



***For Immediate Release***

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## **Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut's Leading Edge CNG Initiative, Receives Award.**

Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut was recognized by the Northeastern Clean Cities Coalition for its leading edge Compressed Natural Gas ("CNG") Initiative. Easterseals is committed to reducing carbon emissions, the use of petroleum and promoting alternative fuels to power their vehicles. Further, Easterseals' steadfast commitment to the goals of the Clean Cities Program is evidenced by Easterseals' fleet of CNG vehicles which was made possible as a result of a State of Connecticut grant. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Easterseals' Norwich facility where the three compressor/12 pump fueling station and a 16 vehicle fleet of CNG powered Ford Transits and MV-1s were unveiled.

Senator Blumenthal's representative Michael Jordan presented Dr. Allen Gouse, President & CEO of Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut, with a Senate Citation in recognition of Easterseals' environmental leadership as evidenced by its CNG Initiatives. Mayor Hinchey also expressed her support and congratulations in regard to Easterseals' Environmental Initiatives and was in attendance with many others, including key personnel from Norwich Public Utilities .

Jeanne Kurasz from Norwich Public Utilities and a member of the NPU Clean Cities Coalition, presented Dr. Allen Gouse with Northeastern Clean Cities Coalition's Northern Star Award. This prestigious award is the highest recognition and requires Easterseals to be a stakeholder in their local Clean Cities Coalitions, including meeting a list of criteria showing their commitment to Clean Cities goals and initiatives. Easterseals is a model for other fleets in their efforts to use alternative fuels, advance internal policies that support ongoing efforts to promote emission reduction technologies, alternative fuel infrastructure in operations and support educational and outreach activities to other stakeholders.

Dr. Gouse, expressed his sincere appreciation for the funding that made Easterseals' CNG Initiatives a reality and the community partnerships and support by all those individuals and organizations that made today's announcement possible, including education and guidance from the NPU's Clean Cities Coalition. Further, Dr. Allen Gouse confirmed that Easterseals continues to look for improvements that are environmentally friendly and result in a benefit to their clients. Easterseals' fleet of CNG powered vehicles allows the transportation challenges often encountered by the individuals they serve to be addressed, while at the same time, reducing its carbon footprint and fuel costs.

*Easter Seals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut is an affiliate of Easter Seals, Inc., the leading nonprofit provider of services for individuals with physical and mental disabilities. For 68 years, Easter Seals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut has been providing comprehensive rehabilitation services, integrating medical rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation and educational services within a single delivery system. Standing as one of only two organizations to be accredited for both medical and vocational rehabilitation services through CARF, the recognized accrediting body for rehabilitation providers, the organization provides services to children, adults, seniors and veterans with acquired, physical, developmental and/or mental disabilities. Approximately 2,000 individuals are served each year.*

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*This purpose is to change the way the world defines and views disabilities by making profound, positive differences in people's lives every day.*