For Immediate Release

EASTER SEALS GREATER HOUSTON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY HELPS PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE WITH GRANT FROM THE COMCAST FOUNDATION

HOUSTON, TX (JUNE 26, 2019) -- Today, Easter Seals Greater Houston, announced that its’ national award winning BridgingApps Program received a $15,000 grant from the Comcast Foundation as part of the Comcast NBCUniversal Assistive Technology Grant Fund. This support will expand the available equipment used in its’ community technology labs with new equipment such as the TobiiDynavox EyeMobile Mini Classic Eye Gaze system that includes new software called Look To Learn and SnapCore First, and the AbleNet Latitude Mounting Arm that holds an iPad, Kindle or other tablet and mounts to beds, wheelchairs and tabletops. Both programs will benefit children and adults who need to use their eyes to operate computers to communicate and control their environment, which improves their educational, social and health outcomes. BridgingApps provides a bridge between low-cost, readily available technology and people with disabilities. In addition, the program provides training for teachers, doctors, therapists, family members, and caregivers of the person with a disability.

Easter Seals Greater Houston is one of 12 Easterseals affiliates across the country selected to receive a grant from the Comcast Foundation as part of the Comcast NBCUniversal Assistive Technology Grant Fund. Established in 2011, this fund supports technology programs and services that benefit children and adults, including veterans, living with disabilities. These technologies can vary from braille-equipped handheld computer systems to augmentative communication devices and everything in between.

“We thank Comcast NBCUniversal for its’ continued support of people with disabilities through investment in assistive technology solutions,” said Elise Hough, Easter Seals Houston CEO. “This grant fund gives us the ability to offer additional life-changing, innovative solutions to veterans and individuals with disabilities and their families.”

Since 2011, the Comcast NBCUniversal Assistive Technology Grant Fund has empowered an estimated 57,000 Americans living with disabilities by providing expanded assistive technology training and services. To date, Comcast NBCUniversal has provided nearly $35 million in cash and in-kind support to help Easterseals and to advance assistive technology solutions nationwide. Locally Comcast has supported Easter Seals Greater Houston for many years and has donated in excess of $75,000.

Assistive technology such as speech generating devices can assist individuals with disabilities to express themselves, have social interactions, and participate in their community to enhance their quality of life. Recently, an Easter Seals Houston client was effectively using technology to communicate. However, the school she attended did not support this device and the child was given a substitute unavailable to her speech therapist. With Comcast’s generous grant, Easter Seals will be able to purchase the communication device for the lab to continue to support this child –as well as many others–as she grows, develops and becomes more independent.
About Easter Seals Greater Houston
Easter Seals Greater Houston, Inc. is a non-profit corporation established to provide comprehensive services to veterans, children and adults with all types of disabilities and their family members. For more information, please visit www.eastersealshouston.org or on Facebook and Twitter (@eastersealshou).

About BridgingApps
BridgingApps.org, a program of Easter Seals Houston and 2014 winner of the Verizon Powerful Answers Award for education, provides the access, education, and resources needed to effectively use mobile, touch-based devices to help people with disabilities communicate, exceed educational goals, and reach their fullest potential. For more information, visit www.bridgingapps.org.

About the Comcast Foundation
The Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation invests in programs intended to have a positive, sustainable impact on the communities the company serves. Its mission is to empower communities to thrive by helping to provide access to technology, relevant digital skills and training, and inspiring volunteerism and service. More information about how Comcast supports the communities it serves is available at www.comcast.com/community.

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