

# Easter Seals Eastern Pennsylvania 2009 Wall of Fame Recognition Awards

## Generosity and Leadership in Support of Easter Seals



Dr. Gary Canner and Dick and Connie Bashore — recipients of the 2009 Wall of Fame Recognition Award.

**Dr. Gary C. Canner** is a prominent orthopedic surgeon practicing through Berkshire Orthopedic Associates. Although he has an extremely busy practice he makes time to volunteer at Easter Seals Eastern Pennsylvania one Friday morning every month.

Dr. Canner has been volunteering at Easter Seals for approximately 30 years. During that time, he has treated over 1,000 families through approximately 3,600 scheduled appointments. Without his commitment to Easter Seals and the children, many families would have to travel outside the area to be treated. Dr. Gary Canner cares deeply for the children in our community and because of him Easter Seals is able to provide treatment to these children.

**Dick and Connie Bashore** always knew about Easter Seals but it was not until their personal experience with the premature birth of their daughter, Michele, that they REALLY learned about Easter Seals. It wasn't long before the two of them became involved with board work and tag-teamed the chairing of the Easter Seals Board of Directors. Dick really involved himself with the administrative side – going on to serve Easter Seals at the state level. For Connie, it was hands-on involvement with programs that captured her heart.

Back in the mid 70's, Early Intervention programs as such, did not exist -- neither did Inclusion nor Mainstreaming. These things evolved. The Bashores, along with a core group of parents and Easter Seals staff, advocated for these programs. Through a Junior League grant, they visited classrooms to help typical kids learn how to interact with special needs children.

The Wall of Fame Awards honor individuals in Berks County who have given their time, energy and philanthropy in support of Easter Seals programs and services. Awardees are selected by a group of peers, community leaders and the Easter Seals organization.

### **SPECIAL NOTE TO EDUCATORS:**

#### **Free Tool Helps Teachers Raise Disability Awareness**

Elementary school educators now have a new, free teaching tool to help their young students learn about children and adults with disabilities. Easter Seals has launched an online version of its award-winning disability awareness curriculum, FRIENDS WHO CARE®.

“Easter Seals developed this resource for teachers and parents to educate children about their peers with disabilities and foster greater inclusion in our classrooms and on our playgrounds,” says Patricia Wright, Easter Seals national director of autism services.

FRIENDS WHO CARE® is designed to help children better understand what it means and how it feels to be a young person with a disability. This interactive educational program gives students the opportunity to learn what is involved when someone has a disability and how kids with disabilities adapt to live life, go to school, make friends and play.

Parents and teachers can access and download FRIENDS WHO CARE® by going to [www.easterseals.com/friendswhocare](http://www.easterseals.com/friendswhocare). Originally developed in 1990, FRIENDS WHO CARE® has been significantly updated re-introducing with support from the Friendly Ice Cream Corporation. Over 25 years, Friendly's has raised more than \$25.8 million for Easter Seals.