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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota Awarded \$25,000 Grant to Expand Digital Literacy and Career Training**

**Mandan, N.D.** — Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota (ESGWND) is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$25,000 grant through Easterseals National Corporate Partners to support its digital literacy and career training programs. This funding will help expand employment and life skills training for people with disabilities and other barriers to independence.

Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota is a local affiliate of Easterseals, a national organization that distributes funding and resources to a network of community-based affiliates across the country. As part of this network, ESGWND benefits from national partnerships, including this recent investment, while delivering services tailored to the unique needs of North Dakotans.

The grant builds on a longstanding national partnership that has invested in breaking down barriers for individuals with disabilities through access to technology, education, and workforce development. Since 2011, Easterseals National Corporate Partners have contributed more than \$50 million in cash and in-kind media support to advance opportunities in education, health, employment, and community engagement for people with disabilities.

Through this investment, ESGWND will enhance its digital literacy and career training by providing participants with hands-on instruction in essential skills such as basic computer use, internet navigation and online safety, communication and collaboration tools, digital content creation, and critical thinking in online environments. These experiences are designed to prepare participants for internships and meaningful employment opportunities, helping them build confidence and independence as they enter the workforce.

“This generous support allows us to continue creating pathways to independence for people with disabilities across North Dakota,” said Dr. Mary Van Haneghan, President and CEO of Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota. “As a proud Easterseals affiliate, we are able to bring national resources and innovation into our local communities—ensuring individuals have access to the digital skills and career pathways they need to succeed in today’s workforce and beyond.”

As a dual affiliate, ESGWND is also part of the Goodwill network—one of the largest nonprofit social enterprises in North America. This unique structure allows the organization to combine the national leadership and disability expertise of Easterseals with the workforce development and retail-driven mission model of Goodwill. Together, these affiliations strengthen ESGWND’s ability to deliver impactful, community-based services while remaining connected to national innovation and scale.

Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota remains committed to ensuring that all individuals—regardless of ability—have access to the resources and support they need to achieve their goals and thrive in their communities.

For more information about Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota and its programs, visit [www.esgwnd.org](http://www.esgwnd.org).