



easterseals



The Arc

Northeast Indiana



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



SUPPORTING SUCCESS FOR ALL

Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana provides a wide range of programs and services, but at the heart of our work lies a simple yet profound belief: Every person deserves the chance to thrive. That's why we are committed to our purpose of leading the way toward full equity, inclusion, and access for people with disabilities, families and communities.

In working to fulfill this purpose, we focus on four main areas of impact: enriching education, enhancing health, expanding employment, and elevating community. These pillars are not isolated endeavors; they are dynamic and interdependent pathways that together create a foundation for meaningful progress. For instance, access to quality education and improved health pave the way for employment success. A job in the community not only fosters independence but also builds connections with diverse coworkers. And a sense of community – where everyone is welcomed and valued – provides the anchor for a life of dignity and fulfillment.

This report contains a highlight of each area of impact. However, each story is a small part of a much bigger story – the story of individuals, families and communities throughout northeast Indiana given opportunities to thrive.

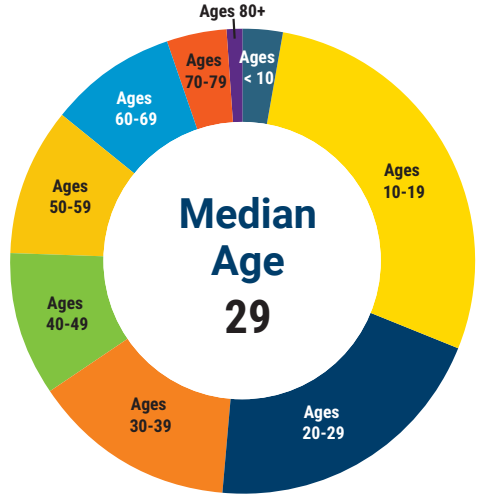


2023 BY THE NUMBERS

▶ PEOPLE

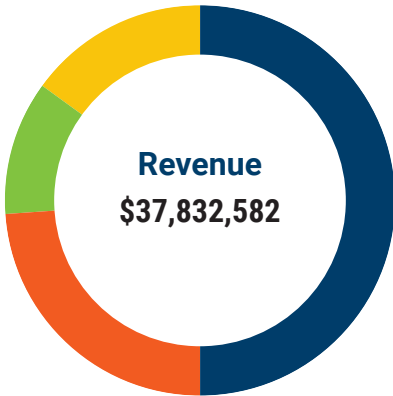
In 2023, Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana helped 5.5% more people of all ages thrive at home, at school, at work and in the community.

1,289 Individuals Enrolled in Services (👤 = 10)



34% of individuals are enrolled in multiple programs or services

▶ FINANCES



- Medicaid Waiver..... \$18,415,871 .. 49%
- Group Homes..... \$8,602,516 .. 23%
- Fundraising/Donations.... \$2,634,689 7%
- All Other Revenue..... \$8,179,506 .. 22%

- Programs \$31,692,609 85%
- Administration \$4,850,727 13%
- Fundraising \$700,938 2%

ENRICHING EDUCATION

Helping children and adults master skills to develop and thrive

- Mini Dreamers
- Dream Teens
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Adult Day Services

The Easterseals Transitions Academy builds on the success of Pre-Employment Transition Services offered in area schools. The academy offers a small group of high school juniors and seniors with disabilities the opportunity to live in college dorms for several weeks during the summer with support from Easterseals Arc staff.

The program focuses on life skills, financial literacy, work readiness skills and personal and community safety. They work a part-time job, do their own grocery shopping, plan their own leisure activities, and take care of their apartment.

Derrick, one of the participants, summed up the experience by saying he “learned to be more independent.”



ENHANCING HEALTH

Supporting overall health and wellness so individuals can reach their full potential

- Behavior Solutions
- On-site Clinic
- Wellness Coordination

In the summer of 2023, a group of 14 individuals supported by Easterseals Arc took part in a six-week program promoting healthy eating habits. The Our HEALing Kitchen class was made possible by a grant from the HEALing Initiative, a partnership of Parkview Health and St. Joseph Community Health Foundation.

Led by an Easterseals Arc staff member, participants learned to embrace a diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables while minimizing processed foods, sugars, and saturated fats. The program’s impact extended beyond the kitchen, as participants proudly shared their new skills at home. The class not only taught essential cooking skills but also empowered individuals to embrace healthier lifestyles, creating ripple effects in their homes and communities.



EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT

Helping individuals succeed in an inclusive workforce

**Employment Readiness Academies • Learning Labs •
Transitions • Supported Employment • Supported Work Groups**

Jesse, a hardworking employee at Master Spas in Fort Wayne, exemplifies the success achievable with the support of Easterseals Arc. He handles tasks such as breaking down cardboard for recycling and assembling hardware kits for spas and tubs. His role requires flexibility and resilience, qualities that have earned him recognition from his supervisor, who praises Jesse's work ethic.



Before joining Master Spas, Jesse worked at a gym but transitioned to this role for better wages. His Easterseals Arc job coach played a crucial role in helping him secure the position and learn the skills needed to excel. "Without a job coach, I wouldn't have gotten in," he said. Beyond the paycheck and skill-building, Jesse values the supportive environment and camaraderie at work. "The money is good, and people are nice," he says.

ELEVATING COMMUNITY

Helping individuals and families live, relax, connect and thrive in our communities

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

Easterseals Arc was among the first Easterseals affiliates to hop on the national ES Gaming initiative, quickly recognizing it as an opportunity for gamers with disabilities to connect with other players. The program designed to promote inclusion and access in the gaming



community began with an esports team at Easterseals RISE and a solid partnership with Trine University in Angola. Team member Aubrie says, "You get to show people out there that just because you have a disability doesn't mean you can't do something." The program now connects gamers from all Easterseals Arc locations and beyond.

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 and Lisa Teets
Don Wood Foundation
Easterseals National

English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation
Foellinger Foundation, Inc.
Humana
Precision Color Compounds
The James Foundation
The Lutheran Foundation

Gift of Achievement

Elaine Pontillo
Lincoln Financial Group Foundation
Parkview Health System

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
Bernie Hay
Brenda Robison & Jennifer Groves
Carson & Rosemary Noecker Family
Foundation
Cheryl Taylor
Christine Hepler
City of Angola
Community Foundation of Greater Fort
Wayne
Community Foundation of Whitley County
Covington Box and Packaging Inc.
Crystal Church-Stavitzke
CULTure Gym
Dena Jacquay
Diane Humphrey
DJ & Molly Sigler
Don & Rae Cates
Donna & Julie Elbrecht
Dry Dock Marine Center
Easterseals National
Edward M. & Mary McCrea Wilson
Foundation
Elkins/Hudson Family
Eric Whicker

Faegre Drinker Foundation
Fort Wayne Elks Lodge #155
Frank & Judy Wright
Greg & Vickie Lootens
Indiana Housing & Community
Development Authority
Jae McGee
Jason & Lea Meyer
Jason and Joann Sweitzer Family
Foundation
Jennifer and Sandy Sanborn
Kendra Klink
Kilbourne Trust
Lake Area Designs LLC
Lane 201
Lauren & Patric Denton
Lichelle Boyd and Shea Hutchinson
M.E. Raker Foundation Inc.
Mad Anthonys Foundation
Magee-O'Connor Foundation
Mary Cross Tippmann Family Fund
Mike & JoEllen Rush
Nancy & Bob Webster
Nancy Jenkins
Never Alone
Noah Smith
Old National Bank
Paul Gilbert

INVESTING IN PEOPLE SOCIETY

Gift of Hope (continued)

Pete & Ruth Van Baalen
PNC Bank
PNC Charitable Trusts
Richard and Sharon Leezer
Richard Squier
Rick Byanski
Ruoff Home Mortgage
Sandata Technologies LLC
Stephanie Carper
Steuben County Community Foundation

Steuben County United Way Inc.
Susan Wesner
Sweet Real Estate
Sweetwater
Thomas Summerville
Three Rivers Federal Credit Union
Trademark Title Inc.
United Way of DeKalb County
Wilson Financial Advisory Services



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Our Purpose

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

Executive Leadership

Donna K. Elbrecht, *Chief Executive Officer*
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Jason Meyer, *Chief Government Relations & Strategic Initiatives Officer*
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