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February 1, 2023

Dear FOP Lodge President,

Our 2023 Easterseals Telethon is Friday, April 14, 5am-7pm. With the help of the FOP, last year's all-local Telethon on ABC 25 and CW 7 raised more than \$900,000! These funds helped nearly 5,200 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 Charlie and Rett**

*Charlie Joyner & Rett Larimore
2022 Easterseals Ambassadors*

Eight-year-old **Charlie** was born with cerebral palsy. When Easterseals entered his life at the age of 3, his muscle tone was similar to an infant's. He needed special equipment just to stand upright. After years of hard work, Charlie now walks, even runs using a walker. He's even learning to use canes which is the next step toward walking independently.

Rett has been a resident of Easterseals Group Homes since 1987. That program along with other Easterseals services empower Rett to achieve goals for independence and pursue his passion – helping others! Because he has spina bifida, Rett uses a wheelchair and the Easterseals transportation service helps him keep up with his busy schedule. He stays active with Easterseals Aspire day services and community activities, including worship at Crossroads Christian Church and meetings of the Green River Kiwanis Club.

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 2022, area FOP lodges donated a total of \$10,463** 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