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**Easterseals Wisconsin Marks Third Year of Grant Supporting Veteran Farmers**

*The nonprofit has served more than 100 veterans and their families through its bi-annual Veterans Family Camp*

(MADISON, Wis.) – Easterseals Wisconsin is in its final year of the SDA 2501 grant, supporting veterans who are also farmers. Over three years, the program has engaged more than 100 farmers, including 10 veteran mentees, and provided resources like peer learning, niche marketing classes and connections to services such as succession planning and financial counseling through the Wisconsin Farm Center.

This initiative, in partnership with UW-Extension Services, the Farmer Veteran Coalition and the Wisconsin Farm Center, has helped historically underserved farmers including military veterans, gain access to critical USDA programs and services.

“The impact of this grant has been profound,” Easterseals Wisconsin Director of FARM and Vocational Services Jeff Kratochwill said. “We’ve been able to connect veteran farmers with essential resources that can transform their livelihoods, ensuring they have the tools to succeed in the agricultural industry.”

Even after the SDA 2501 grant concludes, Easterseals Wisconsin remains committed to serving military veterans who are farmers, continuing to provide essential support and resources through other programs.

One is through its Veterans Family Camp, a bi-annual event that provides veterans and their families with a free, relaxing weekend getaway. This program, supported by Serve Wisconsin through AmeriCorps resources, has served veterans from Wisconsin and surrounding states since 2009-10. The most recent program year saw 21 veterans and 67 family members attending, representing all military branches. The next session will take place April 25-27, 2025.

"Serve Wisconsin is proud to provide AmeriCorps resources to support Veterans Family Camp, helping families reconnect when veterans return home or, in tragic circumstances, heal from

trauma, injury, or loss,” Serve Wisconsin Executive Director Jeanna Duffy said. “AmeriCorps members are integral in fostering these crucial bonds and offering support to families in need.”

For more information about the SDA 2501 grant program or Veterans Family Camp, please visit <https://www.eastersealswisconsin.com/programs-services/farm-vocational-services/>.

**About Easterseals Wisconsin**

For nearly 100 years, Easterseals Wisconsin has provided services that help children and adults with disabilities gain greater independence. Easterseals Wisconsin’s primary services – vocational rehabilitation, respite services, camping and recreation, information and referral, and public education – benefit close to 10,000 individuals with disabilities and their families each year throughout Wisconsin.