

## **FAQs**

### **What does Easter Seals do?**

Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin serves communities in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha and Ozaukee Counties. Easter Seals' strives to change the way the world defines, views and treats disabilities so that every person can achieve their full potential. Since 2005, we have integrated two non-profits with great traditions of their own, Kindcare (2005) and Waukesha Training Center (2010) into our organization. With these mergers, Easter Seals expanded services throughout Southeast Wisconsin and launched new services in autism, work skills development and expanded our Adult Day Centers in Waukesha and Kenosha.

### **What does Safe Babies Healthy Families do?**

Safe Babies Healthy Families' mission is to ensure safe and healthy children through education, support and resources—ultimately breaking destructive cycles that can last for generations. We are a passionate organization driven by our belief that EVERY child deserves a chance to live a life free from abuse, neglect and poverty. Our families remain in our program until their child is kindergarten-ready. By partnering with parents who have endured hardships, we celebrate their success as they "change the game" for their children.

### **Why is the merger of Easter Seals and Safe Babies Healthy Families necessary?**

Combining with Easter Seals, the SBHF program will have a more viable and sustainable platform to enable SBHF serve a greater number of at risk families throughout Southeast Wisconsin. Joining forces will help us increase the possibilities for each child and each family we touch by sharing best practices to create better outcomes for all families we serve.

### **What does the combination mean for families served by SBHF?**

SBHF will continue to focus on the needs of families in Waukesha County. The staff closest to our families will not change, nor do we anticipate any interruptions in SBHF services. Through the merger, Easter Seals can offer wrap-around services for children and their parents, and SBHF will be able to offer families everything from early education support to autism therapies to job placement services for parents.

### **What does the merger mean for SBHF staff?**

We expect that all SBHF staff will be retained and in joining Easter Seals are now eligible for health and retirement benefits. With the addition of SBHF employees, Easter Seals will become an even stronger team of 250 caring professionals committed to making a difference.

### **What makes Easter Seals and Safe Babies Healthy Families a good match?**

Both organizations are well respected throughout the Waukesha community and beyond. Together Easter Seals and SBHF will serve over 2,500 children and parents in Southeast Wisconsin with variety of supports from prenatal to early education and autism therapies. Easter Seals has been providing services to children for over 60 years, promoting early childhood development through our national public awareness and advocacy campaign, "Make the First Five Count." By working together, we will provide increased support at the earliest stages of a child's development.

### **Will the Safe Babies Healthy Families Events continue?**

Yes! Plans for the Sweetheart Fashion Show scheduled for February 19, 2016 and the Annual Gala scheduled for November 3, 2016 are already underway! Government funding is only a fraction of the annual cost of supporting at risk families. We must continue to raise funds to meet the rising need.

### **Can I continue to donate to Safe Babies Healthy Families?**

Yes! Your donations mean everything to the children and families we serve. We welcome designated donations to support our many programs and services, including SBHF.