

## CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Annual Report and Newsletter*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 12**  
Fashion Event

**March 21**  
World Down Syndrome Day

**April 2**  
Autism Awareness Day

**May 7**  
Arkansan of the Year

**May 15-17**  
Greek Food Festival

**September 19**  
Walk With Me

**September 21**  
Drives for Disabilities

**October**  
Disability Awareness Month

**November**  
Art & Soul – Date TBD

**December 1**  
Giving Tuesday

**December 3**  
International People With  
Disabilities Day

*Visit [eastersealsar.com](http://eastersealsar.com) for  
event updates*

#### 1944

On September 1, 1944 Easterseals founder, Virginia Armistead, and a group of volunteers began the "Arkansas Association for the Crippled" to provide education services to children in hospitals and to children who were homebound due to their disabilities. In 1947, those early volunteers stretched their vision further and opened the first inpatient "Convalescent Hospital" in a barracks at the Jacksonville air base.



#### 1966

In 1966, the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center on Lee Avenue opened, replacing the Jacksonville Convalescent Center. The new center housed an inpatient rehabilitation center for children, the Sheltered Workshop for adults, administrative offices, occupational and physical therapy departments, kindergarten and schoolrooms. During that same time, the Easter "Seal" was such a well-recognized campaign that the organization formally changed its name to Easterseals across the nation.



#### 1980s - 1990s

In 1988 the adult services division relocated to a newly renovated building in west Little Rock (a former skating rink). Two years later, the Butler Adult Living Center, a ten-bed living facility for people with developmental disabilities, opened on the same campus. In 1994 the Outpatient Services Facility was opened on Woodland Heights Road, establishing a new corporate office for Easterseals Arkansas. Four years later, the Children's Rehabilitation Center was built next door.



#### 2000s

In 2004, The Grand Prairie Child Development Center in Stuttgart was founded, offering pre-K special education and therapy. In January 2013, the Center for Training & Wellness opened, and doubled the number of people served by the adult services division. From 2000-2013 Easterseals opened four HUD-funded apartments making a total to 59 apartment units for people with disabilities. We also expanded our job training by offering education and training at UA Little Rock and a high school transition program that works with several Arkansas school systems.



#### Today

Easterseals Arkansas offers help, hope and answers to over 20,000 people each year. We continue to live out our mission to empower children and adults with disabilities to live, learn, work and play in their communities.



# Celebrating 75 Years of Service in Arkansas



Our 75th anniversary celebration kicked off at Two Rivers Park in September with a special bridge lighting in our Easterseals orange.

Easterseals Arkansas is proud to celebrate its 75th anniversary this year. For more than 75 years, we have been providing exceptional services to empower children and adults with disabilities to live, learn, work and play in their communities.

Easterseals has come along way since 1944 when founder Virginia Armistead and a group of volunteers began the “Arkansas Association for the Crippled.” In 1966, the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center opened on Lee Avenue, which housed an inpatient rehabilitation center for children,

the Sheltered Workshop for adults and therapy and school rooms. The 1980s and '90s saw the expansion of adult services, and in 1994, the Outpatient Services Facility was opened on Woodland Heights Road. When the Center for Training & Wellness opened in 2013, it replaced the former adult services building and doubled the number of people served by the program.

From 2000-2013, Easterseals opened four HUD-funded apartment complexes, creating a total of 59 apartment units for people with disabilities. In the

past few years, we have expanded our job training and placement services by offering post-secondary education and training at UA Little Rock and a high school transition program that operates in several Arkansas school systems.

Today, we continue to offer help, hope and answers to nearly 20,000 people each year. The purpose of Easterseals Arkansas is to change the way the world views and defines disabilities by making profound, positive differences in people’s lives every day.



# Easterseals Arkansas Welcomes Ekstrand as President & CEO

Easterseals Arkansas Board of Directors has hired Ron Ekstrand as its new President and CEO. Ron brings more than 30 years of professional work experience to this role – including 10 years working as an executive leader within the Easterseals movement.

Ron served for two years as the Senior Vice President of Network Advancement and Affiliate Relations at the national Easterseals office in Chicago. During that tenure, he served as interim CEO for five months while the national board restructured and conducted a nationwide search for a new CEO.

Prior to joining the Easterseals national office, Ron worked eight years at the affiliate level of Easterseals. He spent four of those years as the CEO of TouchPoint Autism Services, the largest provider of au-



tism services in Missouri. In that role, he led a turnaround of the financially distressed organization, a name change/rebranding from the “Judevine Center for Autism,” mergers with two other nonprofits and affiliation with Easterseals to help create the organization now known as Easterseals Midwest. He served as President and Chief

Operating Officer of Easterseals Midwest for four more years.

Ron’s life partner, Deanna Lewis, currently serves as the CEO of Easterseals South Carolina. Between them, they have nine children and three grandchildren. For fun, they enjoy hiking, cooking together, tailgating and spending time with family and friends.

## CORPORATE PARTNERS



Century 21 Legacy Realty  
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## Easterseals Arkansas 2020 Board of Directors

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Ron Ekstrand, President & CEO  
Gov. Asa Hutchinson, Honorary Chairman

## 2018-2019 Financials

Combined statement of support, revenue and expenses for the year ending June 30, 2019

### Support:

Contributions and Special Events \$1,361,422

### Revenue:

Fees for Services and Program Contracts \$22,839,802  
Rental and Other Income \$959,087

**TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE \$25,160,311**

### Expenses:

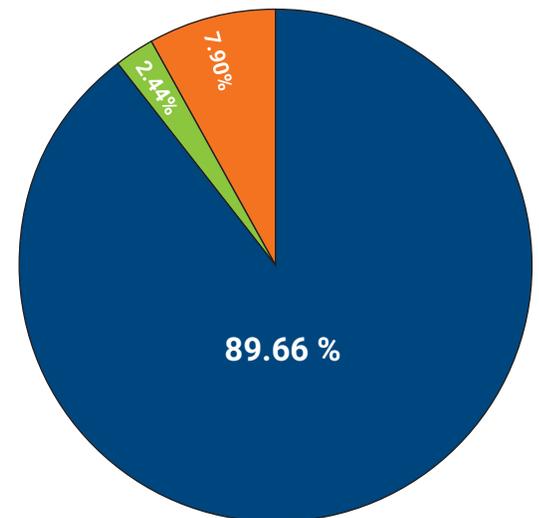
#### Program Services:

Children's Services \$11,338,745  
Adult Services \$10,131,993  
Total Program Services \$21,470,738

#### Support Services:

Management and General \$1,894,036  
Fundraising \$583,383  
Total Support Services \$2,477,419

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$23,948,157**



**89.66% - Programs & Services**  
**7.9% - Management & General**  
**2.44% - Fundraising**

## Number of People Served

### Children's Services:

Outpatient Therapy and Infant Monitoring	798
Inpatient Children's Rehabilitation	203
Little Rock Preschool	51
Grand Prairie Preschool	84
Academy at Riverdale	41
Outreach: Student Consultations	44
	375

### Adult Services:

Butler Adult Living Center	768
Adult Day Development Program	11
Vocational/Employment Program	184
Home and Community Based Waiver Services	67
Armistead Village	186
Harold Court	19
Wilson Court	15
Wilson Court II	15
Adult Therapy	16
ACCE	130
SET for Success	28
	97

### Support Services

Outreach Training	22,300
Training: Staff/Persons Served	1,642
Information and Referral Service	2,736
Equipment Loan	8,517
Parent Consultations	171
Faculty/Staff Consultations	3,382
	5,852



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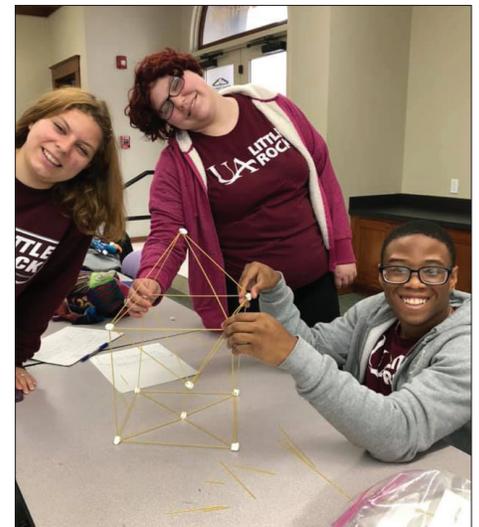
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taking on disability together

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*The mission of Easterseals Arkansas is to provide exceptional services to empower children and adults with disabilities to live, learn, work and play in their communities.*



## 2020 EASTERSEALS ARKANSAS REPRESENTATIVES



**JACKSON**  
Grand Prairie Child  
Development  
Center



**VALERIE**  
Little Rock  
Developmental  
Preschool



*In Memory of*  
**HARRISON**  
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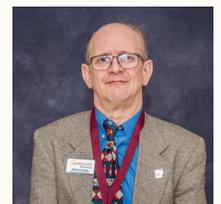
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