



July 2, 2009

Delaware lifespan respite care network launches new Web site

New Online Resource to Aid 160,000 Caregivers Who Need a "Break"

Contributed by the Delaware Community Foundation

Today the Delaware Lifespan Respite Care Network officially launched their new website www.delrespite.org <<http://www.delrespite.org>>.

This new website will enable the nearly 160,000 Delawareans providing unpaid care for a relative, friend or loved one with the resources to find quality respite care. Respite care is the temporary relief or "break" provided for caregivers and families who are caring for those with disabilities, chronic or terminal illnesses or the elderly.

Easter Seals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore, the lead agency for the project, is overseeing the Delaware Lifespan Respite Care Network, a statewide initiative that will help Delaware caregivers who have been challenged by the lack of centralized information to find respite services, inadequate supply of quality respite care and lack of financial resources to pay for the care. The Network will be a service delivery system dedicated to helping people identify and secure respite care. Those involved in the collaboration include Easter Seals, the University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies, the State of Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities and Division for Developmental Disabilities Services, and Children & Families First, among others.

"The pressures of around-the-clock care for an individual with significant health or other challenges sometimes can be unbearable for families and loved ones. We hope this new website and the free information and referral service will offer meaningful relief to the thousands of family members, who, quite simply, need a break from continuous caregiving," said Bill Adami, President and CEO of Easter Seals.

In addition to their new website, the Network has launched a FREE Respite Information & Referral Service that is available by calling 888.610.5572 or 302.479.1690. Financial Assistance is also available to caregivers and others providing care by applying online, by downloading an application from the website or by calling either the toll-free or local telephone numbers.

Supported in part by a \$92,000 program grant from the Delaware Community Foundation as well as grants from the Longwood Foundation and Welfare Foundation, these are the initial efforts of the Network to provide support for First State caregivers.

About Easter Seals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore

Easter Seals offers a range of exceptional services for children and adults with disabilities and their families, including outpatient rehabilitation therapy, early intervention services for children, day services for adults with physical disabilities and cognitive disabilities and assistive technology services to increase the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. For more information about the programs and services offered at Easter Seals, visit www.deeasterseals.com <<http://www.deeasterseals.com>> or call 1.800.677.3800.

About the Delaware Community Foundation

The Delaware Community Foundation manages charitable funds for individuals, families, businesses and organizations, and distributes income from the funds as grants to humanitarian, educational,

health and cultural entities throughout the First State. With 970 funds, more than \$165 million in assets and annual grants of over \$12 million, the Foundation provides a lasting source of charitable funding to benefit Delawareans today and for generations to come. For more than 20 years the Foundation has been connecting people who care with the causes they care about, helping to make Delaware a better place to live and work. For information, please call 302.571.8004 or visit www.delcf.org <<http://www.delcf.org>> .
