



| ○ Spring | ○ 2024



Easterseals *TN*

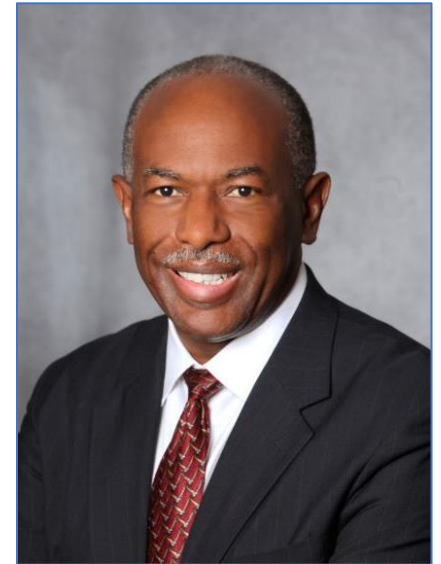
ALL ABILITIES. LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES.

The Nashvillian of the Year is an annual fundraiser whose proceeds benefit the programs of Easterseals Tennessee. Chosen by past Nashvillians, Easterseals Tennessee proudly celebrates and awards a recipient as the honorable Nashvillian of the Year. The honoree is selected for his/her leadership and impact within the community to philanthropic causes and to business development, helping ensure that Nashville continues to be a better place to live, work and prosper.

**James E. K. Hildreth, Sr., Ph.D., M.D.
has been selected as the 2024 Nashvillian of the Year.**

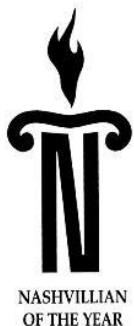
James E.K. Hildreth, Ph.D., M.D. is the 12th President and Chief Executive Officer of Meharry Medical College, the nation's largest private, independent historically black academic health sciences center. Hildreth holds an MD from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, a PhD from Oxford University, and a BA from Harvard University where he graduated as a Rhodes Scholar. A world-class infectious disease expert, Hildreth's ability to explain complex science to laypersons made him a national figure during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, he was appointed to the FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee and in 2021, he was named to President Joseph Biden's Health Equity Task Force. Hildreth spent 23 years at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine as student, postdoc, professor, associate dean, and served as Dean of the College of Biological Sciences at University of California, Davis. His HIV research resulted in 11 patents and international recognition for several key discoveries.

Dr. Hildreth was elected to the National Academy of Medicine and has received numerous awards and recognition for his accomplishments, leadership, and service. He was named Chairman of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Board of Trustees in 2019. In 2021, Dr. Hildreth was inducted into the Tennessee Health Care Hall of Fame. He has served on numerous national scientific councils including current membership on the Advisory Council to the NIH director. Hildreth currently serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the St. Jude's Research Hospital Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He also serves on other boards including the Nashville Healthcare Council, Nashville Health, Boy Scouts of America, and the General Board of Higher Education of the United Methodist Church.



The 2024 Nashvillian of the Year Celebration Honoring Dr. James E.K. Hildreth, Sr.

Wednesday Evening, August 14, 2024
6:30 PM until 9:30 PM
Hilton Downtown Nashville
Mezzanine Level - Volunteer Ballroom



For Information on Sponsorship Opportunities and/or Individual Tickets
please email cbreland@eastersealstn.com or call 615-292-6640, x-321.

Limitless Possibilities

It had never occurred to Brandon that he would have the opportunity to learn to play the guitar, although it had always been a dream of his that he had not shared. As fate would have it, a staff member named Brad, who helps support Brandon in the Residential Living and Supported Employment programs at Easterseals Tennessee, helped Brandon realize the possibility.

It all began when Brad, who plays the guitar himself, started bringing his guitar along while he was supporting Brandon on the weekends. This sparked Brandon's interest and motivated him to watch, listen, and interact with Brad. Typically, Brandon stayed to himself and spent his spare time playing video games. He had previously never been attentive or inquisitive about anything happening around him at home. However, Brandon's interest in watching Brad play the guitar has changed Brandon's demeanor and developed his confidence, enabling him to develop a friendship with Brad. Over time, Brad has started to teach Brandon to play the guitar. Brandon is now fascinated with learning and hopes to buy his own guitar. He has taken on more shifts where he works to earn extra money for his big purchase. Given the choice and access, Brandon has discovered if he is willing to work hard and save his money, he will have a higher probability of accomplishing his goals. Little does Brandon know that Easterseals Tennessee is working on finding a matching gift donor to help support his dream of purchasing a guitar and an amplifier, along with any other accessories needed.



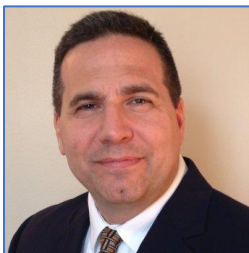
Within Easterseals Tennessee programming, individuals are encouraged to build on their dreams and empowered to develop their abilities, which provides limitless possibilities for personal happiness, health, and well-being. Leadership and staff "reach for the sky" when it comes to the people that are supported. Stay tuned for more updates on helping Brandon make his wish come true.

Recent Happenings



On TNCO Legislative Day 2024, Chris and David accompanied Easterseals TN Board Members and leadership in thanking numerous Tennessee Legislators for their continued support. Both Chris and David enjoyed telling their personal stories and extending their gratitude for the services they receive and the personal growth they have experienced within the Residential Living and Supported Employment programs at Easterseals TN.

President and CEO Corner



Tim Ryerson, President and CEO

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Each day this organization reveals unsung staff heroes. Making a profound positive impact in the lives of people with disabilities as they learn, work, and play in their communities, is core to the mission of the organization and staff.

Recently, Easterseals TN was informed of an individual who would be homeless with zero supported living services. With one day's notice to in-take, a staff member and others were determined to help. The immediate decision was to support the gentleman within the Easterseals TN Residential Living program, and a plan to develop the full details would come later. Phone calls were made and staff found the gentleman a place to stay for the first night.

After the initial night other housing options were needed for the coming weekend; two staff members volunteered their own homes. Ultimately, a weekend hotel stay, fully staffed by Easterseals TN was arranged for the gentleman. By Monday morning a new rental home was located, and the individual moved in by 1pm with staff supports.

An amazing story of caring and devoted staff making meaningful contributions in the lives of others. The gentleman, along with his conservator are praising the dedication of the unsung staff heroes.

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