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CFO of Easter Seals New Jersey Honored among New Jersey's Overall Top Financial Executives by NJBIZ

**CFO also Receives Award for Outstanding Leadership in Advocacy on Fiscal Issues
from NJ Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies**

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Easter Seals New Jersey is pleased to announce that Cheryl Marks Young has been named a finalist in the category of Large Non-Profit Organization in the 2012 NJBIZ CFO of the Year awards program. The award program, produced by NJBIZ, New Jersey's premiere business news publication, is sponsored by WithumSmith+Brown, PC, CIGNA, Financial Executives International, McCarter & English, Real Estate Strategies, Robert Half, and Wells Fargo.

The CFO of the Year awards program celebrates New Jersey's financial executives at all levels who contribute to the success of New Jersey's economic growth and stability. Finalists were selected in seven categories: Public Company, Private Company with Revenues over \$50MM, Private Company with Revenues up to \$50MM, Nonprofit CFO – Small (*50 or fewer employees*), Nonprofit CFO – Large (*50 or more employees*), Best Turnaround Specialist, and Best Growth Manager.

Easter Seals New Jersey is a leading non-profit provider of comprehensive services for individuals with developmental and physical disabilities, mental illness, and other special needs. Since 1948, Easter Seals New Jersey has provided community-based health and social services to people with disabilities and their families so they may live, learn, work and play in their communities with equality, dignity and independence.

Cheryl Marks Young has served as Chief Financial Officer of Easter Seals New Jersey since 2006. Prior to that time, she held financial leadership positions with Sesame Workshop and Viacom. Cheryl obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the Leonard N. Stern School of Business at New York University, and has received a Certification in Process Improvement from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and a Certificate in Treasury Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

At Easter Seals New Jersey, among her many financial achievements, most notable is Cheryl's leadership role in developing and improving business models which increased funding for services by \$22 million, enabling the organization to increase the number of consumers served by nearly 20%.

Cheryl also currently serves as the Co-Chair for the CFO Committee of the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addictions Agencies (NJAMHAA) from which she was also recently presented with the Outstanding Leadership in Advocacy on Fiscal Issues award, in recognition of her role in the initiative on NJAMHAA's rate-setting workgroup, which gathers data to determine what fee-for-service reimbursement rates should be - critical information that NJAMHAA will use as a basis for its proactive advocacy to the state on these rates.

"The dedicated work and successes achieved by Cheryl have fundamentally allowed life-changing work to flourish year after year for thousands of individuals in need," says Brian Fitzgerald, President and CEO of Easter Seals New Jersey. "She has also served as a consultant and advisor to other Easter Seals affiliates across the nation by sharing her expertise in cash management, financial systems and financial leadership. Moreover, several state associations and provider organizations seek her advice and counsel."

“Cheryl has proven to be one of the key success determinants in our Organization, and others by achieving and sustaining fiscal stability. Finance is a critical part of the anatomy of any organization, but for a nonprofit especially, it is the essential organ that enables any kind of progress,” adds Fitzgerald.

An in depth on-camera interview with Cheryl Marks Young was conducted by CFO Studios which “draws on the best of new and traditional media to promote New Jersey and New York area CFOs and finance executives as business and strategy thought-leaders”. The interview will be aired online in the future at www.cfostudio.com.

About Easter Seals New Jersey

The mission of Easter Seals New Jersey is to enable individuals with disabilities or special needs, and their families, to live, learn, work and play in their communities with equality, dignity and independence. A leading non-profit provider of comprehensive services for individuals with developmental disabilities including autism, physical disabilities, mental illness and other special needs, our services have been geared toward helping individuals remove obstacles along their path toward independence and full community-integration since 1948.

Easter Seals is committed to creating solutions and providing programs that produce tangible results in the lives of thousands of families in New Jersey. For more information on Easter Seals New Jersey and its statewide disability services, please contact us at 732-257-6662, or visit on-line at www.eastersealsnj.org or www.facebook.com/eastersealsnj.

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