

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elise Hough

713-446-0585

[EHough@eastersealshouston.org](mailto:EHough@eastersealshouston.org)

**MacKenzie Scott Provides Easter Seals of Greater Houston a Gift As Part of Transformational Support of Easter Seals National and 21 Easter Seals Affiliates Across the Country**

15 December 2020, Houston, TX – Author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott announced today that she has made a gift to Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc. as one of 21 Easter Seals Affiliates from across the country to benefit from Scott’s philanthropy, in addition to its National Office, to support life-changing services and powerful advocacy for the one in four Americans living with disability today.

Scott signed the Giving Pledge in 2019 and has since donated to more than 100 nonprofits working in areas of interest to her, from racial justice and LGBTQ equality to climate change and global health. In reference to the latest round of gifts in 2020, all beneficiaries have been selected, Scott says, for their leadership’s “track record of effective management and significant impact in their areas of expertise.” Scott continues, “I gave each organization a contribution and encouraged them to spend it on whatever they believe best serves their efforts.” Her most recent efforts includes 384 new organizations including Easter Seals Houston. [https://medium.com/@mackenzie\\_scott/384-ways-to-help-45d0b9ac6ad8](https://medium.com/@mackenzie_scott/384-ways-to-help-45d0b9ac6ad8)

Ms. Scott has said, “I recommend Easterseals and the other organizations I’ve supported to anyone similarly excited by the idea of empowering leaders well-positioned to accelerate progress. Every one of them is tackling complex challenges that will require sustained effort over many years, while simultaneously addressing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Every one of them would benefit from more allies looking to share wealth of all types and sizes, including money, volunteer time, supplies, advocacy, publicity, networks and relationships, collaboration, encouragement, and trust.”

Founded in 1946, Easter Seals Greater Houston, a member of the Easterseals Network, is one of the oldest and most efficient charities in Texas – with over \$.91 of every dollar used to provide direct client services. The agency serves more than 14,000 families in Houston and the surrounding 15 counties each year. “Ms. Scott’s support represents a transformational gift for Easter Seals,” said Elise Hough, CEO of Easter Seals Greater Houston. “On a national level, the need for our services continues to explode. When faced with an almost overwhelming demand for services, it is difficult to focus on future needs and opportunities. Ms. Scott’s generosity and Easterseals National CEO, Angela Williams’ leadership, will allow us to strengthen the Easter Seals network of affiliates, address our local waiting lists for services and invest in innovative services that support the physical, mental, emotional, cognitive, financial and social health of veterans, people with disabilities and their families.”

Wealthy individuals including Warren Buffett, Bill and Melinda Gates as well as Reed Hastings and Patty Quillin have also signed the Giving Pledge, a project that encourages billionaires to promise to give away at least half of their wealth throughout their lifetimes.

Ms. Scott asked a team of nonprofit advisers to help her identify organizations that have directly helped marginalized groups. “I began work to complete my pledge with the belief that my life had yielded two assets that could be of particular value to others: the money these systems helped deliver to me, and a conviction that people who have experience with inequities are the ones best equipped to design solutions. The work of giving away more than half of my fortune will last for years,” she said.

###

### **About Mackenzie Scott**

384 Way To Help Press Release [https://medium.com/@mackenzie\\_scott/384-ways-to-help-45d0b9ac6ad8](https://medium.com/@mackenzie_scott/384-ways-to-help-45d0b9ac6ad8)

### **About Easter Seals Greater Houston**

Easter Seals Greater Houston, Inc., a United Way Agency, is a non-profit corporation established to provide comprehensive services to individuals of all ages with all types of disabilities and veterans as well as their families. As the only local organization providing a broad range of comprehensive services to individuals and families affected by disabilities, Easter Seals of Greater Houston operates: Early Childhood Intervention; Respite Services; Toy/Tech & Play Groups including nationally award winning BridgingApps™ ([bridgingapps.org](http://bridgingapps.org)) ; High School/High Tech; Home of Your Own; Therapy Services; The Caroline School, A Day Program; Camps and Case Management; Transition Services; Adult Services, and Veterans Services. For more information about Easter Seals Greater Houston, visit [www.eastersealshouston.org](http://www.eastersealshouston.org) or visit us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (@eastersealshou).

### **About Easterseals**

Easterseals, one of the nation’s leading nonprofit services providers and advocates for people with disabilities, is committed to advancing access to and equity in healthcare, employment, and education for children and adults with disabilities including veterans and seniors, as well as their families and caregivers. Its national network of Affiliates in communities nationwide serve 1.5 million people annually through high-quality programs including early intervention; autism services; medical rehabilitation including physical, occupational, and speech therapies; workforce development; behavioral health services; adult day services, and much more.