

From: Lynn Robinson, Easter Seals, Executive Director
Re: Easter Seals Tax Check Off renewal

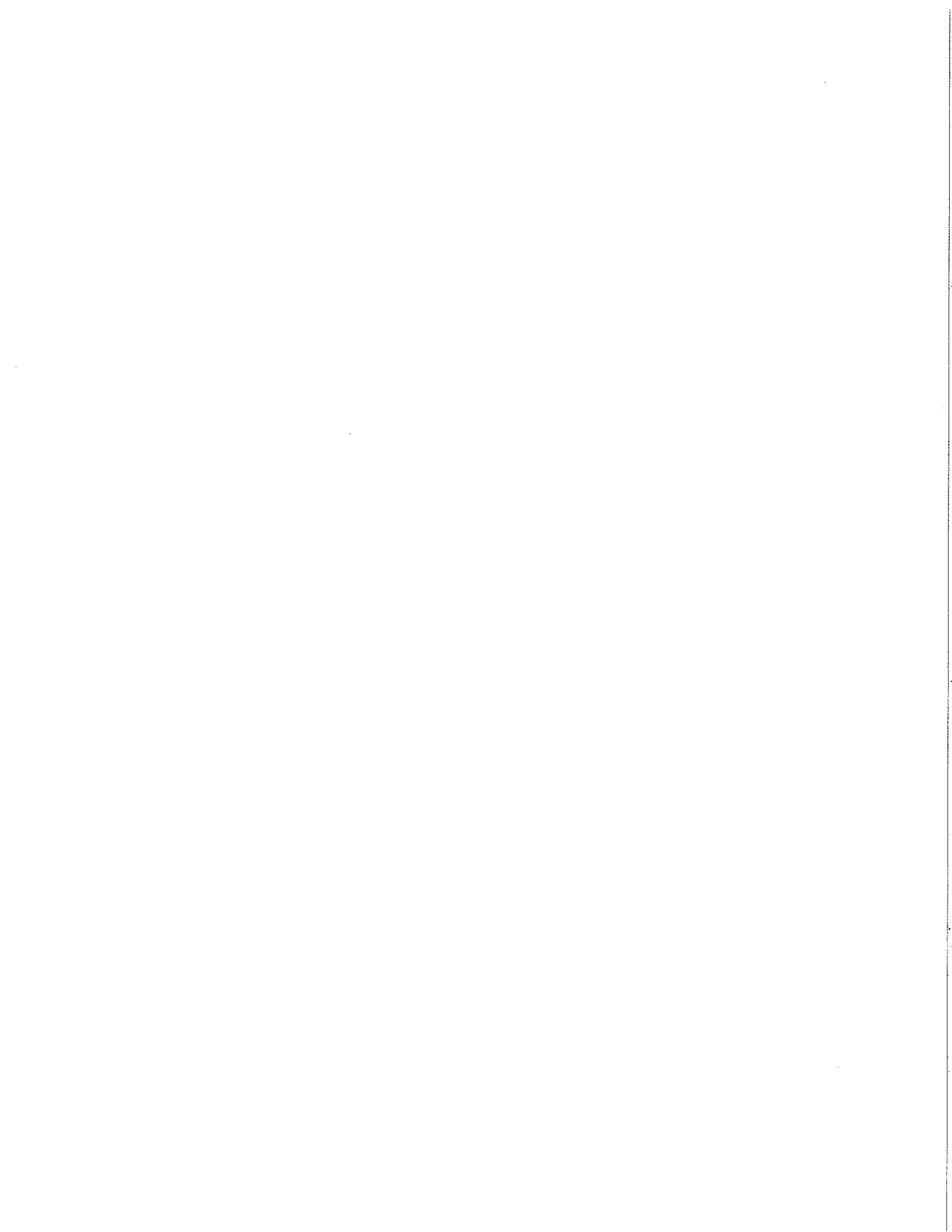
Good morning, Senators thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Lynn Robinson and I am honored to serve as the Executive Director of Easter Seals Colorado. As one of the oldest nonprofit organizations in the state, Easter Seals has been responding to the needs of Coloradoans with disabilities for over 83 years. Statistically, one in 5 of us will experience a permanent disability over the course of our lifetime. At this time there are approximately 800,000 Coloradoans with disabilities and with the very limited supported that these individuals receive from government and insurance programs, Easter Seals services are one of their more vital safety nets. At this time we are one of the few nonprofit organizations that is not disability specific. We reach across the state in both urban and rural areas to impact the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Individuals with disabilities are no different from anyone else; they want to remain productive, engaged and contributing members of their family and community. It is our mission to partner with them and use our programs to ensure that their lives are meaningful. Easter Seals offers services to overcome barriers in the areas of: employment, transportation, camping, recreation, respite, warm Water therapy, stroke rehabilitation, and support for post polio survivors. Easter Seals works with closely other community organizations to save resources and collaborate in order to expand or enhance services.

Some of the challenges that we help address are brain injury, stroke, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, pulmonary disorders, epilepsy, stroke, developmental disabilities, fibromyalgia, and accidents or injuries that result in limitations affecting ones ability to perform tasks of daily living. We are also reaching out to veterans who are stroke survivors. Most of our programs also offer support and resources to family members and caregivers enabling them to find resources in their community that will support them and/or their family member with a disability. Easter Seals knows no boundaries of age, ethnicity or disability.

One service that you may not be aware of is our AgrAbility Program. This program is administered by Easter Seals and partners with Colorado State University to reach out into rural Colorado. Through this program we work with farmers, ranchers and their family members with disabilities. The goal is help those in rural agricultural communities return to work after an accident, injury or illness. Recently we helped redo the controls on a tractor so that a farmer who had a stroke and was paralyzed on one side of his body would be able to continue to drive. The seat, controls, and foot pedals were modified so he could still use his good side to operate his tractor and in so doing, he was able to maintain his farm and tend to his livestock. We also work with professionals in rural area to help them understand how to modify equipment and address the challenges that farmers confront after an accident or injury.

Today I brought with me Mary Ota and her son Frank Stites. Frank has been in one or more Easter Seals programs for over 15 years. As I am sure you are aware Colorado is one of the 10 wealthiest states per capita, but we are rank 43rd out of 50 in our giving. This is why the donations that we receive through the tax check off have made a large difference in the lives of people like Frank and Mary. I hope you will vote to renew our efforts to collect funds through the Tax check. Now Mary and Frank would like to share a few words.



Easter Seals Colorado

Helping Children and Adults with Disabilities
Gain Greater Independence!



Warm Water Therapy Pool

Supports Recovery From Injury and Illness
Reduces Chronic Pain

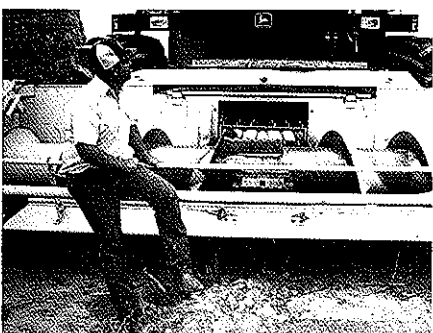
Maintain Health and Fitness

Water Aerobics Classes
Heart Strong Classes
Arthritis Relief Classes



Stroke Day Program

Helping stroke survivors regain lost skills
Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy
Cognitive Skills Activities
Counseling and Resource Networking
Respite for Caregivers



AgrAbility Program

Helping farmers and ranchers with disabilities by providing equipment adapted to their individual needs.



Rocky Mountain Village

Summer Camp Sessions

Horseback riding
Zip line
Swimming

Training Weekends

Off-Season Weekend Respite

Off-Season Private Group Rentals



Employment Services

Helping individuals with disabilities find and maintain employment

Post-Polio Support Groups

Groups meet throughout the state of Colorado to discuss post-polio issues. Guest speakers often join the group.

How Can You Help?

Volunteer

Camp
Events

Sponsor Events

For more information,
call 303 233-1666 ext. 234

Monetary Donations

In-Kind Donations

Pro-Bono Services

Donate Auction Items

Participate in Events

Kickball League
Softball Marathon
Bocce Tournament
Basketball Shootout
Golf Tournaments
Skeet Shoot



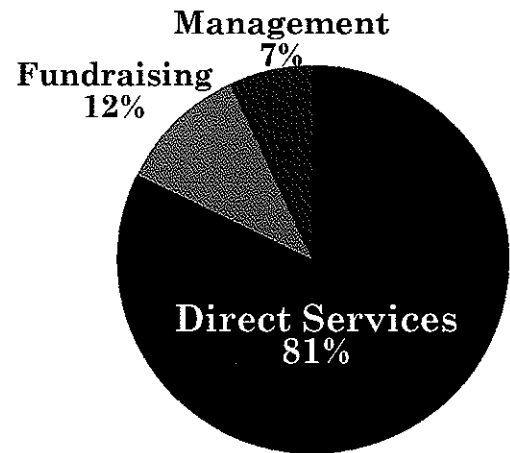
Easter Seals Colorado
5755 W. Alameda Ave.
Lakewood, CO 80226
303 233-1666

eastersealscolorado.org

About Easter Seals Colorado

Easter Seals Colorado is one of the oldest non-profits in Colorado, having been established in 1926.

- *All the money raised in Colorado, STAYS in Colorado*
- *Eighty one percent of funds go to direct services.*
- *Easter Seals Colorado provided direct services to 5,157 people in 2007. All individuals were served without regard to age, gender, race, creed or disability.*
- *Easter Seals Colorado also provided educational and disability awareness to 34,347 individuals in Colorado.*
- *Easter Seals Colorado provided a total of 159,277 service hours to clients with a total of 24,370 visits.*
- *Easter Seals Colorado is a local nonprofit agency developing programs and services for children and adults in Colorado. All funds raised stay in Colorado and benefit children, adults and seniors with disabilities.*



Where Your Dollars Go!

- *\$2500 will sponsor a camp counselor for a summer*
- *\$1200 will send a child to camp*
- *\$1000 will purchase a two year pool membership unlimited pass*
- *\$1000 will adopt the Arts & Crafts building including supplies for 6 months at Rocky Mountain Village*
- *\$600 will sponsor 20 one-on-one therapy sessions in the warm water therapy pool for a child with special needs*
- *\$300 will sponsor one child for a respite weekend at Rocky Mountain Village*
- *\$200 will sponsor two special outings or trainings for the Explorer Group*
- *\$70 will sponsor a stroke survivor for one day of therapy in our Stroke Rehabilitation Program*