



2024 Annual Report

Creating Opportunities

At Easterseals Northeast Indiana, we believe in the power of people and the importance of giving everyone the chance to thrive.

To create opportunities for each individual to live their best life, we focus on four key areas of impact: enriching education, enhancing health, expanding employment, and elevating community. These four areas are not independent from each other. Providing support in one area influences growth in other areas. Education, health, employment, and community add up to a whole life that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Inside this report, you'll find stories that highlight each focus area. However, each story is just a snapshot of the larger impact created when individuals, families, and communities are given opportunities to thrive.

Enriching Education

- Mini Dreamers
- Dream Teens
- Adult Day Services
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

Enhancing Health

- Behavior Solutions
- On-site clinic and Telehealth
- Wellness Coordination

Expanding Employment

- Opportunity Labs & Skills Training
- Supported Employment
- Ticket to Work

Elevating Community

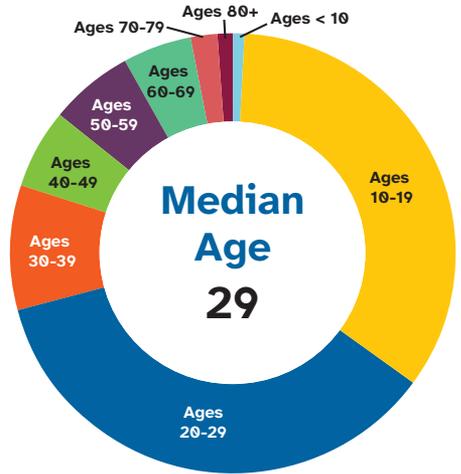
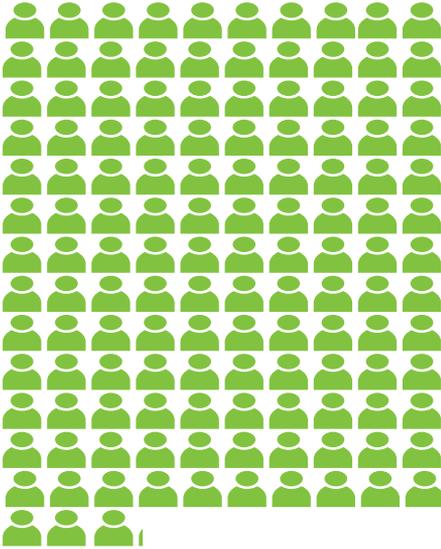
- Supported Living
- Community Living
- Group Homes
- Structured Family Caregiving
- Recreation
- Respite
- ES Gaming



2024 By the Numbers

People

1,331 Individuals Enrolled in Services (👤 = 10)



33% of individuals are enrolled in multiple programs or services

Finances



- Medicaid Waiver\$16,500,286... 49%
- Group Homes..... \$8,978,42727%
- Pre-ETS\$957,262.....3%
- Voc. Rehab\$624,625.....2%
- Fundraising.....\$2,966,549..... 9%
- All Other Revenue \$3,576,741.....11%

- Programs.....\$27,676,514... 84%
- Administration\$4,370,156.....13%
- Fundraising.....\$754,223.....2%

Enriching Education

Day services are more than just something to do; they're opportunities to learn. To help participants explore their interests and learn from each other, the day services team set a goal of supporting at least one activity each month that involved interaction among participants from all Easterseals Northeast Indiana locations. They far exceeded that goal, averaging almost four collaborative activities each month in 2024.



One of the most popular activities was a Lego camp at Trine University. Several participants from Easterseals programs in Fort Wayne, Columbia City and Angola attended the four-day camp. Students instructed them on Lego builds that included software to program the Lego builds to do different tasks.

Enhancing Health

After a routine checkup revealed he was prediabetic, Antonio took proactive steps to improve his health. He joined Parkview Health's VeggieRx program, which educates participants on nutrition and provides monthly vouchers for fresh produce.

With assistance from Easterseals, Antonio has embraced a healthier lifestyle. A staff member supports Antonio by accompanying him on biweekly grocery trips, helping him budget and make nutritious choices. The agency also assists him in managing his finances, enabling him to maintain stable housing in downtown Fort Wayne for nearly a decade. With Easterseals' consistent support, Antonio is empowered to pursue his health goals and improve his overall well-being.



Expanding Employment

Zach joined Refreshed Tech in March 2024 and quickly became a valued part-time member of the cleaning team, responsible for preparing refurbished laptops, tablets, and phones for repair. With over a decade of experience in fast food, Zach brought strong attendance and punctuality to his new role.

His work involves a detailed checklist to ensure devices are thoroughly cleaned and ready for the next stage. Supported by an Easterseals employment specialist, Zach found a role that suits his love of routine and technology. He thrives in the structured environment, enjoys listening to music while working, and has even purchased a refurbished phone through the company's employee benefit program.



Elevating Community

Aubrie exemplifies community involvement through her many interests and activities. Participation in ES Gaming's esports team helped her develop confidence and learn leadership skills. Now she serves as president of the Client Council at Easterseals in Angola, leading meetings with empathy, encouraging respectful conversations and problem-solving. She also collaborates with Aktion Club on service projects, and she is a vocal advocate for herself and others with disabilities. Aubrie volunteers in the community, delivering meals and supporting blood drives, and performs in local talent shows.

Easterseals staff support her in living her best life, but Aubrie leads the way. She ensures the voices of people with disabilities are heard, respected, and empowered in her community.



Investing in People Society

The Investing in People Society consists of community members who demonstrate ongoing support for equity, access and inclusion by pledging to donate \$1,000 or more per year for five years.

Gift of Independence

AWS Foundation
Chapman Charitable Trust
Chuck & Lisa Surack
City of Columbia City
Dick & Lisa Teets
Don Wood Foundation
Easterseals National

English-Bonter-Mitchell
Foundation
Erik & Christiane Grotness
Foellinger Foundation Inc.
Humana
Precision Color Compounds
The James Foundation
The Lutheran Foundation

Gift of Achievement

Elaine Pontillo
Lincoln Financial Group
Foundation

St. Joseph Community Health
Foundation
Steuben County Commissioners
Tippmann Properties

Gift of Hope

Aaron & Vanessa Schoon
Adam Brenner
Ambassador Enterprises
Angola Chrysler Dodge Jeep
Ram
Bernard & Judith Hay
Bob & Nancy Webster
Brenda Robison & Jennifer
Groves
Carson & Rosemary Noecker
Family Foundation
Cheryl Taylor
City of Angola
Community Foundation of
Greater Fort Wayne
Community Foundation of
Whitley County
Covington Box and Packaging Inc.

CULTure Gym
Diane Humphrey
DJ & Molly Sigler
Don & Rae Cates
Donna & Julie Elbrecht
Dry Dock Marine Center
Edward M. & Mary McCrea
Wilson Foundation
Elkins/Hudson Family
Eric & Julie Whicker
Faegre Drinker Foundation
Fort Wayne Lodge No 155 BPO
Elks
Frank & Judy Wright
Greg & Vickie Lootens
Indiana Housing & Community
Development Authority
Jason & Lea Meyer

Gift of Hope (continued)

Jason and Joann Sweitzer Family
Foundation
Jennifer & Sandy Sanborn
Justin & Jae McGee
Kendra Klink
Kilbourne Trust
Lake Area Designs LLC
Lane 201
Lauren Denton & Patric Didier
Lichelle Boyd & Shea Hutchinson
M.E. Raker Foundation Inc.
Mad Anthonys Foundation
Magee-O'Connor Foundation
Mary Cross Tippmann Family
Fund
Michael & Stephanie Carper
Mike & JoEllen Rush
Nancy Jenkins
Never Alone
Noah & Mary Smith
Old National Bank
Paul & Sharon Gilbert
Pete & Ruth Van Baalen
Physicians Health Plan

PNC Bank
PNC Charitable Trusts
Richard & Sharon Leezer
Richard Squier
Rick & Deb Byanski
Ruoff Home Mortgage
Sandata Technologies LLC
Scott & Dena Jacquay
Stephen Hinkle
Steuben County Community
Foundation
Steuben County United Way Inc.
Susan Wesner
Sweet Real Estate
Sweetwater
Thomas Summerville
Three Rivers Federal Credit
Union
Todd & Christine Hepler
Trademark Title Inc.
United Way of Dekalb County
Wilson Financial Advisory
Services

Board of Directors

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Jackson Magdy, *Vice Chair*

Noah Smith, *Treasurer*
Linda Johnston, *Secretary*

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Michael Carper
Lauren Denton
Michael Douglass
Tiffany Fries

Erik Grotness
Angela Hormann
DJ Sigler
Peter Van Baalen
Eric Whicker, *Past Chair*



We empower people with disabilities, families and communities by providing personalized support, practical resources, and innovative opportunities to learn and grow.

Executive Leadership

Donna K. Elbrecht, *Chief Executive Officer*
Thomas Summerville, *President of Operations*
Lichelle Boyd, *Chief Financial and Administrative Officer*
Vickie Lootens, *Chief Community Impact Officer*
Janet Schutte, *Chief Marketing Officer*

Locations

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