



Easterseals Goodwill ND, Inc.
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Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota Announces Dr. Mary Van Haneghan as New Chief Executive Officer

Bismarck, ND – 7.29.2025 – The Board of Directors of Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota is thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr. Mary Van Haneghan as the organization’s new Chief Executive Officer, effective August 11, 2025.

Following a comprehensive and highly competitive national search led by Sagency, an executive search and leadership consulting firm, the search committee unanimously and enthusiastically recommended Dr. Van Haneghan to the Board of Directors. Her appointment marks an exciting new chapter for the organization.

“I am honored to build upon this legacy and lead Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota into its next chapter of impact and innovation,” said Dr. Van Haneghan.

Dr. Van Haneghan brings over two decades of experience leading local, state, and national nonprofit organizations with budgets exceeding \$50 million and teams of 500+ across both centralized and remote settings. She is known for providing steady, visionary leadership—especially during transitions following long-tenured CEOs—and is recognized for her focus on operational excellence, financial stewardship, and strong community engagement.

In addition to her expertise in nonprofit leadership, Dr. Van Haneghan brings significant experience in retail operations, real estate, and property management—key elements of Goodwill’s business model. She has successfully managed extensive thrift operations, led high-impact social enterprises, and implemented strategic business initiatives that resulted in meaningful growth and operational efficiency.

Yet Dr. Van Haneghan’s story is not just one of strategy and numbers—it is rooted in heart. She has dedicated her career to advancing equity and opportunity for underserved communities, with a focus on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), as well as veterans, military families, opportunity youth, older adults, and individuals facing barriers to employment. Her work has spanned workforce development, inclusive education, job training, and employment support programs funded at the local, state, and federal levels.

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Her professional journey has included leadership roles at both The Arc and Easterseals, and she has worked across multiple regions of the U.S. in both local and national affiliate roles. This gives her a broad perspective and deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing the Easterseals and Goodwill networks.

Dr. Van Haneghan is a nationally recognized leader and recipient of multiple honors, including the Rising Star Award and awards for Program Innovation with The Arc. She pioneered The Arc of the Capital Area's *Autism Assets @ Work* program, which placed individuals with autism in internships at Dell that led to full-time corporate roles—an initiative featured in *The New York Times*. She also helped advance inclusive higher education through partnerships with *Think College*, a national initiative supporting students with intellectual disabilities. Her leadership has driven the creation of inclusive child development centers, adult day programs, transition schools, and government-funded job training programs—all closely aligned with Easterseals Goodwill's mission of promoting education, employment, and independence.

"Dr. Van Haneghan is a dynamic and nationally respected leader whose career is defined by measurable impact, strategic growth, and unwavering commitment to community," said David Wald, President of the Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota Board of Directors. "Her impressive track record—spanning decades of successful leadership across the nonprofit sector—makes her uniquely equipped to guide our organization forward. We are proud to welcome her to North Dakota and excited for the future under her leadership."

Dr. Van Haneghan earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of Buffalo, a Master's in Adult Education and Literacy from Buffalo State College, and a Doctorate in Education from Walden University. Her academic research has focused on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, exploring everything from institutional history to the value of post-secondary education.

She also brings strong personal and family connections to the community, and we are excited to welcome her to North Dakota!



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About Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota

Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota (ESGWND) is a nonprofit organization committed to helping people with disabilities and those facing employment challenges achieve their maximum independence. As one of the state's leading nonprofit organizations, ESGWND provides personalized support including education, skill development, personal care, meal preparation, financial management, and job training across North Dakota. The organization employs more than 500 individuals and serves over 326,000 people annually through its programs and services.

The organization operates regional offices in Mandan, Minot, Dickinson, Jamestown, Grand Forks, and Fargo, ensuring accessible services statewide. ESGWND sustains its mission through retail operations in Bismarck, Minot, Jamestown, Grand Forks, and Fargo, with revenue from donated goods directly supporting program services. Its e-commerce platform extends this impact online.

With a strong commitment to ethical leadership, collaboration, and inclusion, Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota empowers individuals to live, learn, work, and thrive in their communities.

Learn more at www.esgwnd.org.