



Helping Kids with  
Physical Disabilities  
Succeed

## 2019 FACT SHEET

### EASTER SEALS ONTARIO

- ◆ Easter Seals Ontario has been serving children and youth with physical disabilities since 1922.
- ◆ Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our donors, Easter Seals offers programs and services that enable kids to experience freedom and independence and focus on what they can do rather than on their limitations. Together, we are helping kids BE KIDS.
- ◆ Easter Seals is a registered charitable organization that helps children and youth with physical disabilities from all ethnic and religious backgrounds. We assist families with the purchase of essential mobility and accessibility equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, porch lifts and ramps, as well as toileting aids and bathing equipment.
- ◆ Easter Seals helps kids with a variety of physical disabilities and medical conditions, including cerebral palsy (CP), spina bifida, muscular dystrophy (MD), spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), spinal cord and brain injury as well as and genetic abnormalities.
- ◆ By providing funding for mobility and accessibility equipment, Easter Seals performs an essential service to families who might not otherwise have the financial resources to obtain this equipment for their child. Government agencies cover some of the costs of equipment for mobility and accessibility, but not all. For some essential items like bathing and toileting equipment, there is no government funding available.
- ◆ Of the families who requested funding for equipment from Easter Seals and self-reported their annual income in 2018, **63% reported a total family income under \$60,000**. In addition, **48% of families had a total annual household income under \$40,000; and 25% had a total family income under \$20,000**.
- ◆ In 2018, Easter Seals fulfilled 786 approved requests for funding for equipment totaling \$1.35 million. In addition 753 campers participated in Easter Seals' camping and recreation programs.
- ◆ Easter Seals is an industry leader in providing specialized recreation programs at its two fully accessible camps, Camp Woodeden in London, Ontario and Camp Merrywood, near Perth, Ontario. The camps offer youth with physical disabilities important opportunities for social development, friendships and the development of independence skills.
- ◆ Easter Seals owns and operates two fully accessible camp properties. Camp Woodeden features a number of sports activities, including an indoor rock climbing wall, full-size gymnasium and a high ropes course. Camp Merrywood features a covered concrete sports pad for sledge hockey and wheelchair basketball as well as a variety of water sports such as sailing, canoeing and kayaking.
- ◆ Easter Seals programs and services are funded entirely through donations by individuals, sponsors and foundations.
- ◆ Easter Seals' website, [EasterSeals.org](http://EasterSeals.org), provides information for donors, volunteers, families, kids and the general public – including links to service providers, suppliers, activities and other valuable resource information.