

"If you are ever given the opportunity to do something greater than yourself

... seize that opportunity."

Easter Seals Greater Washington-Baltimore Region | 08-09 Annual Report



The benefits of Easter Seals programs were praised in over 25 major news outlets this year, including *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *The Baltimore Sun*, National Public Radio, NBC News 4, and many more.

2008-2009: A YEAR IN ACHIEVEMENTS

- 11,542 people served through Easter Seals services in 2008-2009.
- Easter Seals became the direct provider of Respite Services to Navy and Marines families in the greater Washington-Baltimore region. Easter Seals serves almost 90 children and caregivers whose parents are in the U.S. Navy, and the numbers are growing.
- Easter Seals convened the first Military and Veterans' Initiative Roundtable in our region in an effort to better coordinate local activities to support our troops in a more synergistic fashion.
- Received National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation renewals for Easter Seals' Child Development Centers.
- Easter Seals' Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center in Silver Spring and the Child Development Center in Washington, DC prove to be international models, hosting disability professionals from North Africa, the Near East, and Holland.
- Easter Seals joined Autism Society of America, Mass Mutual, and Maryland Delegate Kirill Reznik in hosting an Autism Community forum to present findings from a groundbreaking national study on families living with autism. The forum included presentations on current Maryland and federal legislation regarding autism; as well as a presentation on financial planning for parents of children with disabilities.
- **Richard Swirnow, Board Member of Easter Seals Greater Washington-Baltimore Region was awarded the national Easter Seals Philanthropist of the Year Award. He was recognized for his annual gifts to our local affiliate and his unyielding support and leadership of Easter Seals programs for people with disabilities.**
- A video which highlights Easter Seals' Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center won four nationally acclaimed awards. The video was produced by Creative Video of Washington and can be viewed at gwbr.easterseals.com/InterGenerational_Ctr_Overview.
- Easter Seals received media coverage in over 25 major news outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *The Baltimore Sun*, National Public Radio, CBS WJZ, NBC 11, Fox 45, NBC News 4 and many more.
- Easter Seals was awarded a grant by the Housing and Urban Development Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency program (ROSS). Through this funding, Easter Seals Adult Day Center in Hagerstown worked with Project LINC to provide case management, enabled clients to participate in Adult Day Services, facilitated employment and prevented eviction of several Housing Authority of the City of Hagerstown residents.



11,542 people were served through Easter Seals services in 2009.



MISSION

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

VISION

Easter Seals is widely recognized as a leader and preferred partner to serve our core constituents including adults with Alzheimer's disease and other disabilities, children with developmental disabilities, including autism, active military and wounded veterans as well as family caregivers engaged in support and care. We will be uniquely positioned by continuously growing our regional network of services and differentiating through our 21st century model Inter-Generational Center.

Easter Seals will invest strategically with partners and other investors to meet these goals and innovate to ensure current and future needs of individuals, families and the community at large are met and that the return on investment is strong for all involved.

One in five people, young and old, have a disability.

One in four people are caregivers.

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A complete listing of Easter Seals locations can be found on the inside back cover.

Message from the President & CEO and the Chairman of the Board

DEAR EASTER SEALS LEADERS, INVESTORS, VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS:

John Glenn once said, "If you are ever given the opportunity to do something greater than yourself... seize that opportunity."

If you are reading this letter, we know that you have or will be seizing that opportunity for a family member, a friend or as a volunteer and we thank you.

Over the past year, either through your philanthropic support, your volunteering, or perhaps both, you helped us increase the reach of various new initiatives including serving more military families, children, adults and seniors with all types of disabilities. We are thrilled by the growth of our services and our ability to serve more families who need the help that Easter Seals is uniquely situated to provide.

It can be said that looking back at Fiscal Year 2009 is looking into the future. This is the first operational year of Easter Seals' Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center, which is a 21st Century model for providing services to children and seniors with and without disabilities in a shared site.

This annual report proudly lists just some of the achievements for Easter Seals Greater Washington-Baltimore Region for 2009. Each of the participants we serve – children, adults, and caregivers – have their own achievements each and every day. Whether a child with spina bifida improves her mobility or a senior is able to maintain his independence, we revel in each achievement and are proud that Easter Seals has played a part.

As you know, the wide array of services we offer are costly. However, this cannot be a deterrent and we must continue

to offer these services in order to fulfill our promise to our community. Our ability to do this is a direct result of the strong philanthropic support of people like you.

Your help in making all of this possible is critical. Indeed it makes the difference between our standing still or moving forward. The support of individual donors to Easter Seals for the past 85 years has been the driving force enabling Easter Seals to do great things. We encourage you to donate early and often.

To the donors who are new to us this year and to those who have been with us for thirty years – this is the time for action, now more than ever.

Please help us help our community by sending your gift in the attached envelope or by going to www.gwbr.easterseals.com and clicking the "donate now" button.

Over the next 20 minutes while you finish reading this annual report, another child will be diagnosed with autism. Don't wait to seize your next opportunity to help make a difference.

Sincerely,



Lisa Reeves
President & CEO



Ralph Boyd
Chairman of the Board

"This is not your typical senior center. It was designed specially to serve children and adults simultaneously, with and without disabilities." - Nicole Greenhouse, National Public Radio (www.npr.com)

EASTER SEALS' HARRY & JEANETTE WEINBERG INTER-GENERATIONAL CENTER *An International Health and Social Services Model*

Easter Seals' Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center (IGC) in Silver Spring, MD provides an innovative and comprehensive solution to many of the physical and cognitive challenges our constituents face every day. The IGC is a high-quality, cost-effective, national and regional model that unites services for children, adults, and their families under one roof, creating meaningful connections between generations and people with and without disabilities.

Easter Seals' IGC breaks down barriers of the past by not only integrating generations, but also by incorporating a myriad of much-needed services for people with and without disabilities. As the Easter Seals' regional headquarters, the IGC incorporates the following services:

- Early Education & Child Development Center
- Adult & Senior Social / Medical Day Program
- Assistive Technology & Therapy Center
- Corporate and Family Caregiver Resource Center
- Respite Program
- Education and Training Center

These programs do not simply stand alone serving their specialty areas. Rather, they are part of a fully integrated spectrum of services, which enables the community we serve.

A parent can bring her daughter with Down Syndrome as well as her typically developing son to the same Early Education Child Development Center. A hallway away, her aging grandfather with dementia can attend the Adult Day Center; on her way out the door she can stop at the Family Caregiver Resource Center to find the literature, advice and resources she needs, as a caregiver, to support her family.

WHILE YOU'RE HERE:

- Preschool children in intergenerational programs report personal and social development scores 11 months higher than preschool children in non-intergenerational programs.
- Older adults in intergenerational centers report fewer falls, remain mentally agile longer, and experience a decrease in cognitive delays, while 97% report feeling happier, interested, loved, younger and needed.

...seize
your
opportunity

SEIZE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION: BRICK CAMPAIGN

Grace the landscape of the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center with your gift of an engraved brick or paver. Your investment will be etched in stone and serves as a testimony to your commitment to individuals with disabilities and their caregivers. It is also a wonderful way to honor or remember a special person, event or organization in your life.

Please contact us today at
301-920-9716 or info@eseal.org
to find out how you can become
part of history.

