Milestones of Independence

Annual Report 2018
Easterseals Crossroads is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Ending net assets as of June 30, 2018, were $38,937,064.

Easterseals Crossroads is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

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Our Income Year ending June 30, 2018
- Fees for Service (22%) *
- Federal Grant Revenue (6%)
- Contract Sales (29%)
- Community Support (51%)
- Other (1%)

First Steps
Indiana’s Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services

Our Expenses Year ending June 30, 2018
- Crossroads Industrial Services (29%)
- Medical Therapy Services (19%)
- Community Day Supports (6%)
- Employment & Veteran Services (14%)
- Technology Services (7%)
- Autism Services (6%)
Kayla is an outgoing 18-year-old who loves reading, making jewelry and all types of music. She helps her siblings with their homework, and while she liked high school, she was hesitant to give answers in class in case she got them wrong.

Kayla now participates in Project SEARCH at Community Hospital East. The program has helped Kayla; it has given her the confidence to answer questions during class and also provided her the opportunity to learn from others on her rotations. "Project SEARCH interns want to be competitively employed and help others. The program gives them the opportunity to be successful and gain confidence. Project SEARCH not only benefits the interns, but also their parents, coworkers and the community. Our interns truly want to do a good job and make a difference," said Keith Fox, Project SEARCH coordinator.

On her current rotation, Kayla assists patients who use wheelchairs arrive at their appointments. Project SEARCH reinforces the tenets of what makes a good employee including responsibility, punctuality and dedication. After Kayla completes the Project SEARCH program, her goal is to find a job where she can apply the skills she has learned to be successful at work so that she can help her family and pay bills.

Project SEARCH is helping Kayla and other interns figure things out; yet the benefits of the program are even more far reaching. "When we went into this, we thought we were providing an opportunity for interns who have disabilities. What it’s really turned out to be is that our caregivers have gotten as much out of the interaction as anybody else," said Jason Fahrlander, EVP, Chief Operating Officer, Community Health Network.

Erionna is a smiling, happy 6-year-old who loves to be around people and spend time with her family. "Erionna likes things her way and no other way. Her confidence is sky-high," said Erionna’s dad Richard.

Erionna was born with cerebral palsy and congenital hypotonia. “Her challenges are physical; she knows what she wants to do, but sometimes what she wants is hard for her to do. But Erionna is a happy child; she always has a smile on her face,” said Richard.

Erionna loves Wednesdays more than any other day of the week because she comes to therapy sessions at Easterseals Crossroads. It’s here at Easterseals Crossroads where she works with her physical therapist Kathleen Brinegar on sitting, holding her head up, standing and walking with her gait trainer.

“Erionna gets very excited about things she likes and one of those things is being mobile. Just seeing her face light up when she can be mobile using her gait trainer is one of the best things I get to see. This will help and enable Erionna to become as independent as possible,” said Kathleen.

Erionna and her family work diligently at home and her family has noticed so much progress. “Since she has been coming here, I feel she can do so much more. When Erionna was diagnosed, I didn’t know what was going to happen and I was worried. But now? Honestly, I just can’t wait to see,” said Richard.
Easterseals Crossroads provided services for 7,145 individuals with disabilities in our community.

We provided early intervention & outpatient therapy for 572 children & contract therapy for 611 students in schools.

In Autism & Behavior Services, we served 634 individuals and provided over 8,753 hours of direct service.

One of every 68 children is diagnosed with autism according to recent CDC statistics.

Deaf Community Services provides interpreting & case management services.

DISCOVER A CAREER

Our Employment Division placed people in 76 companies & 44 intern sites.

Our Driver Evaluation & Training team worked with 87 adults who needed driving services.

Veterans in our program found employment solutions with the average hourly rate of over $13 per hour.

Assistive Technology provided solutions for school, work and home for 368 people.

Learn about Project SEARCH for final-year high school students.

Our First Steps providers can help make the first five years count.

The Ages and Stages Questionnaires can help identify a child’s needs as early as one month old.

Assistive Technology made 1,086 technology loans, offered 5 full-day trainings & provided 185 recycled computers.

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Choose a career in Assistive Technology.

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In 1980 when Scott was 24 years old, he was in an automobile accident that resulted in paralysis from the waist down. With the use of hand controls in his vehicle, he was able to return to driving within three months of the accident. His ability to drive was a key component for his quick return to daily life, and for the past 38 years he has driven an equipped vehicle suited to his needs. “Scott was driving a ginormous Cadillac,” said Mary Follman, occupational therapist and certified driver rehabilitation specialist at Easterseals Crossroads. Scott loved it.

The Cadillac Sedan was adapted to allow him to place his wheelchair in the back and transfer to the front seat. Yet as the car aged, Scott realized he would need to make modifications and decided to purchase a minivan to best suit his physical needs.

After obtaining vehicle modifications to his new ride, Scott sought assistance from the Driver Evaluation and Training program at Easterseals Crossroads. Individuals on our driving team are certified driver rehabilitation specialists as well as occupational therapists, so they were able to determine the most appropriate accommodations for Scott for the short- and long-term. “The process was so easy; I felt that staff really cared and wanted a successful conclusion,” said Scott.

“My independence was limited, but my van and new modifications have opened my independence back up. And I know that if my needs change, I am secure in returning to Easterseals Crossroads,” said Scott.

At Easterseals Crossroads, our Employment Division staff members work with individuals with disabilities who are seeking meaningful opportunities.

Our employment options can help prepare people to work to improve the quality of their lives and supply our community with highly-skilled job candidates.

Employment is often a key factor toward independence; we are dedicated to providing employment solutions.

As a recent graduate with a degree in exercise science, Samantha was visiting schools in Colorado to explore occupational therapy graduate programs. While she was mountain biking, she flipped over her handlebars and hit the left side of her face and head, which caused a traumatic brain injury. Instead of starting a new graduate program, she found herself on the other side of therapy for 101 days in a rehabilitation hospital in Colorado. “One hundred and one nights,” said Samantha. “Not that I was counting.”

Following the accident, Samantha achieved many milestones from learning how to walk and talk again to taking a shower independently. She mastered basic skills and set new goals. “I had the impression that this accident would be very detrimental to my life and it has been the complete opposite. It has made me more appreciative; I will never take anything for granted again,” said Samantha.

After a period of recovery, Samantha started working with the Employment Division at Easterseals Crossroads to explore career options. Initially, Samantha volunteered at Benjamin Harrison YMCA with the objective of gaining some work experience. Samantha learned a lot during this time period and did very well; she eventually obtained a full-time position as a wellness coach, which she loves.

According to Samantha, “Ever since this injury, I have had to make my way through life again from the beginning. Easterseals Crossroads has been a great bridge in helping me regain my independence as an adult, and they have aided in my long-term healing. When I started at the YMCA, I saw myself as a girl with something wrong; now I see myself as ‘I’m Sam, would you like to meet me?’”

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Dwanda Back

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