



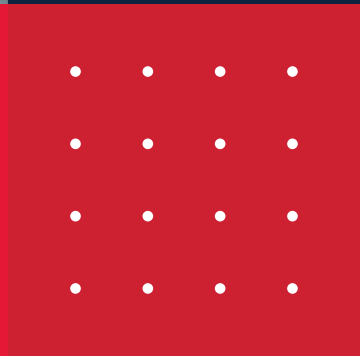
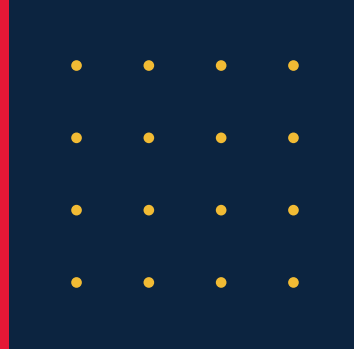
Easter Seals  
**Newfoundland &  
Labrador**

# Gratitude Report 2021



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Our vision is for a community where all people with disabilities live full, healthy, and active lives. Our mission is to **engage, inspire, and maximize opportunities** for people with disabilities of all ages by providing meaningful programs and services.

Approximately 100,000 people of all ages in our province live with disabilities such as physical, sensory, cognitive or other disabilities which present barriers to full participation in society. It is our mission to tear down these barriers and build an inclusive Newfoundland and Labrador.




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**Hi!**  
**My name is**  
**Gavin Baggs.**

I am the 2021 Easter Seals NL Ambassador in Newfoundland and Labrador. My time as the ambassador is coming to an end, and I can't wait to see who will be chosen as the next lucky person for this important role. Being the ambassador has been super cool and fun, and it has been one of the best experiences in my life. It has made me more aware of my abilities and allowed me the opportunity to represent individuals living with disabilities in our province. It has opened my eyes to the world of radio and TV broadcasting as a possible career path, and has helped me with the confidence to speak in public and to interact with many supporters and donors of Easter Seals NL.

Looking back, it is funny to think that my Easter Seals NL journey started as a little boy going to the sledge hockey program to now, as a volunteer coach with the hockey program and the 2021 Easter Seals NL Ambassador.

**I would like to thank everyone who made this adventure an extremely memorable one, and who continues to make Easter Seals NL what it is today.** Thank you to the Easter Seals NL staff, donors, supporters, volunteers, and participants. Also, a very special thank you goes out to Fraser Edison for funding the Fraser Edison Easter Seals NL Ambassador Trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to be the Easter Seals NL Ambassador; it is something that I will cherish and remember for my entire life. Good luck to the next Ambassador and enjoy the ride!

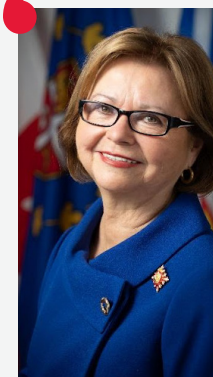
*Sincerely,*  
Gavin Baggs

The Fraser Edison Easter Seals Ambassador Trust (FEESAT) was established by Fraser Edison in 2003 and provides a \$2,000 educational scholarship to Easter Seals Ambassadors. FEESAT celebrates the unwavering determination, positive attitude and future promise of children with physical disabilities.

To learn more about the ambassador program or the FEESAT, please visit [www.eastersealsnl.ca/ambassadors](http://www.eastersealsnl.ca/ambassadors).



“



It is an honor and a blessing to serve as Patron of Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador. While serving as Patron is meant to benefit the organization, I have been blessed to meet so many incredible individuals who see the world in a different light than most. Their appreciation for what many people take for granted is not only inspiring but moving. This was obvious when I attended the Grand Opening of Phase II of the Accessible Park Project in June of 2021. I witnessed the enthusiasm of the participants who benefit from the Inclusive Park made possible by the generosity of those who know the importance of making a difference in the lives of others for which we are sincerely grateful.

**Her Honour, The Honourable Judy M. Foote**  
*Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador*  
*Patron Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador*





## To our community of supporters



I write to you in celebration of another incredible year for Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2021, countless people have given generously to our organization, ensuring our team was able to continue to deliver over 20 meaningful programs and services for people with disabilities in our province. Your impact has allowed us to reach over 1,000 participants and continue the expansion of our incredible park in phase 2, which includes a beautiful pavilion, Bbq area, fire pit, and sensory gardens. Today, we recognize all of the individuals, families, businesses, and community groups who have donated to our organization and contributed to our accomplishments.

This inaugural Gratitude Report is for you.

*Sincerely,*

**Mark Bradbury, CPA, FCMA**  
Chief Executive Officer



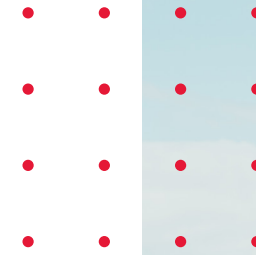
The past two years have provided many challenges, however, Easter Seals NL has learned to adapt and continues to support people with disabilities in our province because of the generosity from our incredible donors. Thank you for another amazing year. In 2021, your kindness contributed to making a lasting difference in our community.

Through your ongoing support of our 6th annual Luxury Cabin Lottery and the countless donations and sponsorships received, Easter Seals NL continues to be able to offer and expand our programs and services. This year, we also celebrated the Grand Opening of Phase 2 of our Accessible and Inclusive Park Project. To those who have been involved with or have given to the development of our vision over the past several years, or have simply driven by and watched it grow, you will know that a lot of work and effort has gone into creating this beautiful accessible space. This accomplishment is yours to celebrate as much as it is ours.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to sincerely thank our donors, sponsors, participants, families, and volunteers for your dedication and generosity, which helps to make Easter Seals House a home we are so very proud of. We look forward to your continued support.

*Gratefully yours,*

**Denise Durfy Sheppard**  
Board Chair 2021



## Thank you

On behalf of the board, staff, and volunteers at Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador, we want to thank all of our donors, supporters, and community champions who supported our organization in 2021. Your generosity directly impacts the lives of people with disabilities in our province through programs and career and educational services, and you continue to make a lasting impact in our community. When reading the stories, know that these incredible moments would not have been possible without your support.

Thank you to all the families and participants who contributed their memories, learnings, and triumphs.

**We hope you enjoy our inaugural Gratitude Report.**



# ENGAGE



*Claire is 12 years old and has been part of Easter Seals NL for 10 years, taking part in programs such as swimming, sledge hockey, wheelchair basketball, boccia, dance, and music to name a few. It has provided her a place of acceptance, inclusion, friendships, and somewhere she can just be herself. She would not have been able to participate if it weren't for the adaptive programs. As a family, we are grateful to all others we have met and connected with. Without the help from sponsors and donors, and the support from like-minded families, she, and many more wouldn't have a place to be in our community.*

— Jeanine & Barry McDonald

## From surviving to thriving



With an incredibly infectious smile, my 24-year-old son, **Ryan**, is found most days enjoying the many inclusive programs offered at Easter Seals NL. At 6 months of age, Ryan was diagnosed with epilepsy, autism, developmental delays, and Tuberous Sclerosis, a rare genetic disease that causes tumors to grow in multiple vital organs of the body. I knew nothing of this disease at his time of diagnosis, however, I did know that Ryan would need me to be more than just his mom; he would need an advocate, a voice, someone who would always put themselves directly in his shoes and answer the question “If this were you, what would you want?” I vowed to be his person.

While living out all of Ryan's school years in Gros Morne National Park, we took advantage of all the therapeutic benefits that nature could offer. I reached out to Easter Seals NL to avail of any services they could provide from afar, and as a result, Ryan benefited from the Equipment Loan Program, the Equipment Assistance Program, and Camp Bumbleberry. It became clear that once Ryan finished school, he would need a place to thrive; a place where he could live life to the fullest, as merely existing was not an option. Relocation proved to be necessary so four years ago we moved from Rocky Harbour to St. John's.

Off we went for our very first visit to Easter Seals NL. We toured the beautiful facility and heard about all the programs they had to offer Ryan. As we left the building Ryan said, “I can't believe she made me so excited, I am so happy.” Since that day Ryan has enjoyed many programs including Wall Climbing, Boccia, Creative Music, Dansability, the Adult Day Program, and many more. Ryan can also be found enjoying the accessible playground and outdoor amphitheater on the Easter Seals NL grounds. And this past

Christmas Ryan was thrilled to have the opportunity to perform with Shanneyganock at the annual Celebrate the Season event, where his smile lit up the stage - what a memorable experience!

In the past four years, I have watched Ryan's confidence and self-esteem grow, and his social skills, sense of belonging, and mental health improve. The overall impact has been immeasurable. Ryan is not just existing, he is thriving. Closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic have given clear insight into what life would be without all the programs and services that Easter Seals NL has brought to Ryan's life. To say there was a significant void during this time would be an understatement.

Easter Seals NL is truly changing lives, providing children, youth, and adults who are living with disabilities and their families a place of enrichment, accessibility, and inclusion. As Ryan's mom, his voice, and his advocate, **I would like to sincerely thank the donors and supporters.** Through your kindness, you are enriching the lives of all those who benefit from the programs and services you make possible

This harkens me back to the question, “If this were you, what would you want?” I'd want you to do just as you are doing! **You are making a difference to people who are so deserving.** I can assure you that the significant intrinsic rewards you must feel are matched by the impact you are making on the lives I encounter when I walk through the doors of Easter Seals. Ryan calls me his angel, but I simply find places like Easter Seals NL that help him to spread his wings and fly; places made possible by the kindness of people like you!

Written by: Tracy Chafe





# A Run, Walk, Stroll, & Roll to remember

As every Newfoundlander knows, the weather on our island can be unpredictable and fierce. Several friends who grew up here have told me to not bother looking at the weather forecast until one or two days before an event or on a need-to-know basis. I have learned throughout my years of event planning that time is wasted stressing over things that you can't control. Well, this was my attitude when planning Run, Walk, Stroll, and Roll, taking place in September 2021.



It was the beginning of September, and I hadn't looked at the weather once. Our event was on Sunday, September 12th, and I was looking forward to seeing the participants I knew and meeting those I hadn't. Early that week, a colleague told me to check the weather. "Hurricane Larry to pass just East of the Avalon"-- a headline no event coordinator wants to read while planning something outdoors. We decided to postpone Run, Walk, Stroll, and Roll until the following Sunday, September 19th.

That Wednesday I was getting the final details together. I decided to forgo looking at the weather again because what were the odds another storm would delay this event? Oh, was I wrong. Tropical Storm Odette was on its way and bringing a lot of rain. Run, Walk, Stroll, and Roll was postponed

To learn more about our annual events, please visit [www.eastersealsnl.ca/events](http://www.eastersealsnl.ca/events) and follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date (@EasterSealsNL).

for the second time. There was discussion about hosting it virtually as we did in 2020, but we were determined to celebrate the success of the event and the incredible generosity of donors in person given how hard the participants had worked to reach their fundraising goals.

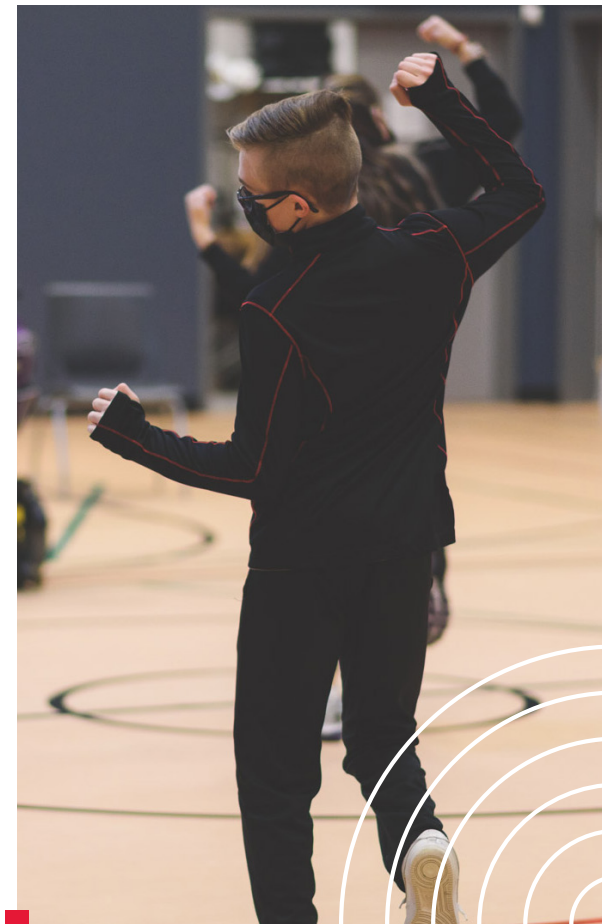
Run, Walk, Stroll, and Roll finally went ahead on Sunday, September 26th and we had perfect weather. At its essence, this community experience invites participants and families of all ages to meet new people, raise awareness for Easter Seals NL, and fundraise for our programs and services, all while promoting physical activity. This year, we put a fun spin on the theme and asked folks to dress up as their favourite Disney character. Stitch, Nemo, Minnie Mouse, and countless others ran, walked, strolled, or rolled their way around the pathways at the Easter Seals NL building.

Together, participants fundraised and sponsors contributed over \$9,300.00 in support of our programs and services. What's more, they helped to spread awareness of our organization so we can continue to achieve our mission: engaging, inspiring, and maximizing opportunities for people with disabilities in our province.

**Thank you** to those who participated and to the countless people who made a donation. Your support is appreciated and valued. We would also like to thank **Browning Harvey Ltd.** and the **Sobeys Community Action Fund** for sponsoring the event. Participants were given delicious snacks and beverages while enjoying live music by one of our incredibly talented music teachers, Julianne Meaney.

Run, Walk, Stroll, and Roll is truly driven by the incredible participants and supporters of Easter Seals NL. We are already looking forward to hosting it again in 2022. Fingers crossed the weather cooperates.

*Written by: Laura Douglas, Fund Development and Communications Coordinator*





# INSPIRE



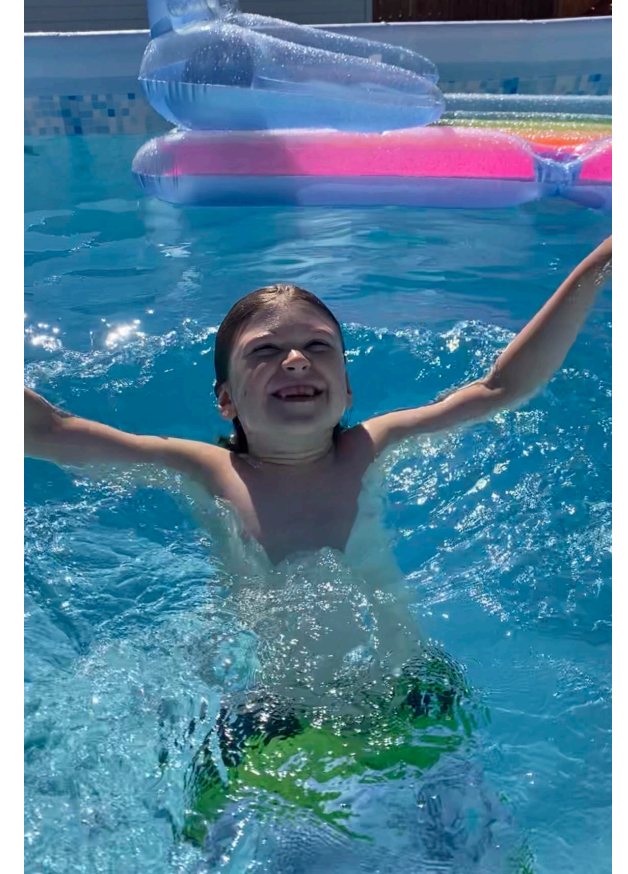
*As a participant in the Easter Seals NL programs, my daughter **Olivia** has been given the opportunity to expand on her social life, develop new skills, and more importantly, open my eyes to see her as a person who can and will contribute to society. It has helped me see her potential. Socially, she's a dynamo, with a very inquisitive side, and is oh so caring.*

*Easter Seals NL is a huge part of our core happiness. Walking through those sliding doors you feel an energy and excitement from the participants, staff, and volunteers that make you want to jump in and participate, but that is where Olivia's potential comes into play. Easter Seals NL is her opportunity to be independent, have fun, share, and care for her peers. Without Easter Seals NL, I don't think our life would be as fun. I know that as a participant and member of the Easter Seals NL community I have a place that breathes new life into our sails.*

— Shayne Menacola



## He just keeps swimming



I'm not sure if I can adequately put into words the gratitude we have for Easter Seals NL and their swimming program. But first, let me introduce you to our little guy. Tyson is nine years old, autistic, nonverbal, and has always had a fearless attraction to the water. He has difficulty paying attention to a task for any sustained period of time and has no concept of safety.

When we first enrolled Tyson in swimming with Easter Seals NL, it was a challenge to make it to the instructor on the pool deck without him escaping, running, and trying to jump into the water. To say that he was a demanding student is an understatement, and at one point, he even required two instructors. During this time, his swim instructor never gave up on him. She prepared visuals with specific goals and laminated them to take into the pool to aid his learning. As the weeks progressed, we could see Tyson's growth. He now walked out on the pool deck and waited for his instructor. He began to let her help mold his body into the position it needed for swimming. He listened and tried his best.

In less than one year, Tyson learned to swim with Easter Seals NL. And not just swim but swim exceptionally well. Now he can be found jumping off the side of the pool or diving into the water to retrieve items. Autism is heavy, and the struggles are every day. Milestones come slowly, and some days it feels like we will never get there. For Tyson, each task we teach is broken down into single steps; it is a process that most people will never experience. At the age of nine, he is still working on printing his name and riding a bike, yet he has learned to swim thanks to Easter Seals NL. **We are forever grateful to the people that contribute to this organization** so that children with exceptionalities are given the chance to learn essential life skills like swimming.

*Written by: Amanda Dohey*

To learn more about our recreation programs, please visit [www.eastersealsnl.ca/programs](http://www.eastersealsnl.ca/programs).



# One step closer to a more inclusive community

For over 10 years, Easter Seals NL dreamt of building the first inclusive park in St. John's, a place where families and children could create playful memories, barrier-free. And in 2015, the work finally began. Together, we would build a legacy that would create a better community in our part of the world.

The 'See Ability in Disability' capital campaign was launched, and thanks to the incredible generosity from donors, supporters, and the community who supported the initiative, as well as all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who purchased tickets through our Luxury Cabin Lottery, we were able to begin building. In June 2017, ground broke for phase 1.

We started to envision what this place would soon mean to families in the community and our participants; a place where children with and without disabilities can access play in a fun and safe environment, free of challenges. In 2018, the families of Easter Seals NL, local schools, and the public were invited to celebrate the grand opening of the Jeremy Cross Memorial Playground, named after an amazing Easter Seals NL participant. But we weren't done yet! We had big plans to expand the park so we began to design phase 2, which grew to include a beautiful pavilion, bonfire pit, bbq area, and sensory gardens; the perfect event space for anyone.

In June 2021, Easter Seals NL celebrated the grand opening of phase 2 with our incredible donors and supporters, as well as the amazing Shanneyganock and Dansability group, who entertained the crowd

well into the afternoon. Since then, the space has seen countless bonfires, hosted our year-end talent show put on by the participants of day camp, and was the venue for Run, Walk, Stroll, and Roll, among other memorable events. Phase 2 continues to provide new opportunities for participants, families, and the community to gather and is one step closer to making St. John's a more inclusive place to live.

Between 2015 and 2021, over \$2 million has been donated and fundraised in support of the development of our park, which includes a \$1 million endowment, and the dream continues to grow. Easter Seals NL will be expanding our park and accessible space even further to phase 3 in the next few years.

**This legacy is yours.** With your help, generosity, and the continued excitement surrounding the Luxury Cabin Lottery, which sold out in 2021 for the second year in a row, **we have created a space that is truly for everyone.** A place where children of any ability can engage with friends and family, play safely, and feel like they belong.



“



It was always so nice to see everyone laughing and having fun when we went to the park. My favorite memory at the park was pushing people on the swings because some of the participants had never been on the swings before and seeing them so excited and happy made my job so enjoyable. I remember one time I pushed a participant on the swing for so long that they fell asleep, which was really cute.

— *Anna Santos, Day Camp Counselor 2021*

As a participant and a staff member of Easter Seals NL, I get to see the amazing benefits our park has every day. From having campfires with my friends, to watching children play on the playground in a barrier-free environment, my heart is happy, and I must admit the accessible swing is a lot of fun to use. Thanks to our donors, my friends and I get to have these new experiences together.

— *Hayley Redmond, Staff Member and Participant*



The accessible park was one of the best places to go with the day camp participants. We spent a lot of time there. My favourite memory was watching one of our participants go down the slides. It was always one of the highlights of my day. At the beginning of the summer, she was so hesitant, but by the end of the summer, it was her favourite activity!

— *Ryan Tobin, Day Camp Lead 2021*





# Our differences make us who we are

For almost 20 years, Easter Seals NL has been proudly delivering the 'I Can Too' disability awareness program, which teaches the lesson 'we are all different, but very much alike'. Through the program, we have been fortunate to develop relationships with many amazing people, and **Dr. Glenn Barry**, Guidance Services Director at St. Bonaventure's College, is one of them.

In a recent article published in the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers Association Bulletin, Glenn says the program teaches "young children the nature of various disabilities while educating children that we are all the same in so many ways and yet, just a little different in others." He continues to say that, "Students learn that all

children are more alike than different, in that they all have feelings, want to have friends, and want to have fun. They learn that every individual has strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, which help form their unique personality. Students receive the takeaway message that these special attributes, which all individuals possess, can often be overlooked or masked when a person has a disability."

Glenn continues by stating "the 'I Can Too!' program teaches students that it's okay to be different; differences make us who we are. The program celebrates the uniqueness and developmental diversity of every child while promoting a culture of inclusiveness."

**“** *I was looking for a way to promote inclusion and increase disability awareness in our students. So we checked out the 'I Can Too!' disability awareness program with Easter Seals NL. Their presentation used a multimedia approach to help our students learn that people with a disability are the same as everyone else; they may just do things a little differently. Our students and teachers loved it! In fact, since the first presentation, we have invited them to come back again and again. The children never grow tired of it because it is fun, interactive, and authentic. Easter Seals NL ensures that the presentation is always evolving to include new information and materials to keep everyone engaged and entertained. The 'I Can Too!' program is a great addition to the important conversations we have about inclusion and acceptance in our school.*

— Karen Doyle, Guidance Counselor at Goulds Elementary

**Thank you,** Glenn Barry, Karen Doyle, and all of the schools across the province who have welcomed Easter Seals and supported the delivery of our message about disability awareness. **We are so grateful** to schools, community organizations, and businesses that embrace this program and help us to create positive conversations about disabilities and the importance of acceptance.

To learn more about the 'I Can Too' disability awareness program, please visit <https://eastersealsnl.ca/i-can-too>.





# MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES



*We would like to take this opportunity as a family to express our gratitude to Easter Seals NL and its Equipment Loan Program. We are very much an outdoor family and enjoy hiking a lot, and with **Calum's Muscular Dystrophy** we like to make sure he has all the experiences we had as children outdoors. Up until now, I would carry Calum on my shoulders or my back when he got tired, which wasn't an issue when he was small. However, he is now 9 years old and it's not so easy for me to carry him. The Hippocampe is such a great tool for us to walk on trails and paths, and Calum remains included in the activities he loves.*

*Thanks to Easter Seals NL, the Equipment Loan Program, and to all its donors for providing this opportunity.*

*— The Penney Family*



## I was looking for a job, but found so much more

In January 2021, Matt Ryall joined the Horizons Work Experience Program because he was struggling to maintain employment. "I was down on my luck. I didn't feel employable. I felt like employers would take one look at my resume and never consider hiring me," he says. Diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and oppositional defiant disorder, Matt faced significant barriers to finding meaningful work.

A few months after joining the program, Matt was offered a position with the **St. John's Farmer's Market**, as the varied tasks suited his skill set perfectly. "I love the market. I love interacting with customers. I've learned a lot, and my feelings about work have changed for the better," says Matt. In addition to securing employment, Matt also returned to post-secondary school. "Horizons really helped me to connect with the right people, and explore my next steps. The program assisted me with navigating student aid and funded my application fees." Matt is studying Software Development at Keyin College with the hopes of one day being employed as a developer.



The St. John's Farmer's Market is a wonderful community organization that supports local vendors and consumers, and they were excited to hire Matt who has become a dedicated employee. "We were so grateful to be able to participate in the Horizons program," said Pam Anstey, Executive Director at the Farmers Market. "Matt has grown so much in his skills and confidence throughout his time working with us and has continued to be a valued member of the SJFM team."

Matt says that Horizons helped him with the entire job search process. "I've been at this job for the last ten months. That's the longest I've ever held a job. I was looking for a job, but I found so much more; confidence, friends, and memorable experiences along the way."

Thank you to **Service Canada** and the **Royal Bank of Canada** for funding the Horizons program and paving the way for Canadian youth looking to break into the workforce.

To learn more about the Horizons program, please visit [www.eastersealsnl.ca/horizons](http://www.eastersealsnl.ca/horizons).



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## Supporting growth and opportunity in the community

For several years, the Eastern Edge Gallery has been a committed partner to the Opportunities Fund program, which works to bridge the gap between employees and employers in Newfoundland and Labrador. Located in St. John's, the Gallery is a non-profit business, community space, and an arts centre which includes Artist exhibition areas, studios, and a library. "Running an Artist-run centre is no easy task," explains Philippa Jones, Executive Director at the Gallery. "To manage such a space you need knowledge and competency in all these areas, in addition to a passion for contemporary art and advocating for artists. It takes a special person to be so capable and at the same time to bring warmth and welcome to our community. Ashley has all these qualities and more."

In May 2021, Ashley Hemmings began their journey as an Opportunities Fund participant with Easter Seals and a few months later, gained a long-term position at the Gallery. "As an artist living and working with mental illness, I am incredibly lucky to have been able to receive funding for a job within my field of study, thanks to the Opportunities Fund," says Ashley. "I started working at Eastern Edge as a Gallery Assistant and have since worked my way up to being the Operations Manager."

Since hiring Ashley, the Gallery has seen incredible growth. "Ashley's ability to shoulder the duties of running Eastern Edge, to think independently, take responsibility, and to lead has reduced my stress and is setting Eastern Edge up to grow even more," says Philippa. "It is wonderful to be able to share my knowledge with Ashley, and to have someone



else share in the continued success and stability of our precious arts centre.

"Ashley's contribution to our team is invaluable. Their perspective, education, experience and drive, in addition to their affability, warmth and understanding, have already benefited Eastern Edge hugely. Ashley has secured more funding that has enabled additional arts projects, increased accessibility renovations to our space, and included the hiring of more staff. Ashley is a natural leader, looks out for their colleagues, and helps to maintain a fun, supportive and vibrant work environment."

"As a charity dependent upon funding and fundraising to operate, Eastern Edge Gallery rarely has the resources to employ the number of staff we need to truly flourish," says Philippa. "With regular investment from the Opportunities Fund, we have been able to leverage this support to ask for further funding from our operational funders."

**Thank you** to Ashley Hemmings and Philippa Jones at **Eastern Edge Gallery**, and all of our participants and **community partners** in Newfoundland and Labrador that directly impact the success of the Opportunities Fund program. You continue to close the gap and break down barriers toward employment for people with disabilities. We would also like to recognize the Employment and Social Development branch of the **Government of Canada**, which has funded this program for many years. Thank you for allowing Easter Seals to be a part of connecting people with meaningful careers and bright futures.



## I found my way back to the workplace



In 2013, I found myself in a medical crisis that had kept me from working. Recovery took some time and when I was better, I felt going

back into the workforce would be beneficial to both my physical and mental health. I had been looking for employment on my own, but then determined I would need some assistance to make my re-entry into the workforce successful. I reached out to Easter Seals' Opportunities Fund staff and learned that they were able to offer wage subsidies to help people with disabilities to enter the workforce. I hoped that it would be the difference in finding employment in my community.

I approached the Owner of the **Marystown Heritage Museum - Furniture store**, and he agreed to hire me. I had hoped I would be kept on as this was a new career for me and like everything, there was a chance it wouldn't work out. At the end of the program, opportunity knocked and I was able to secure employment. I am very pleased to say that I am still working for the same business and absolutely loving it.

This opportunity would not have been possible without Easter Seals and the Opportunities Fund program that is designed for people just like me. Health is Wealth; this program gave me back life in many ways. There was a time when I was unsure if I would ever work again. I will be forever grateful to this organization, which took a chance on me, allowing me to develop new skills and put them into action.



For anyone with a disability, please reach out to this life-giving, wonderful organization, where help awaits. **Many thanks to all** that played a vital part in bringing me to a place of confidence and hope for the future."

— Joanne Kelly, Opportunities Fund Participant

For more information about the Opportunities Fund, please visit [www.eastersealsnl.ca/opportunities-fund](http://www.eastersealsnl.ca/opportunities-fund).





# All the places he could go

Have you ever experienced such overwhelming joy that it took your breath away? This is how I felt when I was able to take my (then) 5-year-old son on a hike through the woods for the very first time.

Lyndon lives with moderate spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy and is nonverbal. I never dreamed a hike with him would ever be possible. That is until last spring when we borrowed a Hippocampe, an all-terrain wheelchair. The moment he sat in this chair I could visualize all the places he could go, places that his regular wheelchair would not get him.

Our loan of the Hippocampe was limited so I made sure to make good use of it while we had it. Lyndon was able to go on family hikes and other outdoor adventures that were once impossible, like exploring the east coast trail. Yes, you read that right! His first hike is one I will never forget.

As we walked along the trail leading to the suspension Bridge in LaManche I could hear his sounds of wonder and excitement. His smile lit up his face. He was having the time of his life. His twin brother who was walking alongside him commented on how happy he was to have Lyndon with us. At one point, I became so overwhelmed that I had to stop and take a moment. I couldn't believe this was happening; it was a dream come true.

Each adventure brought more joy, more happiness, more excitement. The feelings we were experiencing as a family were something I wanted other families to experience as well.



So with the support from my amazing sister, Vickii, we began fundraising for a Hippocampe of our own. Our fundraising efforts took off and Lyndon was gifted a Hippocampe from a local businessman, Mr. Dan Matthews from Volkswagen St. John's. Our plans changed from buying one for Lyndon to buying an additional one to donate.

The support from the public was incredible, and within just one month we raised enough funds to purchase two Hippocampes! I knew without question that one of these chairs was going to Easter Seals NL. I know a lot of the families with Easter seals NL and I wanted them to get their children out on adventures too. The more equipment that is available to our families, the better.

Since our story went public, I have received several messages from other families who have immediately got on the waitlists to borrow Hippocampes. I've seen their smiles, firsthand, as their dreams have come true.

It's been an amazing journey and I'm so extremely grateful to everyone who played a role in getting these Hippocampes for the disabled community. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. We have so many adventures yet to come!

*Written by: Adina Stamp*

To learn more about the Equipment Loan Program or Linda's Equipment Crossing, please visit [www.eastersealsnl.ca/programs](http://www.eastersealsnl.ca/programs).



# Give the gift of inclusion

Our vision is for a community where all people with disabilities in Newfoundland and Labrador live full, healthy, and active lives. Our mission is to engage, inspire, and maximize opportunities by providing meaningful programs and services, some of which are highlighted in this report.

By giving to Easter Seals NL, you are creating a lasting impact in our community. To date, we serve over 1,000 participants and that number continues to grow as we extend our capacity.

**With your gift, we can take incredible strides.**

To give, please visit our website at [www.eastersealsnl.ca/donate](http://www.eastersealsnl.ca/donate) or mail in the slip below:  
Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador  
206 Mount Scio Road  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4L5

**Easter Seals** Newfoundland and Labrador

**MONTHLY DONATION**  
YES! I would like to become a Partner in Caring Monthly Donation Member and make donations to support programs and services for persons with disabilities all year round.

\$10/month  \$15/month  \$20/month Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador to automatically deduct the amount indicated above each month until I state otherwise.

From my chequing account (see attached voided cheque)

From my credit card:  VISA  MASTERCARD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name On Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (help us save on postage)



**THANK YOU**

Easter Seals Newfoundland & Labrador:  
206 Mount Scio Road, St. John's, NL A1B 4L5  
P: 709.754.1399 • F: 709.754.1398  
TF: 1.888.601.6767 • [info@eastersealsnl.ca](mailto:info@eastersealsnl.ca)  
[www.eastersealsnl.ca](http://www.eastersealsnl.ca)  
Charitable Registration No. 11905 5085 RR0001  
You can change or cancel your contribution at any time, simply by contacting us at 1.709.754.1399.





# Luxury Cabin Lottery

For the second year in a row, our Luxury Cabin Lottery has sold out because of you!

This lottery is changing the lives of people with disabilities by allowing us to continue to break down barriers and provide programs and services in an accessible and inclusive building, park, and playground. We want to sincerely thank everyone who purchased tickets.

**And thank you to our sponsors for your continued support:**

- Blue Water Marine, [www.bluewatermarine.ca](http://www.bluewatermarine.ca)
- BONSHAW, [www.bonshawgroup.com](http://www.bonshawgroup.com)
- Can-Am, [can-am.brp.com](http://can-am.brp.com)
- Cohen's Home Furnishings, [www.cohens.ca](http://www.cohens.ca)
- North Atlantic, [www.northatlantic.ca](http://www.northatlantic.ca)
- NTV, [www.ntv.ca](http://www.ntv.ca)
- Outdoor Pros, [www.outdoorpros.ca](http://www.outdoorpros.ca)
- Steele Honda, [www.steelehonda.com](http://www.steelehonda.com)
- Stingray, [www.stingray.com](http://www.stingray.com)
- The Telegram, [www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador](http://www.saltwire.com/newfoundland-labrador)
- Universal Travel, [www.universaltravelgroup.com](http://www.universaltravelgroup.com)

**Our 7th annual Luxury Cabin Lottery will be launching in May 2022!** To stay up-to-date about announcements, please follow us on Facebook (@EasterSealsNL) [www.facebook.com/EasterSealsNL/](http://www.facebook.com/EasterSealsNL/).



## With gratitude

You have made a lasting impact on our community. Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador brightens the souls of so many, and with your help, we will continue to do so for years to come. Our achievements are as much yours as they are ours, and we are very grateful for your continued support.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Gratefully yours,  
**Easter Seals Newfoundland and Labrador**



We encourage you to follow us on social media (@EasterSealsNL) to keep up-to-date on events, campaigns, programs, and more, or subscribe to our monthly newsletter by visiting [www.eastersealsnl.ca/planner](http://www.eastersealsnl.ca/planner).

If you would like to tell your story about how Easter Seals NL has impacted you, share a fundraising idea, or provide feedback on the report, we encourage you to reach out.

Please contact our Fund Development and Communications Coordinator, Laura Douglas, at [laura@eastersealsnl.ca](mailto:laura@eastersealsnl.ca).





Easter Seals House  
206 Mount Scio Rd  
St. John's, NL

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[www.eastersealsnl.ca](http://www.eastersealsnl.ca)  
709.754.1399