

November 2021

Dear Friend,

UP has more meanings than any other two-letter word in the English language – but for Dalilah’s family, the meaning is even greater. Dalilah’s ability to vocalize this new vocabulary word empowered her to express her wants, and to sing along to *The Wheels on the Bus*. For her mom, Maria, it marked one of the most joyful moments of the past two years.

Dalilah is one of the millions of toddlers whose early social and physical development has been impacted by the pandemic. But her first two years also included eight surgeries, hundreds of hours of therapy and even a COVID-19 diagnosis.

A rare genetic condition affects Dalilah’s mobility, facial features, hearing, vision, feeding and speech. She immediately qualified for the state’s Early Intervention services and her family was connected to an Easterseals physical therapist. When the need for occupational, speech and nutrition therapies was identified, her parents put their trust in a full team from Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley. A combination of tele-therapy and in-person services helped her make critical gains at a critical time.



➤ Dalilah is a sweet, active and inquisitive two-year-old who loves to listen to music and dance. Extra effort goes into every daily task, but so does her resilient spirit. Through it all, she’s learned to sit, crawl, clap and stand-UP.

The brain develops most rapidly in a child’s first 24 months, but by the time they’re Dalilah’s age, only 12% of children eligible for services have the support they need. Together, we can turn that stat around. We offer evaluations to identify delays as early as possible, and developmental services that shape a child’s most formative years. **Your donation is key to funding the pediatric therapies that reduce future challenges for children with disabilities and their families.**

This year we’ve provided free screenings to more than 1,500 children in the communities we serve. We’re helping thousands more navigate complex conditions, overcome mild delays, or catch up on missed milestones. **Ensure that each child has the individualized therapies they need to thrive. Please make a year-end gift today.**

Up is more than just a word to me, too. It’s the growth I see week-to-week in therapy sessions. It’s the lift in my mood when I walk through the doors each day. *It’s the progress children are making with support from donors like you.*

With gratitude,

Theresa Forthofer
President & CEO

End the year with a gift!

eastersealsdfvr.org/donate

“As advocates, we are constantly voicing what we think is right for her, but it’s important to understand what she wants. She’s an individual and we want to know what she has to say.”

- Maria, Dalilah’s mom



A new communication device has helped Dalilah find her voice and expand her vocabulary. Whether interacting with her friends at dance class or making her two-year-old opinions known, she’s gained independence and the power of choice.