











2026 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Empowering people.
Strengthening families.
Building community.

easterseals
of Northeast Ohio

FROM OUR CEO

Hi Friends,

Every year at Easterseals of Northeast Ohio brings new opportunities to make a difference in the lives of children, adults, families, and individuals of all abilities. Our 2026 year was no exception.

This year, we continued to strengthen the programs and services that have defined Easterseals for more than seven decades while also looking for new and innovative ways to respond to the needs of our community.

Our work is grounded in a simple belief: every person deserves the opportunity to live, learn, work, and play as fully as possible within their community.

During the past year, we provided services across a broad continuum of need, from autism diagnosis and pediatric therapy to behavioral health, services for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, transportation, nutrition, adult day services, and support for kinship families.

We also invested in the future of Easterseals.

We strengthened our approach to centralized intake so families can more easily find the services they need.
We continued our work to improve technology and electronic health record systems.
We pursued new funding opportunities to expand access to behavioral health and autism services.
We invested in our physical spaces, including plans to renovate the pediatric therapy environment.
And we continued building partnerships with organizations throughout our communities.

As we look ahead, we know that the needs of the people we serve will continue to evolve. Our commitment will remain the same: to listen, adapt, collaborate, and provide exceptional services that make a meaningful difference.

This year also brings us closer to an extraordinary milestone: 75 years of Easterseals serving our community.

For 75 years, this organization has been built on the dedication of employees, volunteers, families, donors, community partners, and supporters who believe that every person has value and potential.
Thank you for being part of that story.

Together, we are not simply providing services. We are creating opportunities, strengthening families, and building a more inclusive community for everyone.

With Gratitude,

Jody Klase

Jody Klase
Chief Executive Officer

WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

Easterseals provides exceptional services to children and adults of all abilities so they can live, learn, work, and play in our community.

Year Founded
1951

Accreditation
Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

Certifications
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
Ohio Department of Aging
Ohio Department of Behavioral Health

Our Core Values

Teamwork
We work together with clients, families, employees, and community partners to achieve better outcomes.

Client-Focused
We put the people we serve at the center of our decisions.

Empowerment
We help individuals and families develop the skills, confidence, and resources they need to reach their goals.

Integrity
We conduct our work with honesty, accountability, compassion, and respect.

LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

Chair	Ted Thornton Jr.
Vice Chair	Robert Rupeka
Treasurer	Liam Jones
Secretary	Elena Limbert

Susan Berny
Joe Fanto
Phyllis Bacon
Joan Zarlenga
Sarah Marino

Gary Cohen
Christine Lozzi
Daryl Cameron
Deborah Liptak

Leadership Team

Jody Klase, *Chief Executive Officer*

Michael Green, *Chief Financial Officer*

Vicki Barton, *Human Resources Manager*

Jennifer Francis, *Behavioral Health Manager*

Latrina Howell, *Community Services Manager*

Steven Leland, *Deaf Services Manager*

WHO WE SERVE

Easterseals supports people of all ages and abilities, meeting them where they are and helping them navigate life's challenges.

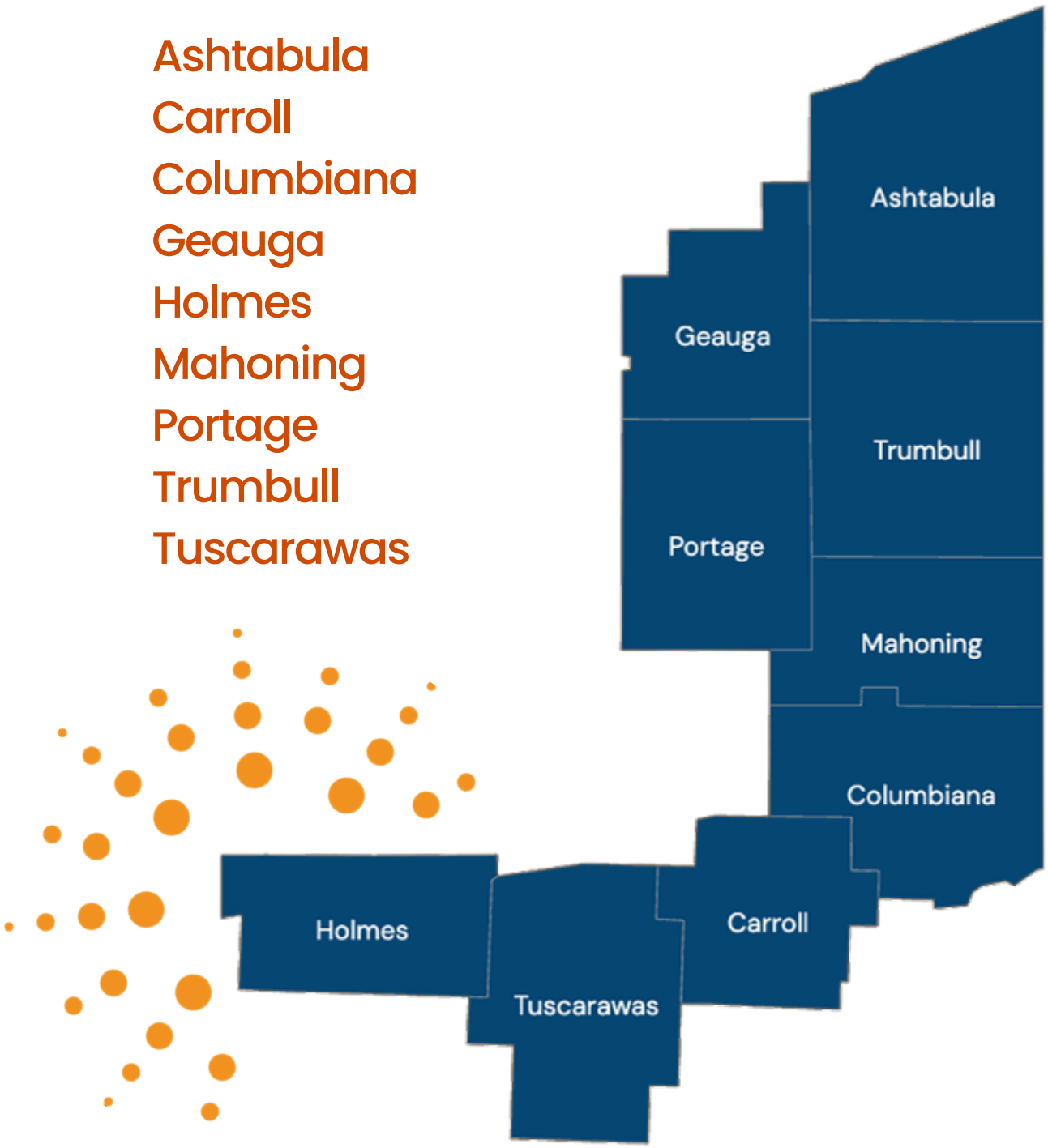
- Children with disabilities and developmental needs
- Parents and families seeking support and guidance
- Seniors experiencing isolation or barriers to independence
- Family caregivers who need support, resources, or a well-deserved break
- Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Kinship families raising children in challenging circumstances



WHERE WE SERVE

We provide services across nine counties in Northeast Ohio.

Ashtabula
Carroll
Columbiana
Geauga
Holmes
Mahoning
Portage
Trumbull
Tuscarawas



WHAT WE DO

SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD

Easterseals takes a whole-child approach to supporting children and families, connecting them with services that address developmental, behavioral, communication, and functional needs.

By bringing these services together, we make it easier for families to find the right support as their children grow, learn, and develop.



Our Child Development & Family Support services include:

- Autism Diagnostic Clinic
- Speech Therapy
- Kinship Summer Camp
- Kindergarten Readiness Playgroup
- School-Based Behavioral Health
- Occupational Therapy
- Developmental & Mental Health Evaluation

Helping Children Reach Their Full Potential

Our pediatric therapy services help children build skills that make a meaningful difference in everyday life.

Expanding Access to Behavioral Health

We provide diagnostic assessment, developmental testing, and school-based behavioral health services to support children and families.

Building Connections and Confidence

From our Kindergarten Readiness Playgroup to Kinship Summer Camp, we create opportunities for children to learn, grow, and build meaningful connections.

WHAT WE DO

CREATING ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

Through the Community Center for the Deaf, Easterseals provides interpreting, case management, and vocational services that promote communication access, independence, and inclusion.



Interpreting Services

Facilitating communication in schools, healthcare settings, workplaces, community programs, and more.



Case Management

Helping individuals navigate employment, education, community resources, and other goals.



Vocational Services

Creating opportunities for greater independence and inclusion.

NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO FACE AGING ALONE

Our senior services help older adults remain connected, engaged, and supported in their communities.



Adult Day Care

A safe, supportive environment with meaningful activities, social connection, and peace of mind for families.



Home Delivered Meals

More than a meal – a connection and an opportunity to identify changing needs while supporting health and well-being.



Transportation Services

Helping seniors access medical appointments, programs, shopping, and other essential activities.

OUR IMPACT

Our impact is measured not only by how many people we serve, but by what becomes possible because we are there.

213,740
Meals delivered to seniors

2,287
Children and adults served across our community

15,297
Transportation trips provided

1,984
Hours of interpreting provided

874
Seniors receiving home-delivered meals

712
Children receiving intervention services

252
Seniors supported through transportation



These numbers tell only part of our story.

Behind every number is a child learning a new skill, a parent receiving support, an older adult receiving a nutritious meal, a student gaining access to education, or an individual finding greater independence.

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Easterseals cannot and should not do this work alone.

Our impact is strengthened through collaboration and partnerships that allow us to connect people with resources, expand access to services, reduce duplication, and respond more effectively to community needs.

We are grateful for partnerships with organizations including:

Potential Development Est. 1953

Trumbull County Educational Service Center

Ohio Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Direction Home of Eastern Ohio — Resources on Aging & Disabilities

Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities — Their Journey. Our Support.

Youngstown State University

United Way Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley

Helms Foundation — Provider of Art Therapy Services

alta Care Group

Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities

CONNECT PEOPLE WITH RESOURCES

EXPAND ACCESS TO SERVICES

RESPOND MORE EFFECTIVELY TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Our work is made possible by individuals, families, foundations, businesses, community organizations, volunteers, and government partners who believe in the people we serve.

Your support can mean:

An isolated senior **doesn't have to worry** about where their **next meal** will come from.

An older adult can **remain connected** to the community instead of **spending another day alone** at home.

A caregiver gets a **safe place** for their loved one to go and a well-deserved **opportunity to rest, work,** or **simply breathe.**

A child who is **struggling to communicate** is given the tools and support to **find their voice.**

A person who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing can **communicate, participate,** and **be understood.**

A child in a kinship family **gets the chance** to make friends, have fun, create memories, and simply **be a kid.**

The Angels of Easterseals

For nearly five decades, the Angels of Easterseals have raised more than $4,000,000 to support our programs and services.

Their annual Fashion Show is a beloved tradition that brings our community together for a day of friendship, generosity, and a shared belief that we are stronger when we take care of one another.

Thank you to the Angels for being part of our story and helping write the next chapter.





A Special Thank You

We are especially grateful to George and Teresa Berick, along with AJ Allen, Ian Spellman, and Nathan Bibb, for organizing a Golf Outing benefiting Easterseals for the past four years.

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to our mission.

STEWARDING YOUR SUPPORT

Every dollar entrusted to Easterseals represents an opportunity to make a difference.

We are committed to using our resources responsibly, maintaining strong financial oversight, and continuously evaluating the sustainability and impact of our programs.

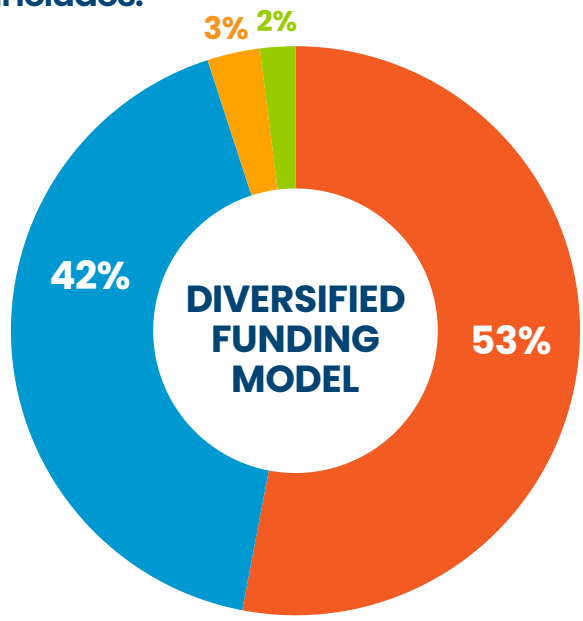
2026
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Annual Operating Budget
$3.5 million
(approximately)

Program Expenses
$3,495,000

Program Revenue
$3,455,000

Easterseals also continues to pursue a diversified funding model that includes:



Financial sustainability allows us to focus on what matters most: providing high-quality services to the people who depend on us.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

A strong nonprofit must continually adapt.

In 2026, Easterseals continued to invest in the infrastructure necessary to support high-quality services today and sustainable growth tomorrow.

Improving Access

We continued developing a centralized intake process designed to make it easier for families to identify and access the services they need.



Investing in Technology

Easterseals continued its transition toward improved electronic health record and operational systems to strengthen documentation, communication, billing, and service coordination.



Improving Our Facilities

We continued planning for improvements to our pediatric therapy space, creating an environment that better supports children, families, and therapists.



Expanding Community Services

We pursued new grant and partnership opportunities to expand behavioral health, autism, and community-based services.



Strengthening the Organization

We continued investing in employee training, compliance, risk management, technology, and operational systems to ensure that Easterseals remains a strong and sustainable organization.



75 YEARS OF SAYING YES

For 75 years, Easterseals has been here.

Here when a child needs a diagnosis.

Here when a family needs support.

Here when a student needs communication access.

Here when an older adult needs a meal or transportation.

Here when a caregiver needs someone to help.

Here when a person with a disability needs an opportunity to participate fully in community life.














And we will continue to be here.

Because our mission is more than a statement.
It is a commitment.

To live. **To learn.** **To work.** **To play.**

And to make sure **everyone** has the opportunity to do so.

75 easterseals of Northeast Ohio
75 Years of Service · A Lifetime of Impact












easterseals
of Northeast Ohio