

March 2017 News

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Have you seen our new logo?

After several decades of helping people with disabilities behind the Easter lily, we're excited to roll out our sunburst logo! Let's face it: we've all been confused about the Easter lily or might have even thought it was a banana (kids say crazy things!). We love the sunburst logo because it stands for all the things we're proud of: hope, answers, help shining on people's lives where a disability kept them in the shadows.

What's the deal with Medicaid therapy cuts?

Last year, a study identified that the state of Texas paid the highest therapy rates, especially for Speech Therapy. Cue the legislature. Despite public hearings against such cuts by parents, patients and providers, the cuts were made official in December. What does that mean for your local Easter Seals? The short version, we need HELP! The longer version is this: with over 80% of our patients being covered by a Medicaid plan, the cuts directly affect our ability to provide services to an otherwise under-served, low-income population. But, whether you have Medicaid or not, the reimbursement cuts affect our ability to provide highly-specialized services to everyone (hint: we have to pay our people and keep the lights on). Let's stand together! We also think it's a good idea to [let your representatives know](#) how you feel about these changes!

Did you know?

- Your local Easter Seals office helps over **900 patients/families** in the Brazos Valley every year
- We've been helping folks with disabilities **since 1957**
- What kind of disabilities? Anything from birth defects (malformations, CP, quadriplegia, Down's syndrome) to developmental delays, autism, injuries, motor vehicle accidents, stroke, etc
- How do we help? We provide physical, occupation, speech therapy and autism services. We also serve babies ages 0 to 3 in the 7 surrounding counties through the state and federally mandated Early Childhood Intervention program
- We are a 501(c)(3) organization and we provide charitable therapy services irrespective of people's ability to pay. We provide financial assistance based on demonstrable financial need.

Cool Kid of the Month (drum roll please..)

...is **Kyle!** Kyle is the artist who designed our artwork for the Tri-County Hill Hopper charitable event held February 26th in Warrenton, TX. You may read more about the bike ride [here](#), but here's what you really need to know: 273 participants, loads of amazing volunteers, all funds raised going straight back into patient care at your local Easter Seals. Oh, you wanted to know more about Kyle? We've put together some fun facts on this poster below:

Meet Kyle

2017 Tri-County Hill Hopper Art Contest Winner

Kyle is an active **8-year-old** boy! He loves riding his bike, playing outside and

aggravating his younger siblings. He is now in little league baseball and cannot wait to start this year's season.

Kyle has undergone **22 surgeries** so far, and has made terrific progress through therapies received at Easter Seals Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center!



You're invited to..

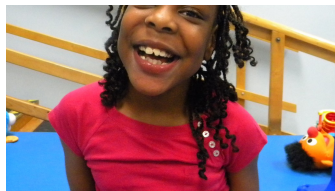
The 4th edition of [Leaps for Autism](#) - **April 1st 2017**. The Autism walkathon is a celebration of our community, as we invite everyone to come out and play (and walk for about a mile), enjoy a resource fair, music and fun for the whole family. We couldn't put this event together without our friends from [FACETS](#)! Funds raised go into a scholarship fund that will help families access health-care services they couldn't otherwise afford. For sponsorship opportunities, click [here](#).



How can you help?



Help children with



disabilities receive the
therapies they need!

Will you stand with us?

**Make a donation
now!**

**Come play with
us!**



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