Celebrating 90 Years of Embracing Abilities and Expanding Possibilities

Nov 06, 2026



Today marks 90 years of Easterseals Chicago & Rockford Regions.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we're still reflecting on a wonderful evening spent with so many members of our Easterseals Chicago & Rockford Regions community. Board members, Associate Board members, Easterseals families, friends, and supporters came together to celebrate not only where we've been, but the people and possibilities that have shaped our story.

For nearly a century, Easterseals Chicago & Rockford Regions has been a trusted partner to people

of all abilities and their families, walking alongside them through every stage of life. Our mission is to transform the lives of early learners and individuals of all abilities through access to expert educational, family, and community support.

This milestone anniversary is more than a look back. It is a celebration of every child who found their voice, every family who received support when they needed it most, every adult who gained new opportunities, and every donor and supporter who helped make that possible.

Today, our work spans four interconnected areas: **Clinical Services & Supports, Education & Training, Employment & Career Development, and Family & Community Support.** Together, our programs in these areas help people access the right support at the right time, build skills and independence, pursue meaningful employment, and find the community and resources their families need to thrive.

And the need for this work remains as important as ever. Across our communities, families continue to face barriers to timely early intervention and autism services, schools need more resources and expertise to support students with disabilities, and children and families need access to strong early learning opportunities. Easterseals Chicago & Rockford Regions is responding at every stage, connecting families to early intervention and learning services, strengthening learning environments through educator training and specialized education, and helping children, adults, and families access the opportunities and support they need to thrive.

And while 90 years gives us much to celebrate, this anniversary is also about what comes next. We envision bringing more health care and behavioral health services closer to the children and families we serve, helping more schools create supportive learning environments for children with developmental disabilities, expanding job training and employment opportunities that create pathways to greater independence and community participation for adults with disabilities, and more.

Most of all, we are grateful.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate this special milestone, and to everyone who has been part of the Easterseals Chicago & Rockford Regions story over the past nine decades. Our staff, teachers, therapists, families, Board members, volunteers, donors, partners, and friends are all part of a community united by the belief that disability should never define what a person can become.

Watch our 90th anniversary video to learn more about our history—the people and moments that have shaped Easterseals Chicago & Rockford Regions, and the possibilities we're building for the future.