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January 22, 2024

Dear FOP Lodge President,

*Waylon Jackson & Michelle Schmitt
2023 Easterseals Ambassadors*

Our 2024 Easterseals Telethon is Friday, April 12, 5am-7pm. With the help of the FOP, last year's all-local Telethon on ABC 25 and CW 7 raised more than \$936,000! These funds helped nearly 5,600 children and adults with disabilities reach for their dreams! **Again this year, FOP lodges can turn dreams into reality for individuals from 30 area counties – people like Waylon and Michelle.**

Waylon was born 10 weeks early weighing only 3 pounds, 11 ounces. After spending 9 months in the NICU, Waylon has overcome dangerous infections, serious breathing and heart problems and other health emergencies, and is now climbing stairs, printing letters and drawing, eating food by mouth, and talking a lot!

Michelle has been receiving Easterseals services since an ATV accident in 2015. Working with her Easterseals physical therapists, she has made huge gains in strength and balance and has returned to her full-time job. They have different challenges and goals, but they are both reaching for their dreams, thanks to *life-changing* services provided by Easterseals.

At the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, individuals of all ages receive the *life-changing* therapy they need *regardless of their ability to pay*. We are very grateful that the FOP is a state and national sponsor of Easterseals. **In 2023, area FOP lodges donated a total of \$7,925** to fund physical, occupational, and speech therapy. **As client referrals continue to grow, your support is needed more than ever!**

Our goal is to get all the FOP lodges in the Southwest District involved in our local Telethon by making a donation.

If you have any questions, please call me at 812-474-2348 or Jarid Harris, FOP Easterseals Chairman, at 812-459-5587. We look forward to working with you to *change lives*, so people with disabilities have *equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play*.

Sincerely,

Megan Irish

Megan Irish
Coordinator of Special Events and Community Outreach