



Easter Seals Southern California Disability Services



2012 ANNUAL REPORT





OUR MISSION

Easter Seals provides exceptional services to ensure that all people with disabilities or other special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in their communities.



Learn. Work. Live. Play

From the CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER and BOARD CHAIR



Families have always been challenged to find and afford services for children with autism. Easter Seals has always provided support services to people with any disability or special need. In 2012 Easter Seals Southern California gained the unique opportunity to expand to meet the tremendous need for autism services following passage into law of State Senate Bill 946.

The new law required health insurance companies to cover “behavioral health treatment.” This meant that thousands of families would now have access to much needed services for their children. Through collaboration and partnership with health care providers Easter Seals expanded within a very short time frame to meet this need. Services offered included behavioral, speech, occupational and physical therapies.

Within a year the organization established an Autism Services leadership team hired and trained nearly 600 new staff members, implemented new policies, procedures and protocols, opened five new service locations, as well as created a data management system to provide high-quality services to thousands of children and their families.

Easter Seals Southern California also expanded its service area to include Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Through all of this growth we maintained our exceptional core services that support adults to gain life skills as well as the opportunity for traditional employment or to start their own businesses. We continued to assist people to move from developmental centers into their own homes in local communities or for others to continue to live independently at home. Easter Seals also supported children and families through the early education opportunities offered at our Child Development Centers and via our national Make the First Five Count initiative.

In this report we share the stories of people who have been touched by receiving services from us, as well as the stories of those whose generosity and caring help make those services possible.

Mark Whitley

Mark Whitley
President and CEO

Kim Michel

Kim Michel
Board Chair

AUTISM SERVICES

Easter Seals Autism Services is a trusted expert and premier provider of services for children and adults with autism and their families. Our team, under the leadership of Chief Clinical Officer Paula Pompa-Craven, Psy.D., focuses on therapies that are proven to be effective in increasing skills of children with autism spectrum disorders and similar disabilities.



Easter Seals offers behavioral, speech, physical, and occupational therapy services. All therapy services at Easter Seals are provided by registered and licensed therapists who specialize in pediatric services. Therapists work closely with the family, the child's physician, and other health care practitioners setting treatment goals that are realistic and consistent with the child and family's needs.

In 2012 Easter Seals expanded Autism Services in a short time frame to meet the growing needs of families throughout Southern California. We are providing services to thousands of children and are already making a difference in their lives.

Here are stories of success shared by our Autism Services team¹:

"I asked a parent what she wanted her daughter to call her, mom, mommy, etc. Her mom asked, 'What do you mean? She doesn't talk.' I let her know that we will begin to teach her daughter to do so. After a short time in speech therapy, I pointed to her mom and asked, 'Who's that?' The child responded, 'Ma.' We cheered so loud. The little girl was smiling and looking at her mom. Her mother was screaming that she had never heard her say her name in 4 years!"

"We've been working with a little guy who did not like using a spoon to eat his food. In the past, he has refused to use utensils to eat his food. This little guy has great imitation skills so we taught him to imitate 'spoon to mouth,' he mastered his target 'spoon to mouth' and on his own he began using the spoon to eat his food. Spontaneously, he was observed to use the spoon to scoop rice, bring it to his mouth and eat it. This was wonderful to see!"

"After working with us for 3 months, this 7-year old is now able to put on his shoes, socks, and shirt. He is also able to fasten his small buttons and zip his jackets and hoodies. He is also able to play several games with his sister. His social life is now richer. His mom reports a more positive outlook because she has gained more compliance with him, as well as being sure of herself when dealing with his tantrums."

¹ Stories are those of actual clients. Identities are not disclosed to protect their privacy.



ADULT DAY SERVICES

Easter Seals Adult Day Services supports adults during the day to become active members of the community. Staff works closely with individuals to help them build life and social skills by engaging in regularly scheduled volunteer work and community service projects as well as achieve personal goals.

Jam Zarrieff

Friendly and expressive, Jam Zarrieff's disability kept him from verbalizing his thoughts. In a creative approach to give Jam a way to express himself, Adult Day Service staff took an iPad, donated to Easter Seals by a local family, and turned it into a powerful communication tool.

Jam Zarrieff, who participates in Easter Seals Adult Day services in Cerritos five days a week, was frustrated when staff could not understand which work and activities he wanted to do. To bridge the communication gap, staff loaded the iPad with an app that allows Jam to select pictures to express his choices and options for everything from where he wants to eat lunch to which volunteer activity he wants to participate with. The app also lets Jam communicate which Life Skills Coach or other support staff member he'd like to work with by pointing at their picture.

With patience and training, his coaches worked diligently to show Jam how to use the iPad. Like many, Jam enjoys greeting others with a "knuckle bump". It has always been one of the ways he communicated happiness or pleasure at meeting someone. Since a knuckle bump was Jam's primary form of communication it took concentrated effort to get him to straighten out his fingers to use the iPad.

"We knew he was really getting it when Jam came across the 'Done' button and he pushed it with no assistance, then closed the device, put it away and grabbed his lunch to begin eating," says Director Mandy Speakman. "He knows exactly what he wants to do and now he can communicate it."

As part of Easter Seals Adult Day Service Jam volunteers with local nonprofits such as the Community Food Bank and the Long Beach City College Horticulture Department. Ultimately, Jan will learn to be more independent in his day-to-day personal responsibilities through structured weekly iPad lessons.

"Our goal is to send Jam into the community each day with the iPad so he can communicate with coach and his friends and neighbors. We hope to capitalize on Jam's success with all of the people we support who are non-speaking," adds Mandy.



RESIDENTIAL LIVING OPTIONS

Easter Seals is committed to a future where people with disabilities live as they choose in local communities. Cathy Mahan and Joan Gardenhire are just two examples of the residential living options Easter Seals provides.



Cathay Mahan

When Cathy Mahan decided to take her life back after living in a state-run developmental center for over 50 years—since she was a child—Easter Seals was there to support her transition.

Easter Seals assists people who have lived most of their lives in developmental centers to move into a 3-bedroom home in a local community with two other housemates. They are provided with 24-hour support from trained Easter Seals staff along with medical, nutritional, therapeutic and behavioral professionals.

Cathy went through the multiple required visits and meetings as part of the transition to her new home. Easter Seals VP of Residential Living Options, Lupe Trevizio-Reinoso convinced the team managing Cathy's move to the community to hold her transition meeting at her future home.

When the meeting ended Cathy let the team know that she was not going back to the developmental center—this would be her moving day! "I am happy," Cathy said. "I told all of those people to get out of my home. I'm not going back, no way."

While Cathy's new home was fully furnished and ready, Easter Seals did not know Cathy would decide to stay in her new home earlier than scheduled. There was no staff in place and no food. However, the Residential Services team sprang into action and made it happen for Cathy. Staff, as well as everything else need to support Cathy, was put in place.

Cathy did not return to the development center. For the first time in half a century, Cathy spent the holidays in her own home and is continuing to enjoy her independence.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING OPTIONS

Joan Gardenhire

Joan Gardenhire likes to sit out on a bench in her front yard, enjoy the view and talk with her neighbors as they pass by. She enjoys her backyard garden where she grows tangerines and kumquats. Because of Easter Seals Supported Living Service (SLS) Joan is able to age-in-place at the family home where she grew up.

Joan, 69, has always lived at home with her grandmother and mother. During the day she participated with Easter Seals Adult Day Service which helped her build social and life skills. As her immediate family members passed away, in order to keep living at home and not be placed in an institution, Joan need support . Easter Seals SLS began providing her daily, 24-hour living support. Easter Seals staff members assist Joan to get to her volunteer job at Ronald McDonald House, to keep up with her housekeeping, grocery shopping, banking and medical appointments. Easter Seals staff ensures Joan stays engaged with her peers at the local senior center, playing bingo and going to lunch. As a result Joan is healthier because she leads an active and engaged life.

One really important connection Easter Seals helps Joan maintain is one with her remaining cousins. In 2011 Joan's Easter Seals staff members, Minnie Wise and Lucy Huerta, planned a surprise birthday party for her and invited her family. "All of sudden of her family showed up," Minnie said. "It was a whole group of people—cousins and more. Everyone sang 'Happy Birthday.' Joan couldn't believe it!" Minnie continues to help Joan stay in touch with her family and Joan spends the holidays with family members.





WorkFirst, Easter Seals Southern California's employment service, supports individuals to get and keep paid employment or to operate their own business. WorkFirst strives to assist people with disabilities to get real jobs with real pay and access the same employment choices as their non-disabled peers.



Brian Stover

It has taken years for Brian Stover to rebuild his life. With employment support services from WorkFirst and a lot of hard work he has been able to land a job and address his struggle with mental illness. The Cal State University, Long Beach (CSULB) graduate is currently working providing office support at BBK, Inc., a mental health counseling service.

Diagnosed with schizophrenia in 1995, shortly after being laid off his Human Resources job, Brian fell into a downward spiral. In and out of work over the next decade, Brian heard voices talking to him day and night. His illness made it impossible to keep a job. He became depressed, isolated, never leaving the house and began to abuse drugs. Eventually arrested and put on probation, Brian was referred to WorkFirst in 2012. While therapy and medication help him manage his mental health, he found he needed support to find the right job.

"WorkFirst helped me with the presentation of my cover letter and resume. They helped get me to job interviews and helped me overcome my fear of other people," Brian said. "I was embarrassed I hadn't worked since 2005 and wouldn't go to interviews. WorkFirst provided the structure I needed. The social support I've received from them has been superior."

WorkFirst Vocational Specialist Mary Faux connected Brian with BBK Counseling, Inc. "Brian's CSULB degree is in psychology. His education combined with his own mental health experiences made him a unique fit for this job. He has turned his life around." Brian's supervisor, Richard Bautzer agrees. "We were open to giving Brian an opportunity. He is a quick learner and engaged with the staff. It is a gift to me, our staff and clients to have Brian working here."

Now Brian, 46, is making plans for a future he thought he might never have. "My hope is to get a full-time job in 2014 in psychology, putting my degree and my mental health experience to use," Brian said.



Easter Seals Child Development Centers (CDCs) feature safe and caring environments, state-of-the-art tools and programs, individualized learning plans, highly qualified teachers, inclusive of children with or without disabilities, and active parent-center partnerships. Our centers are designed to provide young children with the optimal environment for successful learning and development.

Josiah Valle

Josiah Valle is energetic and friendly. This was not always the case. When he began attending the Easter Seals Child Development Center (CDC) in 2011 at age 2 he was not walking, speaking. He did not want to be with the other kids and would distance himself from the group.

With the help and support of his CDC teachers Josiah began to make big strides in meeting his developmental milestones. At age 3 he is now walking and talking. His mother Jodie is most impressed with Josiah's interaction with his peers.

Now, Josiah loves seeing his friends and joins them in every activity. The other children love to play with Josiah and call his name to come sit next to them.

Jodie feels that this is because of Easter Seals teachers and staff. The teachers practice full inclusion. Not only does Josiah learn from his peers, they are learning from him as well.



We are all concerned with the healthy development of our young children, making sure they have the best start in life.

Easter Seals Make the First Five Count® initiative is a nationwide effort to screen all children so they get the services and supports they need before they reach the age of five. The goal is to assure that your child is reaching his/her developmental milestones or to identify potential delays as soon as possible.

To accomplish this, every child now is able to receive FREE developmental screening(s) using the Ages and Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ™). The screening identifies typical development or possible delays.

For more information or to get started, visit MaketheFirstFiveCount.org.





EASTER SEALS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SERVICES BY COUNTY

- A** Autism Services
- ADS** Adult Day Service
- AQT** Aquatic Therapy
- AQF** Aquatic Fitness
- C** Camp**
- CDC** Child Development Centers
- CTS** Childhood Therapy Services
- CLS** Coordinated Life Service
- RLO** Residential Living Options
- SDS** Senior Day Services
- WF** WorkFirst

* Individuals may be counted more than once if using multiple services

** Camp is held only for 1 week each year. Campers come from throughout Southern Cal.

02.26.13



COMBINED STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE EXPENSE

September 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012

HOW FUNDS ARE SPENT:



HOW FUNDS ARE EARNED:



COMBINED STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE EXPENSE

September 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012

HOW FUNDS ARE SPENT:

Program Services	88.0%
Fundraising	1.5%
Management and General Operating Expenses	10.5%

HOW FUNDS ARE EARNED:

Fees for Service and Program Grants	94.3%
Support Contributions, Special Events	5.5%
Interest and Other Income	0.2%

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Support contributions and Special Events	2,351,623
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REVENUE

Fees for Services and Program Guide	40,584,775
Interest and Other Income	70,428

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE \$43,006,826

EXPENSES

Program Services	
Adult Services	26,415,029
Children Services	10,760,545
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	\$37,175,574

Support Services	
Management and General	4,448,269
Fundraising	723,982
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	\$5,172,251

TOTAL EXPENSES \$42,347,825

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$659,001

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