

November 2020

Dear Friend,

This year has challenged us and changed us. We have found new ways to communicate, we rely on technology to participate in daily activities, and plans to leave the house require extra preparation. This has become a shared experience for everyone, but for Benjamin, who has a rare genetic condition that affects his ability to walk and talk, these adaptations to daily life didn't start with the pandemic.

For Benjamin's family and thousands of others at Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley, the health and safety concerns of the past eight months are layered on top of existing medical conditions, developmental delays and disabilities. Preschoolers with speech delays are working to be understood through a mask. Immunocompromised families are taking extraordinary measures to stay well. Children with autism are adapting to the new norms of social distancing, and many parents are facing overwhelming demands and financial challenges. Our responsibility to the children and families we serve has never been more clear.

Whether behind masks or through computer screens, we are delivering in-person and tele-therapy services critical to each child's growth, progress and development. Since March, we have provided more than 27,500 therapy sessions – each one dependent on your donations.

Ensure progress continues for children with developmental delays and disabilities by making a donation today. Your gift will fund the individualized therapies that help children sit, stand, eat, play and just keep going...

The pandemic has threatened our financial security and altered the way we work. But through it all, we have held fast to our mission. With your help, we will continue to provide safe, innovative, future-focused therapies to more than 3,000 infants, children and adults in 2021.

**Our services are only as strong as your support.
Please make a year-end donation today.**

We hope the care you show for the children at Easterseals finds its way back to you this season.

With gratitude,



Theresa Forthofer
President & CEO



Six-year-old Benjamin alternates between weekly tele-therapy and in-person visits to Easterseals where he works on taking steps with a walker. This blended therapy model has been key to his development during the pandemic. Tele-therapy has helped him build skills at home, like getting in and out of bed himself. At the same time, visits to Easterseals provide hands-on physical therapy, equipment adjustments and the reassurance his mom appreciates. She shares that the combination of online and in-person therapy works really well for Benjamin and recognizes the progress he has made in his gait trainer.

"He couldn't walk down the hall and back when he started, but now he just keeps going..."

– Meghan, Benjamin's Mom



88%

of therapy sessions have resumed since March through a combination of in-person and tele-therapy services.