enriching education, enhancing health, expanding employment, and elevating community throughout northeast Indiana we are helping people with disabilities thrive.

Enriching Education

Education lays the foundation for independence as we help children and adults master skills to develop and thrive.

Highlights

520

individuals participated in programs that enrich education

222

students participated in Pre-Employment Transition Services through partnerships with area schools

Programs & Services

Mini Dreamers • Day camp to help children explore and grow.

Dream Teens • Fun-filled school breaks where teens and young adults can develop a variety of skills.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) • Partnering with schools to offer employment-based training.

Adult Day Services • Clubs, classes, activities and outings that build meaningful days.

Our Impact

Transitions Academy

Five young adults tested the waters of independence in the Easterseals Transitions Academy, a pilot program launched in summer 2021. Over two weeks, the five participants stayed on Purdue University Fort Wayne's campus to develop skills in living independently. Kaitlyn loved the social aspects of it. "My favorite part was having the experience of [living independently]: cleaning, cooking, planning, and budgeting with my roommates – and having dance parties!" Trevor enjoyed the work-focused aspects of the program. "My favorite part was about going to Dream Teens, learning how to get a job and meeting new friends, budgeting money and helping others." The program is expanding in 2022 with a longer on-campus stay for participants.



Expanding Employment

Our range of assessment, training and placement opportunities help individuals succeed in the workforce.

Highlights

435

individuals participated in programs that expand employment

28

adults completed an Employment Readiness Academy

36

adults gained competitive employment in the community

Programs & Services

Employment Readiness Academies • Intensive hands-on training experiences with a local employment partner.

Learning Labs • Training programs designed and equipped to prepare individuals for specific industries, such as hospitality, health care and manufacturing.

Transitions • A community-oriented day program with focus on employment goals, education opportunities and independent living skills.

Supported Employment • Customized services to help individuals find their fit in the workplace.

Supported Work Groups • Small groups of individuals working at an area business with support from Easterseals staff.

Production Services • Subcontract work opportunities at our Projects Drive and Angola locations.

Our Impact

Jon's Story

After losing one job due to pandemic cutbacks at his employer, Jon was pleased to land a new job at Pyrotek in Columbia City with help from Easterseals Passages. He quickly learned how to operate several different machines, making himself "the go-to guy" who can pitch in wherever help is needed. "I love my job!" he said.



Melissa's Story

Melissa always wanted to work in a store, and support from Easterseals RISE helped her fulfill that goal by landing a job at Meijer in Angola. She celebrated her 1-year anniversary at the store in October 2021 and has become a valuable employee for the store. "She has a really strong work ethic," employment specialist Kirst Matherly said. "You can tell she really wants to be at work."





Ellisha's Story

Ellisha is doing well in her work at Covington Box, but the 27-year-old's success didn't come without effort. The biggest obstacle she's faced has been social. With help from a behavior consultant, Ellisha is learning how to navigate work relationships and practicing coping techniques to manage her reactions to social interactions.

Our Impact

Enhancing Health

Our services and therapies support overall health and wellness so individuals can reach their full potential.

Highlights

256

individuals participated in services that enhance health

600

COVID vaccines were administered (approximately)

Programs & Services

Behavior Solutions • A holistic approach to addressing challenging behaviors through individualized plans.

Recreational Therapy • Developing skills through activities, games, crafts and more.

Wellness Coordination • Support for individuals who need the assistance of a nurse to coordinate their medical care.

Autism Family Supports • Care coordination for children with autism for eligible Anthem members.

Elevating Community

Helping individuals live, relax and connect in our community encourages participation and engagement for everyone.

Highlights

529

individuals participated in services that elevate community

48,238

hours of community-based support provided

Programs & Services

Supported Living • Up to 24-hour support and assistance for individuals sharing a house or apartment.

Community Living • Support for children and adults living independently or at home with families.

Group Homes • Around-the-clock residential services in a home operated by Easterseals.

Structured Family Caregiving • Trained caregivers welcome individuals with disabilities to live in their home and integrate them into their family life.

Respite • Breaks for caregivers to reduce stress and improve social and emotional health for the whole family.

Recreation • Opportunities to have fun and socialize with peers.



Martha's Story

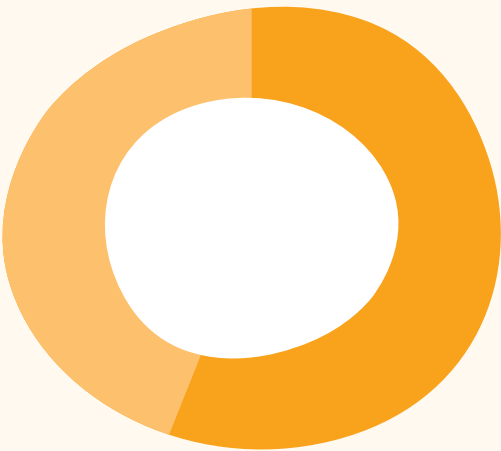
Martha's grocery trips with her Easterseals Arc staff are much more than a supply run – they're an opportunity for the social butterfly to spread her wings. She's built friendships with many of the employees at her local Kroger, and Martha's visits lift their spirits as much as hers. As Rosie Brown, the deli manager put it, "She's always a light! Everybody loves her!"

2021 by the Numbers

Gender Distribution

1,154

individuals
enrolled in services



Male 58%
Female 42%

Age Distribution

2

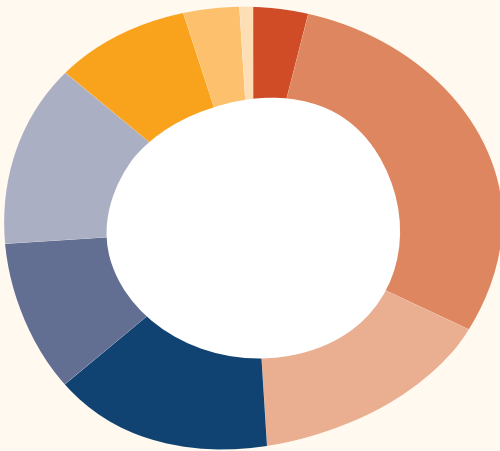
youngest

92

oldest

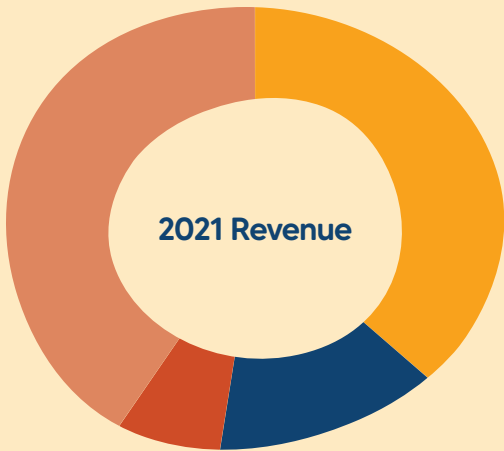
30

median



0-9 4% 30-39 15% 60-69 9%
10-19 28% 40-49 10% 70-79 4%
20-29 17% 50-59 12% 80-89 1%

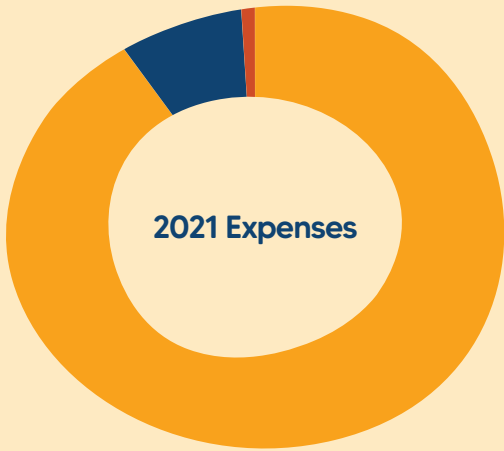
2021 Revenue



Medicaid Waiver \$15,677,158 36%
Group Homes \$7,127,875 16%
Fundraising/Donations \$3,049,222 7%
All Other Revenue* \$17,495,453 40%

* All Other Revenue includes forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program loan, COVID relief funding, and net asset gain from merger with Passages in addition to usual revenue sources.

2021 Expenses



Programs \$27,547,393 89%
Administration \$2,872,139 9%
Fundraising \$404,643 1%

Looking Back on 2021

Continued Growth • The Easterseals Arc merger with Passages Inc. that was announced in December 2020 became official in March 2021, expanding the services available to people with disabilities in Whitley County. The Easterseals Passages community now has new clubs and activities; a wide range of employment services; behavior consulting; and Pre-Employment Transition Services for teens. In July 2021, Easterseals RISE opened an office in Auburn to provide employment services, Transitions, and respite in DeKalb County. Easterseals Arc also formally aligned in June 2021 with Cardinal Services in Warsaw to form Easterseals Northern Indiana, a network leveraging shared resources and expertise to expand and enhance the supports available for individuals and families throughout the region.

Employment Pathways • Understanding that employment builds confidence and self-esteem, in addition to providing income, Easterseals Arc continued to develop employment pathways to help individuals with disabilities find their fit in the workforce. Some of the innovations include arranging paid work experiences for students in Pre-Employment Transition Services; developing workshops on neurodiversity in the workplace; establishing a new Employment Readiness Academy at the Whitley County Family YMCA; helping local employers alleviate labor shortages through supported work groups; and developing industry-focused learning labs.

Community Focus • An AWS Foundation Vantage Grant awarded in August 2021 will allow Easterseals Arc to increase its focus on community inclusion and ensuring access to support services for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities throughout northeast Indiana. With this funding, Easterseals Arc created new community inclusion staff positions dedicated to providing person-centered, community-based services. That team already has created hundreds of opportunities for individuals to pursue their personal interests and dreams. The funding also supports expansion of respite, employment, and other services in Whitley and Steuben counties.

President’s Council

While we value all donors, the Easterseals President’s Council gives special recognition to those who display extraordinary support for our purpose by giving \$1,000 or more in a calendar year. We would like to thank the following 2021 President’s Council donors:

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	Jeanne Wickens	Physicians Health Plan	
	Jerry and Gayle Harms		
	Josh and Cristina Parrish		



Investing in People Society

The Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana development team has introduced a new option for donors who would like to demonstrate ongoing support for equity, access and inclusion: The Investing in People Society.

Those who pledge to donate \$1,000 or more per year for five years will become members of the society. Those who join the society in 2022 will receive special recognition as founding members.

In gratitude for their commitment, all society members will:

- Be recognized in the Easterseals Arc annual report
- Get quarterly updates from CEO Donna Elbrecht
- Receive VIP invitations to events

As with all donations, society members may designate their gift for Easterseals Arc, Easterseals RISE, Easterseals Passages or the network as a whole.

Executive Leadership

Donna K. Elbrecht, Chief Executive Officer

Thomas Summerville, President of Operations

Leanne Ford, Chief Financial Officer

Vickie Lootens, Chief Development Officer

Janet Schutte, Chief Marketing Officer

Jason Meyer, Chief Government Relations
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About Easterseals Arc

Easterseals Arc is dedicated to helping people with disabilities become as independent as possible, while also providing support and resources for family members. No other local organization offers as many choices – from residential support to day programs to employment services to respite.

Our purpose is to lead the way to 100% equity, inclusion, and access for people with disabilities, families and communities.

eastersealsnei.org



Easterseals Arc

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Easterseals RISE – Angola

907 South Wayne Street
Angola, IN 46703
(260) 665-9408

Easterseals RISE – Auburn

650 North Street
Auburn, IN 46706
(260) 665-9408



Easterseals Passages

333 North Oak Street
Columbia City, IN 46725
(260) 244-9331