easterseals
OF GREATER WATERBURY

Annual Report 2026

Strength in Ability. Power in Community.

Paving the path to possibility by shaping tomorrow, together.









A Message from our President

Len Cipollone



Dear Friends and Supporters,

When I think about this past year at Easterseals, what stands out most isn't a building, a vehicle, or a piece of equipment. It's the people we have the privilege of serving—and the staff who make a difference in their lives every day.

In Stratford, we helped 21 individuals stay with the friends and familiar staff they knew when their day program was facing closure. Today, that program serves 25 people and offers more opportunities to enjoy their community. Across our Employment and Community Services programs, self-advocates are taking a greater role in decisions that affect them, including interviewing prospective staff and sharing their ideas with our Board.

Our Children's Programs have given us plenty to celebrate, from the pride on young artists' faces at the Children's Center East Art Show to the caring relationships children are building with foster grandparents. These are the moments that make early learning so special.

At our Center for Better Hearing, a grandmother heard her granddaughter's voice for the first time. In Medical Rehabilitation, our staff helped a family navigate a difficult decision about driving with compassion and dignity. Different services, but the same commitment to helping people live fuller lives.

We also invested in our buildings, rehabilitation equipment, transportation, and technology. Those improvements may be less personal than the stories in these pages, but they help us provide better services and prepare for the future.

I'm grateful to our employees, Board of Directors, donors, and community partners for everything they do. Most of all, thank you to the individuals and families who trust us each day. We work hard to earn that trust.

I hope you enjoy meeting some of the people who made this year memorable.

With gratitude,



Len Cipollone
President & CEO

Board of Directors



Jim Watkowski
Board Chairman



Paul Jessell, Esq.
Vice Chairman



Robert Stabile
Secretary



Kellie Jandreau
Treasurer



Marya DiPerna



Mark Graveline



Kenney Johnson



Tamara Nyce, Esq.



Michelle Yamin



David Segal



Maribel Rivera Smith
DNP, MSN, Ed., RN



Robert Teittinen



Liz Vagnini



James Zoldy Jr., CFA

A Legacy of Caring



A generous $100,000 gift from the estate of Nancy Adele Coderre helped Easterseals of Greater Waterbury honor a special family legacy of caring for children and supporting their growth and development.

In recognition of Nancy's generosity, we proudly dedicated the activity room at Children's Center East in memory of her mother, Julia Viedt Coderre, who devoted her professional life to helping children. It was a meaningful opportunity to recognize both Nancy's generosity and her mother's lifelong commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people.

The activity room is a fitting tribute to that legacy. Every day, it provides a welcoming space where children can explore their creativity, learn new skills, build friendships, and celebrate their accomplishments. It is a place filled with the kind of joy, encouragement, and opportunity that Julia dedicated her career to fostering.

We were especially pleased to welcome Nancy's brother, Harold, sister-in-law, Carol, and their daughter, Katie Huber, to join us for the dedication and share in this special occasion.

We are deeply grateful for Nancy's thoughtful generosity and honored to celebrate her mother's memory in a space that will continue to bring happiness and opportunity to children and families for years to come. It is a wonderful reminder that a family's commitment to helping others can leave a lasting impact for generations.











Preserving Connections, Expanding Services in Stratford



"Before Easterseals took over, I wasn't able to go out into the community," Annise Carter shared. "Now I love going places with my friends."

For the 21 individuals attending Sunset Shores' Harborview program, the possibility of its closing meant more than finding somewhere new to go. It meant potentially losing familiar faces, friendships, and routines that were an important part of their lives.

Easterseals stepped in to keep those connections intact. We retained the staff, continued services without interruption, and worked with families to make the transition as smooth as possible.

We also added three vans, restored transportation, and created more chances for individuals to get out and enjoy the community.

Just ask Annise Carter. She loves puzzles, board games, helping to restock supplies, and even leading group exercise. But one of her favorite changes is getting out with her friends.

Those outings might include shopping, a scavenger hunt at Burlington, or a trip to the grocery store. Families have also welcomed more consistent, reliable transportation.

DDS Case Manager Cheryl Kim has noticed the difference, observing that day services have improved and that individuals like Annise have more meaningful opportunities.

Since the transition, four more individuals have joined the program, bringing the total served in Stratford to 25.

For Annise Carter, though, it comes down to the people and the experiences she enjoys. "The staff treats me like family," she said. "They always make sure I'm happy and safe."







"Every day has something new to look forward to at Easterseals." Annise Carter

Little Moments. Lasting memories.

Every day at Children's Center and Children's Academy, children are learning, growing, making friends, and discovering what they can do. Sometimes those moments become something even bigger — a celebration that brings families together or a special relationship that bridges generations.

This year, two stories remind us just how meaningful those moments can be.

Small Artist, Big Reasons to Celebrate

When Toni Cianciolo and her team at Children's Center East held their first art show three years ago, about 40 family members came. The following year, attendance grew to 140. This year, more than 210 people joined the celebration.

But the real excitement isn't the crowd. It's seeing children proudly show their families something they made themselves.

Art is part of learning throughout the year. Children explore ideas, practice new skills, and express themselves in their own ways. The show gives families a chance to see that creativity up close.

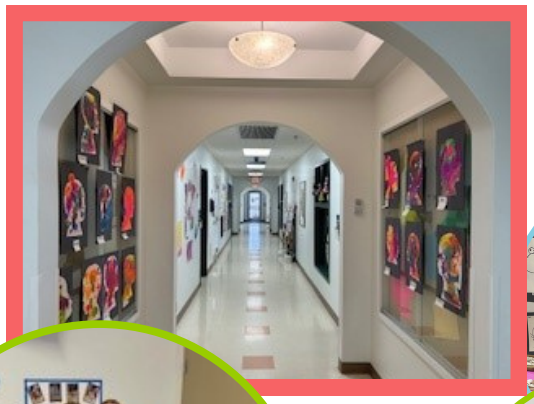
"The art show is a wonderful opportunity for the children to show family and friends their creative abilities," said teacher Stephanie Engelhard.

The entire Children's Center East team helps bring the event to life, from classroom projects to displaying the finished artwork.

As teacher Liljana Lico put it, "We help our children develop their self-esteem and confidence, and in turn, they are proud of what they do."

And for the young artists, there's nothing quite like pointing to a creation and saying, "Look what I made!"







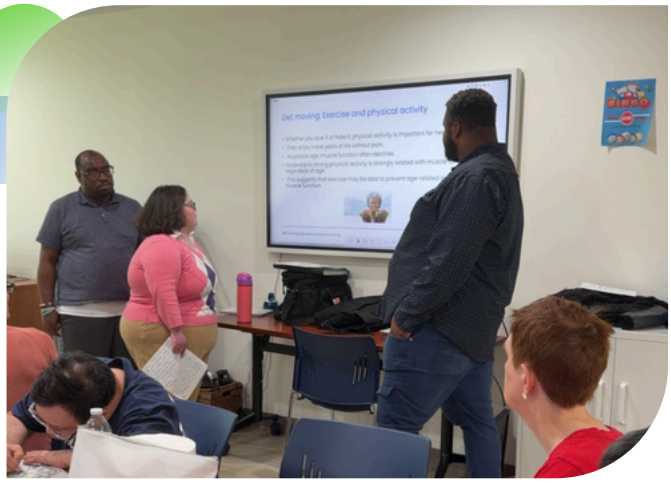








Their Voices. Their Choices. Their Leadership.



Self-advocacy at Easterseals means having a real say in the decisions that shape your life. In Stratford, Waterbury, and Brookfield, individuals are sharing ideas, raising concerns, and helping make their programs better.

Some members now participate in staff interviews. Joseph Barba enjoys helping choose the people who will support him and his friends.



"I love doing the interviews now because I want good staff for the future, and I want to help them learn about us and what we do at Easterseals," Joseph Barba said.

Self-advocates also speak directly with our Board of Directors each year, sharing their experiences and recommendations.

In February, our Enhanced Community Engagement program sponsored the first annual People First Conference, bringing advocates together to learn, connect, and celebrate their abilities.



Octavio Mendez left inspired by the people he met and by keynote speaker Madison Tevlin's message about challenging assumptions.

"You can do anything you put your mind to, chase your dreams, and don't let things get in your way," Octavio Mendez shared.

Whether interviewing future staff or speaking to the Board, our self-advocates aren't just being heard. They're helping lead the way.

Generations of Caring: The Foster Grandparent Program



At Children's Center and Children's Academy East, the Foster Grandparent Program, operated by New Opportunities, brings another generation into the classroom. Foster grandparents work alongside teachers, offering children extra attention, encouragement, and a familiar, caring face throughout the day.

The relationships are just as meaningful for the grandparents as they are for the children. Whether it's sharing a story, helping with an activity, or simply being there with a reassuring hug, these special volunteers make a difference in the lives of the children they spend time with.



"Each morning, I look forward to coming into the classroom and having the children run up to me with big hugs! They brighten my day." Grandma Charlotte Ellis

For many, the program has become an important part of their lives. Grandma Charlotte Ellis has volunteered for 10 years, Grandma Elizabeth Gaston for 21 years, and Grandma Maria Rodriguez for an incredible 23 years.

"Grandma Maria has been planting seeds of love, wisdom and kindness for 23 years. Her caring presence makes each child's day brighter. The moments that are shared with the children will create lasting memories and foundations that will last a lifetime."Gail Gatling-Ellison, Children's Center Manager



Another familiar face is Grandma Margaret McCreedy, who brings a unique perspective to the classroom. Before becoming a foster grandparent herself, Margaret served as director of the Foster Grandparent Program. Today, she's experiencing firsthand the special relationships she once helped others build.

"The foster grandparent program enables me to create memories with the children and leaves me with a sense of accomplishment."Grandma Debbie Schenck

For Gail Gatling-Ellison, who has helped coordinate the program at Children's Center East for many years, the value of these relationships is easy to see.

"Over the years, I've watched so many wonderful relationships develop between our foster grandparents and the children. The children light up when they see them, and I think the grandparents get just as much joy out of being here. They've really become part of our Children's Center family." Gail Gatling-Ellison
Children's Center Manager





We thank New Opportunities and the foster grandparents for the time and care they share with our children and teachers.

Helping People Move Forward

Driving represents freedom and independence, and the decision to stop driving can be difficult for individuals and their families. Our Comprehensive Driver Assessment Program helps families navigate these decisions with compassion, professionalism, and respect.

One family recently shared their experience with occupational therapist Lauren Bauer.

Dear Len,

I wanted to take a moment to share my sincere appreciation for one of your team members, Lauren Bauer, and the exceptional care she provided to my father and our family during a recent driver evaluation.

A few weeks ago, I brought my father in for an assessment as we have been navigating the difficult reality of his Alzheimer's disease. As you can imagine, discussing driving and independence with someone who has always been very proud and self-reliant is incredibly challenging. Lauren handled the entire process with remarkable professionalism, compassion, and respect. She conducted the evaluation thoroughly and then walked through the results in a way that preserved my father's dignity while clearly communicating her concerns about his ability to continue driving.

Although the conversation was understandably difficult for him, Lauren's calm, thoughtful, and patient approach made a tremendous difference. Because of the way she handled the situation, my father ultimately made the decision to voluntarily turn in his driver's license. That was not an easy step for him, but it was the right one, and it has made our family—and our community—safer.

I felt it was important that you know how impactful Lauren's work was for our family. Her professionalism, empathy, and ability to navigate such a sensitive moment are truly special and a credit to Easterseals. We are deeply grateful for the care she showed my father.



With sincere appreciation,
Adrian Rawn

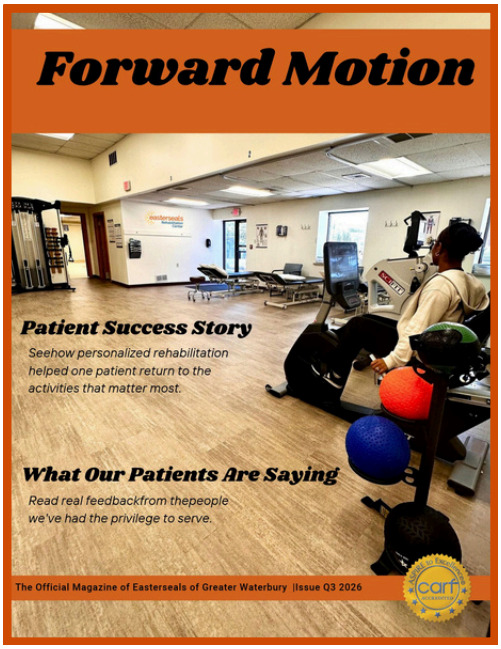
Making a Difference Every Day

During the year, our Comprehensive Driver Assessment Program conducted 420 evaluations. Our outpatient rehabilitation and school-based therapy services supported more than 1,000 people, and our outpatient program maintained a patient satisfaction rating above 98%.

Whether helping someone improve mobility, supporting a student in school, or guiding a family through a difficult decision, our Medical Rehabilitation team focuses on what matters most in people's everyday lives.

Our new Forward Motion magazine offers a closer look at the Medical Rehabilitation team, our specialized services, and the ways therapy can make a difference. It also helps individuals, families, and referral partners learn how to access care.

View
Forward Motion Magazine
Here!



The Gift of Hearing

Nearly one in three Americans over age 65 experiences some degree of hearing loss. Beyond making conversations difficult, untreated hearing loss can affect social connections, emotional well-being, and overall quality of life. Unfortunately, traditional Medicare does not cover hearing aids, and Medicare Advantage plans often leave seniors facing significant out-of-pocket costs for hearing aids.



For years, Lynn could only imagine what her granddaughter's voice sounded like.

Living with severe hearing loss, she relied on one hearing aid that was more than 20 years old and could no longer be repaired. Even with it, family members had to speak loudly into her ear. Her 12-year-old granddaughter often used hand signals to communicate.

That changed when Lynn visited the Easterseals Center for Better Hearing. Through our Outreach Program, which helps low-income seniors access hearing evaluations and hearing aids, Lynn received new devices.

When she returned home, she heard her granddaughter's voice for the first time.

Today, she enjoys conversations with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and the everyday sounds she had been missing.

For older adults living on limited incomes, hearing aids can be difficult to afford. Our Center for Better Hearing team helps seniors like Lynn reconnect with the people they love.

Sometimes, the greatest gift isn't simply hearing better. It's hearing someone you love.

Investing in Our Future, Improving Lives Today

Better equipment, comfortable spaces, and reliable transportation all help our staff do their best work. This year, Easterseals continued investing in the practical resources behind our services.



At our Meriden Medical Rehabilitation clinic, we refreshed the therapy gym with new exercise equipment and parallel bars, updated privacy curtains, reupholstered treatment tables, and clearer exterior signage. Digital screens in the waiting area and gym now share service and community information in English and Spanish.

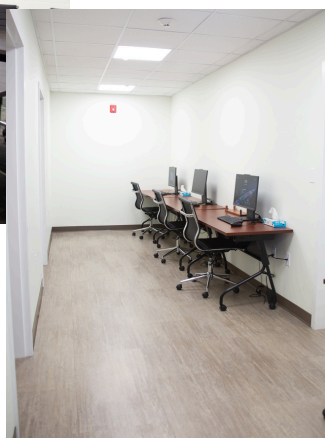
At our Tompkins Street headquarters, renovated offices and a new conference room provide improved spaces for meetings, planning, and collaboration. Technology infrastructure upgrades support communication and day-to-day operations across our programs.

In Employment and Community Services, we purchased more than 20 new minivans as part of our move away from larger vans. For many participants, the smaller vehicles are easier to get in and out of and give staff more flexibility to plan outings in groups based on individual interests.

These improvements may look different from one program to another, but they share one purpose: helping people receive quality services from staff who have the right tools and spaces to support them.



New Conference Room



Human Resources training stations



New minivans







Updated Gym Equipment

Growing Support, Building Connections



Fundraising events, gifts, and grants help Easterseals provide services and create opportunities across our communities.

In February, we launched Stand Up for Easterseals, our first comedy night at La Bella Vista. More than 125 guests enjoyed six comedians from Knights of the Round Table, raising $14,550 for our programs. The warm response made it a welcome addition to our fundraising calendar.

Our Annual Golf Classic, Pints for a Purpose, and Give Local campaign also brought donors, sponsors, volunteers, employees, and friends together around our mission.

Every gift represents someone choosing to invest in our community. To our donors, grant funders, sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who joined us this year: thank you.



During Fiscal Year 2026, Easterseals received $46,529 in grant funding from foundations, organizations, and corporations. This generous support funded educational iPads for our childcare programs, carpet replacement at one childcare location, a contribution toward a new audiometer for our Center for Better Hearing, and general operating expenses.

These investments strengthened our programs and services, helping us meet the needs of individuals and families impacted by disabilities throughout our communities. We extend our sincere gratitude to the following grant partners for their commitment to our mission and the people we serve.

Thank you to the grant funders that we received for fiscal year 2026

Treadwell Corporation
Comcast
Element Solutions Foundation Inc., MacDermid
O'Hara-Feely Family Fund
Ricci Trust

The Leever Foundation
Thomason Savings Bank Foundation
United Way of Greater Waterbury
Watertown Foundation

To learn more about upcoming events such as Stand Up for Easterseals, Pints for a Purpose, Annual Golf Classic and More scan here!

Recognizing Our Employees

Our employees bring skill, dedication, and kindness to Easterseals every day. We are proud to recognize their milestones and our STAR Award recipients, and we thank them for the difference they make in the lives of the people we serve.

Years of Service Honorees:

25 years:
Craig Foley - Employment and Community Services
Patrece John - Children's Academy, West
Annette Burton - Center for Better Hearing
Mindy Fricke - Medical Rehabiliation

15 years:
Jaclyn Maier - Medical Rehabiliation

10 years:
Brad Fidler - Employment and Community Services
Kathleen Szanto - Center for Better Hearing
Suzanne Urena - Children's Academy, West
Linda Oulette - Children's Academy, West
Lulu Halil - Center for Better Hearing

5 years:
Lauren Bauer - Driver Assessment
Jasmine Valenzuela - Finance
Monica Jacobson - Children's Academy, East
Shayna Perkins-West - Finance
Alani Fernandez - Children's Center

STAR Awards Honorees:

Yarret Taylor
Odemaris Segarra
Linda Ouellette
Alani Fernandez
Beaddie Daniels
Delcia Ifill
Lauren Bauer
Isabela Prado
Linnette Mendoza

The Finance Team:

Shayna Perkins - West
Jasmine Valenzuela
Kaitlyn Bauer
Jody Brouillard
Candy Brainard



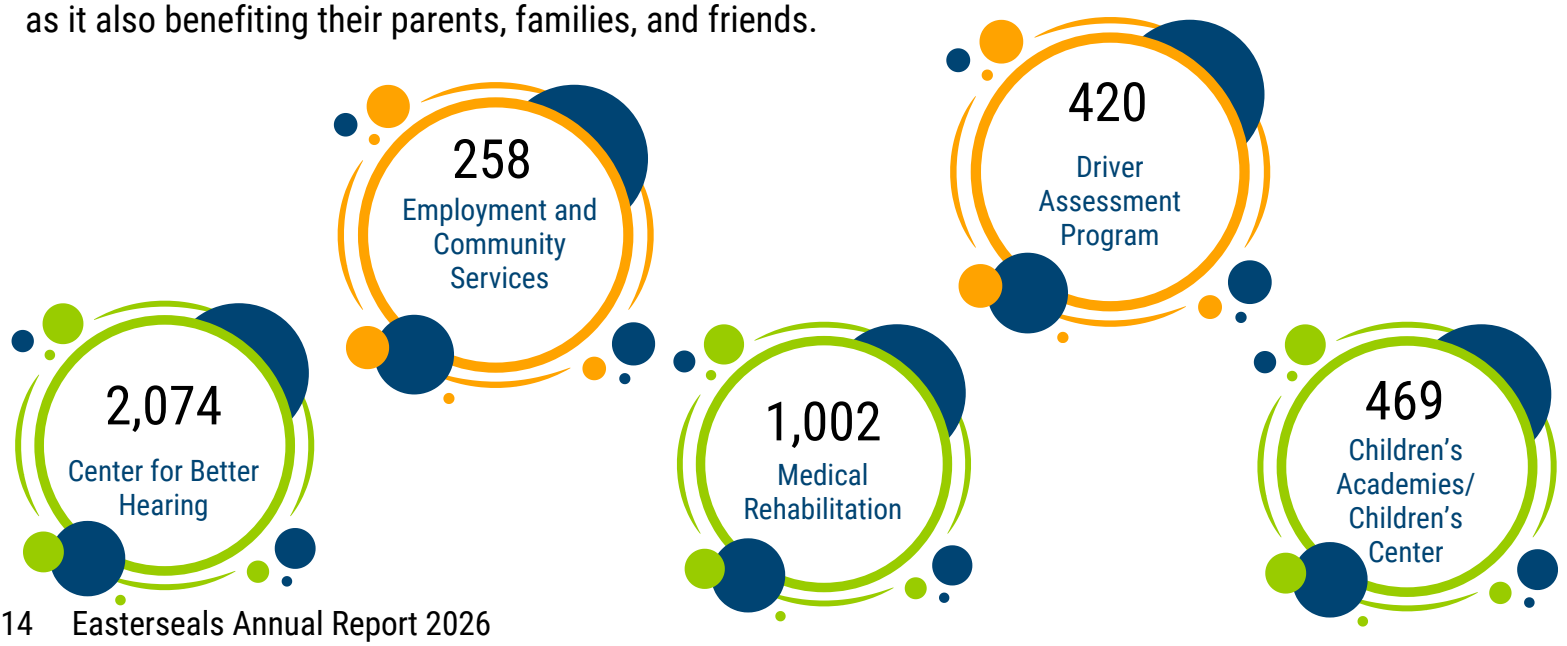
2026 Financial Operations Report

Year ending August 31, 2026 (with comparable totals for 2025)(Unaudited)

Operating Support and Revenues:		2026		2025
Public Support	$254,721	2%	$444,149	3%
Vocational Training and Educational programs	13,865,479	84%	13,242,837	80%
Medical Rehabilitation Services	2,299,056	14%	2,290,697	14%
Other Grants & Other Income	156,582	1%	103,796	1%
	$16,575,838	100%	$16,081,479	97%
Operating Expenses:				
Staffing, Payroll Taxes and Employee Benefits	12,547,322	75%	$12,033,517	77%
Professional Services and Operating Supplies	2,062,920	12%	1,835,674	12%
Occupancy and Interest	1,073,376	6%	925,450	6%
Transportation Service	370,476	2%	337,571	2%
Depreciation & Amortization	582,202	3%	586,017	4%
	$16,636,296	100%	$15,718,229	100%
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	$(60,458)		$363,250	
Community Outreach Programs	$(174,942)		$(148,246)	
Net Investment Revenues Gain/(Loss)	$4,844,110		$4,004,552	
Combined Surplus/(deficit)	$4,608,710		4,219,556	
Capital Asset Purchases and Improvements	$1,247,171		$382,594	

In Fiscal year 2026, Easterseals of Greater Waterbury delivered direct services to 4,223 individuals.

The reach of Easterseals' programs goes beyond just those individuals, as it also benefiting their parents, families, and friends.



2026 Annual Donors

To our generous sponsors, donors, and grant funders — thank you. Your unwavering support has made a meaningful difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities and special needs. Because of you, more individuals have access to the services, opportunities, and care they deserve. Below is a list of contributions received between September 1, 2025, and August 31, 2026.

$100,000

Nancy Coderre

$10,000 - $25,000

Anonymous
Treadwell Corporation
Ricci Trust

$5,000 - $9,999

Webster Bank
Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation
Leever Foundation
Unitied Way of Greater Waterbury

2,500 - $4,999

Connecticut Community Foundation
Ion Bank Foundation
Liberty Bank
Post University

$1,000 - $2,499

Christian Quandt
Judith Mirrer
Demsey manufacturing Company
The Washington Trust
Clickbond
Acrisure
Ameriprise Financial
Dunkin/BZ Management
Watertown Foundation
Jack & Jennifer Hogan
Nicholas Guiditta
Jim Watkowski
Central Auto Auction
Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP
PowerStation Events
James Stefan
Vanguard
We Do Life...Together

$500 - $999

Pullman & Comley, LLC
O'Hara-Feeley Family Fund
Bob Teittinen
Suke & Glenda Duke
Carl Jacobson
C-B Manufacturing & Tool Company
Dominic DeSantis
E.S. Metal Fabrication, INC
German Auto Repair
New Opportunities
Antoinette Cianciolo
Len Cipollone
Kaitlyn Bauer
Blasius Kia
Eric C. Rook Farrier Service
FD Community Federal Credit Union
Lorna Bolger
Mattatuck Industrail Scrap Metal
Gary Nielsen
Karen Powell
Skyline Financial
The Innovative CPA Group
Union Savings Bank
William Villano

$250 - $499

Marya DiPerna
Nora Fairman
Weichert, Realtors Briotti Group
Nicole Natale & Joshua E. Meeker
Lisa McNeill
Peter & Christine Longo
Erin Martin

$250 - $499 (continued)

Pat Spinella
a.i.tek instruments
Affordable Powerwash
Albert Bros.
All Waste,INC
Bee's Vending
Berkshire Industrial Corporation
Jeremy & Kali Blakeslee
Broderick Law Firm
Building Blocks for Parents
Carpin Manufacturing
Cornerstone Realty
Delta T Group Hartford, INC.
Dr. McHuge & Associates PC
Gateway Limousine Inc.
Green Wealth Management Group
J&J Precision, Inc.
Cindy Kaplita
The Lombard Group
Destiny Lopez
The McCall Foundation
Mule Security & Electric, Inc.
N.V.L.M.
Northwest Hills Automotive
Vern Proctor
Stutsky Law, LLC
Torrco
Triple Stitch
Tynan & Iannone
USA Waste & Reycyling
William Brightly

Help make a difference!

$100 - $249

Easterseals National
Bryan J. Mulville
Torrington Savings Bank
Waterbury Arts Magnet School
Jim Zoldy
Tina Agati
Mary Clarke
Chet Dohney
Alicia Griffin
Maribel Smith
Ann Feinberg
Bob Harlin
Paula Lamion
Mark Dost
Sharon Mcdonald
Jame Milas
Robert Stabile
Bradley Fidler
Pam Fields
Sandra Selmont
Kim McAllister
Advartec
Alvin F. Payne
Mark Berardi
Charles Boulier
Ellen Ciampi
Joseph Fazzino
Richard O'Brien
Patricia Raymond
Robert Sylvester. Jr.
Elizabeth Vagnini

$1 - $99

Joshua Royer
Heather Dahlman
Leon Lombardi
Gregory Guisti
Lorinda Harkness
Lawrence Rifkin
Cynthia Pirro
John Raymond
Michael Rokosky
James Roosa
Dorothy Thurston
Carrie Zimyeski
Elizabeth Lane
Mary Rivers
Pam Fields
Kenney Johnson
Marcia Mcrae
Valneasha Lammie
Anonymous
Gaspar Rodrigues
Timothy J. Shea
Network for Good
Anne Marie Janco
Marie Bernier
Bob & Marion Mecozzi
Holly Hawk
Madeline D. Francis
Amy Palmer
Caroyln Smith
Jaime Torres
Margaret Werner
Linda Dozier
Ms. Elizabeth Cole
Paypal Giving Fund
James Reiling
Securcare Options LLC.
SEI Private Trust Company
Gregory Wright
Marie Alvarez
Charities Aid Foundation
Pattie Stankevicis
Robert Yoreski
Donna P. Morrow
Marie Belfiore



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LA BELLA VISTA

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2 DRINK COUPONS | APPETIZERS GALORE

COMEDY BY

NIGHTS OF THE ROUNDTABLE

Doors Open at 6:30 PM | February 6, 2027

TICKETS

$75

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TICKET AVAILABLE : HTTPS://WATERBURYCT.EASTERSEALS.COM/

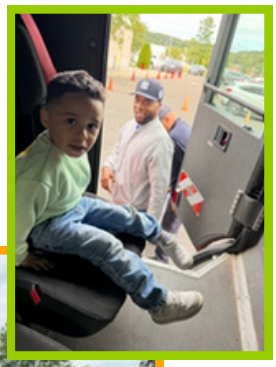
Contact Kim at Kmcallister@eswct.com for sponsorship opportunties







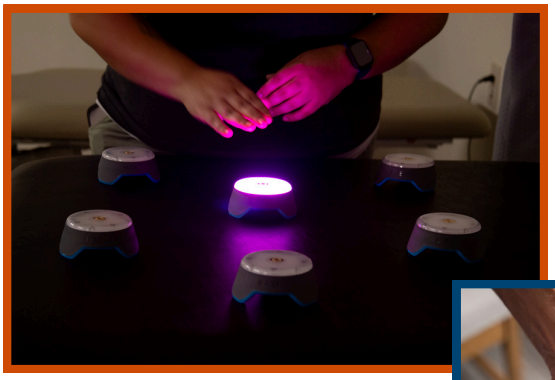




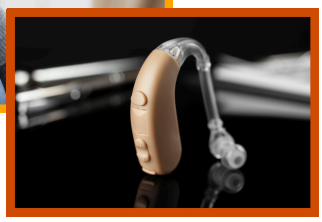












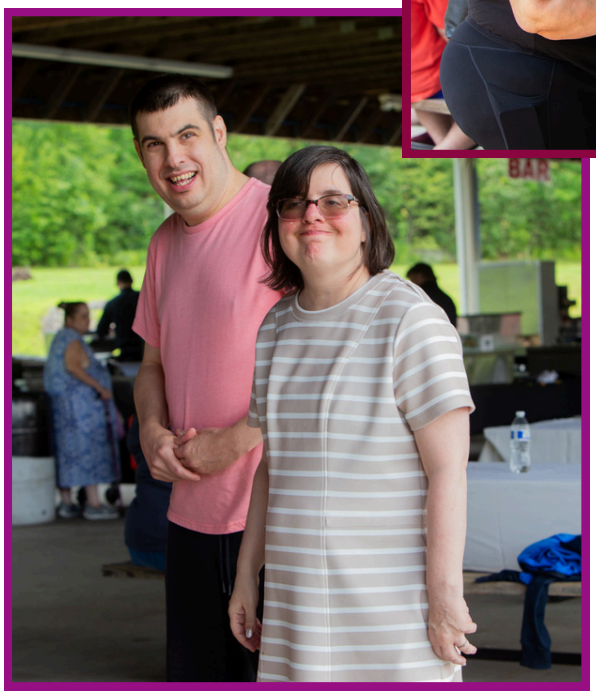


easterseals
OF GREATER WATERBURY















OUR MISSION

Easterseals is a catalyst for hope and possibility, delivering essential disability and community services that open doors to healthcare, education, and employment. At Easterseals of Greater Waterbury, we stand with individuals, families, and community partners to create opportunities, nurture independence, and inspire full participation in all aspects of life.







VISIT OUR PROGRAMS

CENTER FOR BETTER HEARING
22 Tompkins Street, Waterbury
158 State Street, Meriden
690 Main Street South, Suite 4, Southbury

CHILDREN'S ACADEMY & CHILDREN'S CENTER
22 Tompkins Street, Waterbury - West Campus
128 Avenue of Industry, Waterbury - East Campus
172 Grandview Avenue, Waterbury - Grandview Campus
125 Broad Street, Meriden - Meriden Campus

DRIVER ASSESTMENT PROGRAM
158 State Street, Meriden

EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
117 Old State Drive, Unit 102, Brookfield
1700 Watertown Avenue, Waterbury
605 Longbrook Avenue, Stratford

LIONS LOW VISION PROGRAM
158 State Street, Meriden

MEDICAL REHABILIATION PROGRAM
158 State Street, Meriden

easterseals OF GREATER WATERBURY

Check out our new website!
waterburyct.easterseals.com