

“Celebrating Easterseals: 100 Years of Disability Services”

2019 Tournament of Roses Parade



100 Years of Positively Impacting Lives; Encouraging a More Inclusive Future

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“Celebrating Easterseals: 100 Years of Disability Services”

Located at Fiesta Parade Floats, 16016 Avenida Padilla, Suite B, Irwindale, CA 91702

OVERVIEW: Easterseals (www.easterseals.com) celebrates 100 years of impact in the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families with its first Rose Parade float, “Celebrating Easterseals: 100 Years of Disability Services.” The float features a giant birthday cake and a plethora of festive decorations to celebrate the 1.5 million people with disabilities Easterseals serves across the country each year, and encourage everyone to support Easterseals’ vision of building a more inclusive future for the more than 61 million Americans with disabilities. Easterseals is committed to a future where everyone is 100% included and 100% empowered by helping people with disabilities live, learn, work and play in their communities.

NUMBER OF YEARS IN PARADE: 1

HEIGHT: 22 FEET

WIDTH: 18 FEET

LENGTH: 55 FEET

FLOAT DESCRIPTION: With “Celebrating Easterseals: 100 Years of Disability Services,” the non-profit organization joins the Rose Parade party with a vibrant and joyful floral display. A 20-foot tall birthday cake, complete with flickering 100th anniversary candles and images of people with and without disabilities, serves as the centerpiece of the float. Each playfully wrapped package highlights Easterseals’ breadth of exceptional services to make sure people with disabilities have every opportunity to live, learn, work, and play in their communities. Spinning pinwheels, colorful noise makers, confetti and floral fireworks add to the festivities.

RIDERS: Nine Easterseals clients from around the country join three Easterseals staff members who provide life-changing services atop the float as a snapshot of the diverse Easterseals communities across the nation.

FLOWERING DETAIL: Gift packages wrapped in orange and yellow marigolds and gold strawflower have swirling ribbons crafted from purple sinuata static blossoms, orange lentil, green manzanita leaves and yellow strawflower petals. An enormous birthday cake iced in crisp white coconut flakes has floral detail of over 3,000 hot pink Princess roses lining the cake layers. Ornately decorated stylized figures in orange marigolds, lentil seed and safflower with yellow marigold and strawflower petals, green parsley flakes and manzanita leaves with vibrant purple static blossoms sit beneath the 100th celebration candles. Festive party favors and cupcakes of orange and yellow marigold petals with green and yellow button mums enhance floral explosions of hot pink carnations with stars of white dendrobium orchids over sweet rice. Springtime floral displays of orange and yellow tulips, lilies, alstroemeria, euphorbia, forsythia and Oncidium orchids augment the floral gardens of 12,000 orange toned roses, carnations and gerbera. The High & Orange Magic, Wow and Miracle roses are then framed in yellow Gold Strike roses.

ANIMATION: A kaleidoscope of brilliant colors and patterns radiate from the spinning pinwheels. A hydraulic system lowers the float from 22 feet to 16 feet in less than 45 seconds, enabling the float to travel underneath freeway bridges and power lines along the parade route.

ABOUT EASTERSEALS: For 100 years, Easterseals has been the indispensable resource for individuals with developmental disabilities or other special needs and their families. Easterseals is a national non-profit organization with 70+ affiliates across the country serving approximately 1.5 million people. Easterseals works to change the way the world defines and views disabilities by making positive, profound differences in people's lives every day.

**“Celebrating Easterseals: 100 Years of Disability Services”
Easterseals 2019 Rose Parade Float Riders**



Kaison Shipp-Collier
Easterseals Nevada

Age: 12
Location: Las Vegas, Nevada

Kaison Shipp-Collier has been involved with Easterseals Nevada since he started in the daycare program when he was six weeks old. He began attending Easterseals Summer Camp in 2016 at age 10, which has tremendously impacted his life. In addition to enjoying the typical camp activities such as swimming, archery and music, Kaison, who has autism, also met his best friend at camp. The experience was so positive for Kaison he went on to talk about camp on the Las Vegas television program “Morning Blend” and at Easterseals’ Spring Luncheon. He has now attended summer camp the past three years and is attending his first Winter Camp in 2018. Beyond camp, Kaison enjoys working on advocacy projects and speaks extensively about autism and Easterseals services as an Ambassador for Easterseals Nevada.



Sophia Stafford
Easterseals Southeastern Pennsylvania

Age: 17
Location: Media, Pennsylvania
Accompanied by: Sabrina Stafford, Sister, Easterseals Music Therapist

Sophia and her family have been affiliated with Easterseals Southeastern Pennsylvania for 17 years. Her family first sought services from Easterseals after the birth of their middle-child, Sammy, who is very medically fragile. Youngest child Sophia began receiving Easterseals’ services soon after birth as a result of her Williams Syndrome Diagnosis. She started in an Easterseals Developmental Delay classroom and then was one of the first students in Easterseals inclusive preschool. Sabrina, their typically developing sister, participated in SibShops, a program for siblings of children with special needs. Big sister Sabrina was so inspired by Sammy and Sophia and the family’s experience with Easterseals that she became a music therapist and now works as part of Easterseals’ therapeutic team.



Reagan Crabtree

Easterseals Iowa

Age: 20

Location: West Des Moines, Iowa

Reagan is a college student studying communications who aspires to be a broadcast reporter. Easterseals Iowa supported her to transition to college with the Supported Education program which helps her to be successful in her schooling. She was born with Apraxia, a neurological disorder, and is on the autism spectrum. After completing a few classes at a Des Moines area community college, she is making a big move to Iowa State University and will be living on the Iowa State University campus in a dorm for the full college experience.



Blake Scribner

Easterseals Central Illinois

Age: 21

Location: Washington, Illinois

Accompanied by: Katie Pena, Therapist

Blake began receiving services from Easterseals Central Illinois when he was three weeks old to address a brachial plexus injury during birth that paralyzed his right arm. Now, after 13 surgeries and 20 years of therapy services from Easterseals, Blake is currently attending college to become an auto mechanic--a job which requires the use of both his arms and hands. Over the past two decades Easterseals has provided Blake with physical, occupational and AT therapy treatment in addition to strategies that have helped him achieve milestones such as dressing himself, riding a bike, playing baseball, driving a stick shift car and now, pursuing an education. Blake feels the therapy, education and support he has received from Easterseals has not only helped him, but has also had a positive impact on his entire family.

**Matthew Jameson**

Easterseals Massachusetts

Age: 21

Location: Dedham, Massachusetts

Matthew has been with Easterseals Massachusetts since 2014 as a youth leader and advocate. Born with mild spastic diplegic cerebral palsy, Matthew is passionate about disability rights. As a member of the organization's Youth Leadership Network, he has spoken about supporting disability youth services at the Massachusetts State House and acted as delegate and peer leader at the Massachusetts Youth Leadership Forum. After noting the success of the 'Easterseals Thrive' empowerment and support program for females with disabilities Matthew was instrumental in starting Easterseals' mentorship program for males with disabilities. Matthew is also involved with the organizations' board of directors as the youth voice, ensuring the organization continues to empower youth with disabilities.

**Lora Glassman**

Easterseals Southern California

Age: 32

Location: Yorba Linda, California

A Southern California native, Lora is a California State University, Fullerton graduate with a B.A. in Radio, Television and Film and is pursuing a career as an actor and voiceover artist. Lora is a long-time activist for the disability community and has been an awareness educator since a young age. At 6 months old, Lora was diagnosed with a condition where there is liquid instead of tissue in some parts of the brain, causing doctors to predict she would not develop to be a very independent person. Lora started using Easterseals Southern California's services at the age of 14. She first received support from Easterseals' After-School Service. Then after grade school, Easterseals' Individualized Service provided Lora with a support person to help navigate her college campus, classes and coursework. She has given speeches to various audiences about Easterseals disability support services and has spent many summers enjoying a fun-filled week at Easterseals Camp.



Ernesto Gutierrez
Easterseals Southern California

Age: 43
Location: Corona, California

Ernie is a 17-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps. During his second combat tour in Iraq, he received an injury from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack. Ernie received support from Easterseals Southern California's Bob Hope Veterans Support Program, which works one-on-one to help Veterans achieve their employment and education goals. During his career transition out of the military, Ernie decided his passion was assisting and supporting his fellow veterans. He now works as a Veterans Employment Specialist for Easterseals, helping other Veterans transition into civilian employment by increasing networking and interviewing skills and working on resume building.



Howard McBroom
Easterseals Southern California

Age: 60
Location: Burbank, California
Accompanied by: Brian Nguyen, Easterseals Program Director

Howard McBroom has devoted many years to providing support for the disability community. He worked alongside Easterseals since 2007 as a member of the Lanterman Regional Center Board of Directors and then as Chairperson for their Client Advisory Committee. Howard is also a motivational speaker who talks about his experience with autism, disability advocacy, and other related topics. He has numerous notable speaking engagements, including a commencement address to Los Angeles Unified School District students and at an autism conference at Martin Luther University in Germany. Last year Howard joined Easterseals Southern California as a member of the new Adult Day Services Peer-to-Peer Social Group program for the opportunity to connect with other active members of the disability community, meet about relevant issues, and plan and participate in fun activities around Southern California and this past summer, Howard was thrilled to accept a job as an Advocate for Easterseals.



danny Blake

Easterseals Blake Foundation

Age: 68

Location: Arizona

danny received services from Easterseals affiliates in Ohio and California as a child after being diagnosed at birth with cerebral palsy. In 1955, at the age of five, he was selected as Easterseals' "Child of the Year." Thanks to the support of disability service providers such as Easterseals, his family, and through his own absolute determination, went on to graduate from college with his peers and proceeded to obtain a Master's degree in Social Service Administration from Arizona State University. In 1985, he became a board member of an organization serving those with cerebral palsy in Southern Arizona and was instrumental in helping the agency obtain a half-million-dollar grant. By 1993, the organization was serving more than just those with cerebral palsy and decided to change their name to The Blake Foundation, in honor of danny. In 2006, the agency became an Easterseals affiliate. danny remains on the Board of Directors and is a past Board President.

WATER VIAL DEDICATIONS

Throughout the float, water vials have been dedicated to individuals that have made an impact in the lives of Easterseals employees and clients.

- Angela Wardlow, Speech Language Pathology Assistant, dedicated her flower vial to her Grandma "Peggy." Her grandmother's parents immigrated to the United States from Armenia during the Armenian Genocide and ended up becoming citizens and living in Pasadena, CA. Her grandmother, a first-generation citizen, born in Pasadena, went to Pasadena High School (which is now Pasadena City College) where Angela went to school to receive her Speech-Language Pathology Assistant license. This school happens to be on Colorado Blvd. Angela's grandmother was her main inspiration as to why she chose to become a speech therapist due to her inability to speak after numerous mini strokes she had during the last few years of her life. "I am truly honored for the opportunity to continue my Grandma's legacy with a flower vial on our 100th anniversary float!"
- James Saldaña Jr., IT Specialist, dedicated a flower vial to his Aunt Rosanna that passed away two months prior to the float's trip down Colorado Blvd.