



Leaving A Legacy: Edith Garvey

Edith Garvey believed that anyone can be a philanthropist regardless of wealth or status and Edith was a genuine philanthropist. She chose teaching as her profession, first in Illinois then in the El Segundo area of Southern California. As a philanthropist, she supported many non-profit organizations over the years including her alma mater, the University of Illinois in Champaign, and Easterseals. Edith was active in her South Bay community, sharing her vibrant personality with her bridge group, her church friends, and as a member of the Torrance Civic Chorale.



Her \$10 or \$15 donations to Easterseals were not large but in 2012 Edith noticed she had not received her yearly Easterseals calendar in the mail so she made a call to the Easterseals Southern California office. A member of the Development team volunteered to drop one off in person. During that visit, Edith learned more about Easterseals services and was invited to tour a local Adult Day program site.

Passionate about helping others and creating a better world, it was at that moment she decided to include Easterseals in her will. Edith passed in 2015 and with the generous bequest she left to Easterseals Southern California, that same Adult Day Center Edith visited years earlier was able to fully renovate and upgrade their ADA accessible tools and technologies for use today and for future generations. ■

Go to easterseals.planmylegacy.org or call 714.834.1111 EXT. 5027

For information on how
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STORIES OF Impact



Jerry's Story

In early March, Jerry enthusiastically joined fellow Adult Day Services (ADS) participants in the primary election process. He wore his "I voted" sticker and beamed with pride. His program director, Angela, encouraged his passion and participation in the election process. "The individuals who Easterseals supports will not be left out of the conversation," she said.

While concerns about COVID-19 prevented Jerry from joining the crowds at Black Lives Matter protests at the end of May, he did create a peace sign to express his support for the movement. His eyes remained glued to television news programs for several hours each day, fascinated by the images of the protests and the presence of the National Guard. He even preferred to watch the latest news coverage rather than his favorite Elvis documentaries.



**PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES
MAKE UP 25%
OF THE NATION**

**THAT'S 61 MILLION
VOICES STRONG**



Beyond discussing current issues, Jerry expresses his knowledge and appreciation for songs by Elvis, Bing Crosby and Dean Martin. Shwannah, his Life Skills Coach, has introduced Jerry to the fun of Jack Jones signing the "Love Boat" theme song. Jerry is eagerly awaiting his opportunity to cast his vote again in the November general election. ■

Jacob's Story



Jacob started with Easterseals when he was just four years old, being diagnosed a year prior with Autism and ADD, to help improve his socialization, communication and safety strategies.

"Because Jacob wouldn't look anyone in the eye, Jessica, a Program Manager in Autism Services, would put a sticker in the middle of her forehead and Jacob would see the sticker and remember to look at her eyes," Heather said. Besides the sticker strategy, she used numerous other techniques that helped Jacob's socialization and safety. She focused a great deal on visual cues.

After working faithfully with Jessica, Jacob reached all his milestones in less than four years, mastering every goal and catching up to his peers. He learned how to socialize with other children and instead of sitting by himself, he would share his toys when other kids were around.

"He is not the same kid," Heather said. "I truly believe Easterseals is why he has the success he has today. I really think it was all Easterseals; that's what kind of a difference they make." ■

STORIES OF Impact

Orion's Story

Last month, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) marked the 75th observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in addition to the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), in July. Both milestones are being commemorated with a range of events and activities centered on the theme "Increasing Access and Opportunity." At Easterseals, our participants' stories demonstrate how each have been provided with benefits from their jobs that go beyond a paycheck, starting with Orion.

Orion, employed at Little Caesars Pizza for more than a year, assists with food preparation, restocking inventory, and keeping the kitchen area tidy— is now working more hours, per his request. To Orion, having a job, "means that I am capable of motivating myself to do something new." In addition to the financial benefits, he also feels that it "helps me learn new things that I have not done before, and helps me gain experience for other things in the future."

After searching for a job a few years on his own, Orion was connected with Easterseals WorkFirst program, where he received guidance and support on contacting employers, applying for jobs and the interview process. His boss, Jazmin, says that Orion is a great employee and gets along well with all his co-workers. She says Orion's work shows, like any individual, "people with disabilities can work in competitive jobs."

Orion added, "working is good for people because they experience things they have probably never done before and it will bring more financial liberation to them. The longer someone works the more financial freedom they will get." He continues, "My advice is to go out, be confident, stay motivated and do not give up." ■

Easterseals Southern
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staff members
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over 13,000
participants



A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM



Nancy Weintraub

CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
EASTERSEALS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Together we have endured a lot these past several months, but together we have also witnessed tremendous strength, kindness and generosity. I could not be more humbled by the outpouring of support our donor community has shown to Easterseals Southern California during this pandemic. It is through your contributions that our amazing employees have still been able to support our participants in the same way you have come to expect and can be proud of. Together we are making profound positive differences in the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families every day. And together we will come through this unprecedented time more resilient than ever. We are definitely stronger together, thank you so very much!

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WHAT IS GIVING TUESDAY?

Created in 2012, it is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.

EASTERSEALS IN THE News



Hope Veterans' Successes Highlighted in Federally Published Brief

Customized Employment Works for Veterans, a brief written by WorkFirst/Bob Hope Veterans Support Program Vice President Debbie Ball, a Discovery and Customized Employment Expert for the U.S. Dept. of Labor, was recently distributed to a national audience by the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP).



Debbie Ball

Customized Employment matches individuals' unique skills, talents, and interests with businesses' specific needs to create win-win situations. Since its inception in 2014, Easterseals' Bob Hope Veterans Support Program (BHVSP) has helped over 1,000 veterans find meaningful employment by providing this personalized approach. The brief demonstrates how Customized Employment can be successful for individuals who have had challenges with 'traditional' job search methods. Debbie is one of only 38 Subject Matter Experts in the nation, and will offer her expertise to help other states and service providers build capacity, create transition plans, build funding streams and alliances, and generally share her experiences and knowledge in this realm.

"I'm looking forward to helping others learn how customized employment can help veterans and others find meaningful employment," Debbie said. ■

EMPOWERMENT



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, EMPOWER INCLUSION, CONNECTION and COMMUNITY by choosing Easterseals Southern California to make your year-end gift.

Together let's create a future where every one of us—regardless of age or ability—is 100% included and 100% empowered.

Make your gift TODAY using the envelope provided, or visiting:

social.easterseals.com/empowerment

A Virtual Orange Carpet Rolled Out for Easterseals Disability Film Challenge: Home Edition



The annual Easterseals Disability Film Challenge empowers filmmakers, with or without disabilities, to tell unique stories, providing opportunities for inclusion and representation in entertainment for the world's largest minority group. In response to the pandemic, filmmakers were challenged to make a documentary short, all from the safety of their homes. Challenge participants had five days to craft their film, with the flexibility to incorporate previously shot footage in order to tell the story of what disability means to them.

"This is a record-setting year for entries, with steep competition. Each film is poignant and personal ... and so well told, it was difficult for judges to determine our winners," said Nic Novicki, Founder of the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge and Easterseals Southern California board member. "The timing to tell these diverse stories of disability is perfect—especially where we are, during a global pandemic, with an overwhelming number of people taking to our streets demanding justice, equality, inclusion and an end to systemic racism. And, as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act this year," Nic added. ■



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CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE DISABILITY



On Saturday, Oct. 17th, the 20th Annual Easterseals Southern California (ESSC) Strides for Disability went virtual! Although everyone who participated couldn't meet face-to-face by the beautiful shoreline in Long Beach, they celebrated "together" in their own communities.

Thank you to all the ESSC associates and board members, team captains, walkers, friends, sponsors and donors who registered over 400 virtual walkers and created 45 teams raising nearly \$80,000! The Strides for Disability site will remain open for donations until through the month of November, for those that continue to donate and those that would like to do so.

Event sponsors included Amway, Anthem California, CVS Pharmacy, Fraternal Order of the Police, Fuze, Journeys Martial Arts Academy, Mark Bertrand, Medical Specialties Managers, Inc., Softchoice and SurePrep.

**Thank you again for your support
of the 2020 Strides for Disability and
hope to see everyone in person next year!**

More info at:

social.easterseals.com/esscstrides

