



# By Abby's Mom

Our journey with Edmarc has been one of fight and survival. I cannot imagine the past seven years without having Edmarc involved in our lives. They have been there the whole way through, both for home health care and hospice. We are so thankful.

Our now-11-year-old daughter, Abby, started with Edmarc in 2011 at the age of

four and a half when she was diagnosed with leukemia, specifically PH+ALL, with a 20% survival rate. As with any cancer diagnosis, we were wading through unknown waters and terrified. Once she was able to be discharged to home, we met our first Edmarc nurse, who made everything seem conquerable. I knew Edmarc's nurses were

always a phone call away for a question or a need for a visit. As time went on, anytime the doctors wanted to keep her in the hospital, I reminded them that we always had Edmarc available. What a blessing. We could do labs at home, access/de-access at home, give Abby IV medications and nutrition and do vital sign checks at home. So many things that allowed us to avoid a trip to the hospital, saving both time and keeping Abby free from the exposure to all the germs hospitals have to offer.

Throughout these years, the Edmarc nurses and staff have taught me so many things. Not just the hundreds of medical things I've



This is what family means

us! Those things like the incredible Edmarc

holidays that make life feel so good. My girls

look back at the Santa visits with such great joy.

Abby's medical journey has been a long

one, with her initial diagnosis in February 2011,

picked up along the way, but that it's all about communication, being an advocate for Abby, and the confidence they have given me that allows me to do so many things at home. Looking back at our journey, I have learned to do so very much. Between teaching us, being there and spoiling Also Inside

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traveling in March for a potential bone marrow transplant, and the return home in June to continue treatment here because a trial drug worked, spending three weeks of every month in the hospital—some planned, many unplanned—for 18 months after the diagnosis, including many stays in the PICU, frequently being discharged on IV medications.

Abby reached remission, but treatment is long. After the first 18 months, Abby had one year of maintenance chemo, then that golden year ... school year 2013-14. Abby ran, played and attended school full time. She had sleepovers, played soccer and she was on the swim team...all those things that a seven-year-old should be doing. We look back at that year with so much joy. Unfortunately it all came to a screeching halt when Abby relapsed seven days into the next school year. Abby's cancer was back.

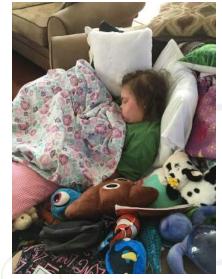
Our journey became so very hard that day, September 17, 2014. Abby was in Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) for two months straight before boarding a life flight to the bone marrow hospital, close to our family. While prepping for transplant, it was discovered that Abby was in heart failure. Just one more thing to add to the long list of issues she already had due to prolonged chemo with the 30 months of prior treatment. But with the prior concoction of meds, we were able to bring her out of heart failure and prepare her for more chemo and radiation, and for the ultimate gift of a day, January 29, 2015, the day of her bone marrow transplant.

Abby received donated bone marrow from an unrelated 10/10 match from a young man in Germany. We are forever grateful for this gentleman. The bone marrow transplant was the means to the end of Abby's cancer. The hope that she would remain cancer free forever. But transplants come with their own side effects and issues, issues that tried to take Abby's life last summer in July of 2016.

In 2015, Abby remained an inpatient at the transplant hospital for over three months after the transplant, battling Graft Vs Host Disease (GVHD) and infection. Once she was discharged, it was a constant back and forth to the hospital. Finally, in August of 2015, we were cleared to come home. In transitioning home, Abby's GVHD began to take over; she was in the local PICU and again flown to her new, local transplant hospital that was taking over her continued care. I cannot keep track of all the times and days; it's exhausting to recount it all. We were able to get Abby stable again, doing IV meds, IV nutrition and pain control every day, along with around 15 other medications to support other things. It was a lot. We eventually got Abby home. Of course it came with many trips weekly to the hospital and visits from Edmarc nurses. But home.

Spring 2016 brought great issues. As Abby's body was tired of fighting and had so many medicines on board, it gave up. Abby was in complete kidney failure and other systems were giving up as well. We tried everything we could, but she ended up on continuous dialysis for five weeks. Then we had "the meeting." That meeting with her transplant hospital







and PICU doctors when they told us there wasn't any more they could do. It was time to start thinking about when to take her off dialysis and let her go. A conversation no parent ever wants to have with anyone, a conversation that many of our fellow Edmarc families I know have had; I so wish for a reversal of circumstances for each of them.

We brought Abby back to our home hospital. They agreed with the prognosis and said their best guess was that Abby would live from four to 48 hours. I remember our Edmarc nurses coming to the hospital to help coordinate her care at home. We had numerous IV's running that would continue to keep her comfy. Abby survived the ambulance trip home on July 15, 2016. I remember sitting at our dining room table picking out a funeral home with Nurse Laurie. My husband even started writing her eulogy. Edmarc nurses came every day along with family and friends who gathered to say goodbye.

As I am writing this today, Abby is here with us!! She is in the other room doing schoolwork. Doctors and nurses do not know

why or how she is with us, but she is. It has been so many long months since last summer, filled with obstacles and a lot of hard work, but her kidneys are fully functioning, her marrow works properly, she is walking independently...and she is supported by just about 10 medications a day. A huge change from before. Truly a miracle. We are so blessed! Am I scared about Abby's future? Of course I am terrified. But we can continue to just take it day by day, and I know Edmarc will always be there by our side.

Among our favorite Edmarc memories: Abby screaming through a dressing change while sitting and watching the Super Bowl with Mimi; countless visits over the past two years from Nurse Kim, Santa, Mrs. Claus, and holiday carolers coming to our house; Abby getting her first bike; the wonderful Thanksgiving meals provided; Easter baskets and so much more. For everything beyond medical care that Edmarc has done for us, supporting our family both medically and emotionally – we are forever grateful.

If you are a donor, sponsor or volunteer, thank you very much! Your money and time do great things—it is a lifesaving gift to us. Fellow Edmarc families of past and present, our hearts go out to you. To the Edmarc staff, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us through Abby's journey. Your work is that of saints and angels.

Love,

Patty, Joe, Abby, Maggie and Emily

# C. 20 Camp M

a Very Special Time for Edmarc Families



This past August, Edmarc hosted its annual family bereavement camp, Camp M.A.G.I.C. Camp M.A.G.I.C., which stands for My Active Grieving Instills Courage, provides a weekend for families to come together and share their special memories and experiences with one another. This year, during the last weekend in August, 14 families came together in Chesapeake, Virginia, at Triple R Ranch.

Throughout the weekend, families took part in activities that promoted healing, connection, and the sharing of the special memories and experiences they had with their loved ones. Families were also able to take part in a variety of outdoor activities that included trail riding, laser tag, canoeing, and the opportunity to experience Triple R's wonderful petting zoo. Everyone also had a lot of fun using colored water balloons to express their feelings, especially when a few "accidentally" hit our volunteer canvas holders.

As the sun set, families came together to hang Mason Jar lanterns they had decorated in memory of their loved ones. No camp is complete without a campfire, so we ended the day by the fire surrounded with music, family, new friends, and, naturally, s'mores.

Our hope is that Camp M.A.G.I.C. will continue to be a place where families can come together and share in the laughter, smiles, anger, and tears that we all experience along the journey of grief.

We are extremely thankful for our Camp M.A.G.I.C. sponsor, the Millers Foundation, as well as our volunteer photographers Daniel Jarman, Daniel George, Barbara Sauder, and Jeanne Catalano. We also want to thank Sparrow Hayne for providing some amazing music during our campfire and memorial ceremony, and Lauren Blanchard with gotCUREage for providing our camp T-shirts. Without their generosity, we would not be able to provide and capture the amazing experiences that Camp M.A.G.I.C. provides.



# FORE EDMARC, FORE KIDS

Warming up at the tees.

# The 21st Annual Edmarc Charity Golf Classic was festive, fun and a great success!

On August 17th, our friends from the Edmarc Golf Committee coordinated the 21st Annual Edmarc Charity Golf Classic. It was a glorious day at Cypress Creek Golfers Club in Smithfield, and spirits were high as friends and business associates gathered to raise money for our kids.

The Edmarc Golf Classic is truly special. It is different from other charity events. It is not just about the money; we have no celebrity spokesperson to rally the community. We rely on the dedication of committee members – Event Chair Jeff Boynton, Joe Ruteki, Tiffany Whitfield, Susan Blake, Blake Boykin, Kathy O'Connor, Asa Lowe, Frank West, Kristen Jones, Shantel Thomas and Debbie Stitzer-Brame — all of whom gave their time and effort to make the event both fun and festive for the golfers and everyone else who participated.

In past years, we have been fortunate enough to have an Edmarc family attend the event. This brings a real presence that puts a face to those who benefit directly from the funds raised during the tournament.

This year, Joan and Allen Hogge, co-founding family of Edmarc, once again shared a bit of history and focused on the importance of events like the golf tournament and what they mean to the agency; their comments inspired everyone present.

Once again this year we had the good fortune to have our dear friends with Elizabeth River Tunnels step up as our premier sponsor. First Team Auto was our Partnering Sponsor.

Joining this list of our generous and deeply appreciated sponsors were: Lifenet Health, Q.E.D.Systems, Inc., Dominion Enterprises, Cameron Chemicals, Virginia Paving, Griffin Dewatering, Sertoma Club of Norfolk, Sitework South, Joan and Allen Hogge along with Arthur "Bud" Brame, as our Golf Cart Sponsors. Pomoco was our Hole in One Sponsor. Geoquip sponsored the Par 3 Contest. Eure Rentals was once again our Golf Ball Sponsor. In addition, we want to say thank you to our beverage sponsor, Herb Haneman with Western Branch Diesel and CTR Corporation.

Once again a big thank you to Old Point National Bank for sponsoring the sound system and staff for the event.

We were also fortunate to have Baxter Simmons of Baxter's Sports Lounge who provided a fabulous meal at the awards dinner.

There were some very special items generously donated for the raffle and silent auction prizes, and top-notch prize packages were presented to the top finishers.

The day's beautiful memories were captured by our dear friend and talented photographer, Bob Harper.

When all was said and done at the end of the day, \$35,000 had been raised for Edmarc and our children! Heartfelt thanks to all the committee members, volunteers, sponsors and all who participated in this year's event -- you helped make it the best ever. The Edmarc Charity Golf Classic is truly "FORE OUR KIDS."

Mark your calendar for Thursday, August 16, 2018 for next year's tournament.









# YORKTOWN ROTARY WEEKEND – A very special weekend for Edmarc families

Every year the Yorktown Rotary hosts and sponsors an incredible event for Edmarc families called the Yorktown Rotary Weekend. This event allows the families a chance to attend a mini vacation in the Yorktown area with some very exciting and fun filled activities planned over the course of the weekend!



This year was no exception, and so once again Father's Day Weekend, June 16-18, Edmarc families set off to enjoy this very special weekend. The weekend kicked off with a meet and greet picnic on Friday evening that included grilling out! The families spent the weekend at the beautiful Duke of York Hotel, right on the water. Saturday activities included a family fishing trip and an evening designed to give both parents and kids some special time, with a pizza party for the latter and an adult night out to dinner for the parents at a local restaurant. Sunday included some lounging time at the pool before families headed home.

The entire cost of the weekend is covered by the Rotary, and is truly a treat for all in attendance! Everyone had a blast! A huge thank you to the Yorktown Rotary, for once again providing a very memorable weekend for our Edmarc families!!





## GOLF IS A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN JUST A GAME TO EDMARC AND ITS FAMILIES

Golf legend Arnold Palmer once quipped, "Golf is a game of inches. The most important are the six inches between your ears."

But, to Edmarc, the game of golf is measured by increasing awareness of the need for pediatric hospice and palliative care. Over the years, charity golf events through associations, foundations, businesses and Edmarc have raised significant support to help fund the many programs Edmarc offers children and families throughout our region.

This year we give thanks to Blue Goose/ Master's Tournament, the Naval Civilian Manager's Association, LPI and Edmarc's very own Charity Golf Classic for help to see that every child, along with their siblings and parents, receives the very best care possible.

Heartfelt thanks to all the golfers, sponsors and planning committee members who made each of these events a shear success. Let's TEE up for next year!



## YMCA CAMP SILVER BEACH, The Portsmouth YMCA and Edmarc

The best partnership ever!

These three teamed up on the 8th of July, and turned the Portsmouth YMCA into a Carnival for a Day! Our dear friend, Richard Wentz, CEO of the "Y," graciously donated the much needed air conditioned space. The Magic Bus pulled up in front and 50 youth volunteers and camp counselors poured out with arms filled with the day's activities. There were games, prizes, nail painting, a craft corner, snacks and food galore.

Camp Silver Beach was a HUGE success! Heartfelt thanks to all who helped make this an event our families will be talking about for many months to come.

### OH THE FUN WE ALL HAD AT SPRING FLING!!

On Saturday, the first of April, KPMG and Chick-Fil-A of Frederick Boulevard sponsored another amazing Spring Fling for Edmarc families at The Edmarc London House. Our wonderful volunteers created one-of-a-kind games for the families to enjoy. The Portsmouth Police, Fire, and Rescue, and the U.S. Coast Guard all came out to play and brought trucks, cars and boats for our kids to climb on and explore!

Wags, our Edmarc mascot, and the Easter Bunny both made a special appearance during the Egg Hunt. All the eggs were

provided by our loving community, and students from Nansemond River High School came out to hide the eggs and help the kids find them. Sarah Lovell,



generously donated her time to capture some beautiful memories that we are sure our families will cherish for years to come.

Our thanks and appreciation to all who made this special event possible. It was an AWESOME day full of fun and family time!







#### FOURTH ANNUAL EDMARC POKER RUN RAISES \$4,700

When members of the Bayside Chapter of the Harley Owners' Group put their resources and hearts together, they made a huge difference for Edmarc. On a sunny September 9th, people enjoyed a scenic ride with Edmarc as one of the stops along the way.

The ride concluded with an after party at Bayside Harley-Davidson complete with awards, live music by the Gator Head Band, a 50/50 raffle, raffle prizes and tasty refreshments. Thanks to all of the sponsors and Bayside Harley-Davidson, the chapter more than doubled the amount that they raised last year! Their hard work in engaging so much community support helps us spread Edmarc's message and helps us provide the valuable services that we do to children and families. Thank you Bayside HOG!







# This Year's United Way Day of Caring Cleaned Up!!

Our Thanks to TowneBank, Fairlead Integrated, and BB&T for their hard work and community spirit!

It's been another year, and we have had another successful United Way Day of Caring in the books. This year, TowneBank, Fairlead Integrated, and BB&T all pitched in to help Edmarc and our families. TowneBank came out in full force to deep clean our building including vacuuming and shampooing our carpets, cleaning baseboards, dusting blinds, and many other odds and ends that needed to be done. Fairlead Integrated helped families all day with a group doing yardwork and pruning bushes at one family's home and another group cleaning gutters, power washing, and replacing windows at another home. BB&T sent out a mass of volunteers to help clean, declutter, and organize yet another family's garage.

We greatly appreciate these volunteers for their willingness to come out and serve their community, and their employers for allowing them to do so. It was amazing to see the community spirit spread throughout Edmarc and our families that day.



THE ANNUAL EDMARC PICNIC CONSENSUS? A SUPER TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

On a warm summer Sunday, June 4th, the Rotary Club of Oyster Point hosted and sponsored Edmarc's Annual Picnic. Not only did they provide a delicious barbeque lunch, but also gave each of our families one-day passes to the Virginia Living Museum! Special thanks to our motorcycle friends, Joe the Clown and Skippy's SnoBalls for generously donating their time and services to make the day really special our families had an AMAZING time!!





# CHARGE IT!!! DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN CHARGE YOUR DONATION TO EDMARC?

Edmarc gladly accepts donations made with a Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Diners Club card, or through the DONATE button on our website. Call our office at (757) 967-9251 and charge your donation right over the phone! We'll mail you a copy of the charge slip showing the amount of your contribution with an acknowledgement letter. Minimum donation by credit card is \$25.00. Edmarc thanks you in advance for your kindness and generosity!

# HOPE SOCIETY BUILDS A FOUNDATION FOR EDMARC'S FUTURE

How do you want to be remembered for years to come? What kind of legacy do you want to leave? By including Edmarc in your estate plans, you can make a world of difference to our children and families in the future. You will ensure that care is available to those who need it most for many generations to come. We launched the Hope Society for those who want to be recognized for taking this vital, caring step. Some people who have Edmarc in their estate plans wish to remain anonymous.

Either way — we are extremely grateful for this group of people who care so much about our future.

Just recently we were touched by someone who cared about Edmarc for years. She first began as a volunteer wrapping Christmas presents for our families. Next she began giving annual gifts. As her parting gift, she left Edmarc, along with a few other charities dear to her heart, a gift in her will; we just received that gift in September. Don't think you have to have a large estate to make a difference. Every bit helps, and it's easy to ask your attorney or financial advisor about including Edmarc in your will. Make a gift that will last long after you're gone and join our Hope Society!

# AT PEACE BY PIECE A WARM AND CARING UNDERSTANDING OF GRIEF IS SHARED

## One family's perspective ...

After we suddenly lost my husband and the father of my five year old daughter, Lauren, we were lost in a deep sadness, our worlds turned upside down. After a few weeks, I decided not to attend my daughter's kindergarten open house because I was planning to go with my husband. But he was gone. A few weeks later I went to the school to register my daughter for kindergarten and explain to them why I hadn't attended the open house. One of the secretaries was nice enough to talk to me about Edmarc and how they helped her when she lost a loved one. She gave me a pamphlet with Edmarc's information. This was the first time I have ever heard of Edmarc. When I contacted them, I learned about their grief support group for children named 'Peace by Piece." I thought this could be a great program for Lauren, but it also turned out to be a great place for me.

I thought Peace by Piece would be a great place for Lauren because she could meet and share her emotions and feelings with other children. She could be in a place where other children also wished their mommies, daddies, brothers or sisters could come back, but where they knew this wish would never be granted.

Everyone in Peace by Piece welcomed us with open arms and open hearts. Lauren looks forward to the meetings on Thursdays to see her new friends, the therapy dogs and everyone else. I am very happy to see how Peace by Piece is helping Lauren cope with her feelings about the loss of her daddy by honoring and treasuring the good memories of us as a family.

Initially, I thought Peace by Piece could be a great program for Lauren, but it turned out to be a great place for me too. Even though God has blessed me with good friends on my path, I feel it is difficult for them to really understand how I feel in my grief. At times I felt very lonely. Peace by Piece has provided me with a safe and heartfelt place where people understand what I am going through every day. It is here that I learned that there is no right or wrong way to grieve, just what it feels right to me to honor, treasure and remember my husband. I also learned that, in order to take good care of my little girl, it is important that I take care of myself, including my emotions.

Without Peace by Piece, the journey of grieving the sudden death of my husband would have been much more difficult and lonely for Lauren and me. We are forever grateful to every member and volunteer of Edmarc and the Peace by Piece program. They may not know it, but, little by little, they are helping my daughter and me to restore peace in our hearts. In a way they have become a second family to us.













# With love, we remember

#### Charlotte P. (4/5/12-9/16/15)

Charlotte was a beautiful and amazing little girl who has a special place in the hearts of all who knew her. Though her time here was far too short, she touched the lives of so many. Charlotte was very rarely seen without a smile and was adored by all who had the privilege to meet her. She will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by her parents, Josh and Kelly; her siblings, Dani, Isabella, and Bailey and other family members and friends.

#### Dean F. (4/02/17-5/04/17)

Dean was a very special little baby who blessed the lives of his parents as well as the rest of us. Though his time here was very short, he brightened the lives of all those around him. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his parents, Chris and Regan, and numerous other family members and friends.

#### Caleb C. (10/08/09-5/16/17)

Caleb was wise beyond his short 7 years! He was always asking questions and wanting to be "in charge". His unwavering courage during his battle touched so many people in his short life. Caleb loved legos, beads, super heroes, the beach and fishing with his Dad. He was his mother's special "bud" and enjoyed the close bond they had. Caleb was an expert at rolling his eyes and letting you know just where you stood with him! He loved his younger brother but since Caleb was "in charge", he only allowed his brother to play with things he didn't want. This sweet boy was a fighter and will be deeply missed. He is lovingly remembered by his parents, brother-Connor, grandparents and a host of other family and friends.

#### Landon S. (12/10/04-6/06/17)

Landon was a brave, caring and fun young man who was truly a treasure to all who knew him. He loved dragons, art, Minecraft and Ramen noodles, but he will be remembered most for his huge smile and even bigger heart. He is lovingly remembered by his Mom, Jillian; his stepdad, Shawn; his baby brother, Shawn, Jr.; his grandparents, Pat and John, his Aunt Lauren and many other family members and friends.

#### Caleb H. (12/20/01-6/20/17)

Caleb was a quiet teenager known for his swagger among family and friends! His bright smile would melt anyone fortunate enough to be in his company. Even when his days were difficult, Caleb maintained a strength and attitude that reflected his sweet, loving spirit. He enjoyed going to school, Tesla cars and video games. His unwavering closeness with his family gave him the drive to take his journey as far as possible--beating incredible odds against him. Unfortunately, Caleb's body succumbed to his disease but his smile and spirit will live on in the hearts of all that knew him.

#### Ayden W. (9/23/09-6/24/17)

Ayden was a determined, silly, and lovable little guy who fought his battle with his disease like a true warrior. He loved to play video games with his brothers, cuddle with his Mom and watch sports with his Dad. He will be remembered with love by his parents, Charity and Adam and his brothers Gavin, Kaleb and Liham along with his grandparents and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

#### Charity S. (1/11/15-8/21/17)

Charity was a miraculous, bright-eyed, sweet and cuddly little girl who lived her life by her own rules, and beat the odds at every turn. She was well known by her "sprouts" (pigtails) and will be best remembered for the love and warmth that emanated from her. Her memory will be held in the hearts of her parents, Claudia and Chris; her sister, Morgan; her brother, Andrew along with numerous other family members and friends.

#### Hunter N. (7/06/16-6/26/17)

Hunter was a truly special and handsome little boy whose smile lit up a room. Even though he spent a lot of time in the hospital, Hunter's eyes and sweet personality melted the hearts of everyone that met him. Though the time with his loved ones was far too short, the impact he made was huge. He loved being outside with his Dad, was definitely a "Mama's Boy" (where he could usually be found being held or sleeping in her arms) and enjoyed being able to crawl and play with his John Deere toys. Hunter had an amazing family consisting of his parents, grandparents as well as other extended family members who surrounded him with tender, loving care. His memory will be deeply cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

#### Jacob B. (10/12/98-8/02/17)

Jacob was the sweetest warrior who fought a three-year battle with his disease with amazing grace and humor. It didn't matter how much pain he was in, he always had a smile for everyone. This teenager with a heart of gold adored his Mom, his brothers, loved video games, candy and laughing. He will be deeply and lovingly missed by so many.

#### Alisha G. (12/23/07-8/04/17)

Alisha was a witty, highly spirited nine-year-old who definitely fought her battle with a full quiver of courage. Alisha had her own unique personality and, with her beautiful eyes and smile, was able to get whatever she wanted. She enjoyed school and enjoyed making new friends. She was the 'quiet' one of her four siblings. According to her Mom, she could often be found playing by herself in her room. She enjoyed her 'alone' time. She had a distinctive attitude and was always fashionably dressed. She had a wonderful sense of humor and kept everyone guessing about what she might be going to say or do. Alisha will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her parents Daniel and Chamita, and by her sisters Yasmin, Makayla, Layla and Asia, along with her grandparents and a host of other family members and friends.

June M. (8/23/16-8/28/17) – Little "Juney Princess" was a stunning, lovable, cheerful little girl who captured the hearts of anyone lucky enough to find themselves in her company. She loved to be outside, to be held and snuggled and to sing and dance along with her favorite songs. Though her time here was far too short, her strength and bright blue eyes left lasting impressions on many. She will be deeply missed and cherished forever by her parents, Sterling and Cal, along with her grandparents, uncles, her aunt, and a wide number of other loved ones.

#### Adalyn K. (3/02/12-8/29/17)

"Addy" was a truly beautiful and special little girl with the sweetest of spirits. Her bravery and amazing strength was so evident in her battle with cancer. She loved Minions (especially "Bob"), doing puzzles with her sister, her favorite color was green and she loved watching movies! Addy was a movie spoiler though and enjoyed telling you what was going to happen before you could see it! She loved preschool and reading books with her family. She admired the wild horses in Corolla, NC when she would visit there for family vacations. Addy was a "Daddy's Girl" but she melted both of her parents into usually getting what she wanted! She will forever be remembered by her parents, Jessica and Bryan, sister Sadie, grandparents and countless others that followed her journey.

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## NEW IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Dr. Linda D. Pegram is a Pediatric Hematologist and Oncologist with Children's Specialty Group at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters (CHKD). She has served as the Assistant Medical Director of Edmarc Hospice for Children since 2007 and has served on the Board of Directors for Edmarc since 2006.

This past fall Dr. Pegram took over as Medical Director of Edmarc, when Dr. Ralph Northam began his full time campaign for Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. After serving as Edmarc's Medical Director for the past 18 years, he will move into an emeritus status on the board of directors.

Dr. Pegram is currently the physician leader of the Oncology Palliative Care Team at CHKD, which works in close conjunction with Edmarc Hospice for Children.

Dr. Pegram went to medical school at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill. She did her Pediatric Residency and Pediatric Hematology and Oncology fellowship training at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). She was on faculty at Duke University Medical Center prior to joining the faculty at CHKD.



Dr. Pegram loves traveling, sailing in the Chesapeake Bay, playing piano, listening to music and visiting with her family and friends. Her husband is Dr. David Dorofi, an Otolaryngologist, Head and Neck Surgeon at Ear, Nose and Throat, Ltd.

## GOING HOME TO IOWA ...

Yes, going home to Iowa for Shantel and her family is a good thing. However, we miss her more than words can say. It is her impeccable skills, commitment to Edmarc, reliability and positive

attitude we miss. I think we all agree that it's her infectious laugh that draws one to her, and that is what we will miss most especially. Each act, whether large or small, was done with Shantel's own style and precision. She will always have a home at Edmarc if she and her family ever move back to Hampton Roads.



# **Edmarc Staff**

Laurie Barbaro - Director of Clinical Services Abigail Gallene-Beaudoin - Medical Social Worker Kathryn "Rosie" Brooks - Assistant Director Teresa Black - Patient Care Coordinator Adelaide Clemens - Community Resource Coordinator Robert Ericson - Patient Care Coordinator Madalyn George-Thieman - Patient Care Coordinator Mary Helen Hilton - Director of Development Dawn Jennings - Patient Care Coordinator Kristen Jones - Development Associate Maggie Lewis - Medical Records Clerk/ Receptionist Alicia Miller - Patient Care Coordinator Debbie Stitzer-Brame - Executive Director Kimberly Towles - Patient Care Coordinator Brittney Twisdale - Medical Social Worker Sara Zandford - Bereavement Program Director

## PLEASE MEET MARY HELEN HILTON, EDMARC'S NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Joining the Edmarc team as the new Development Director on September 5th was an exciting day for me. Getting the chance to step into a new position versus replacing someone is a great opportunity. Edmarc has been delivering incredible care to children and families in need for nearly 40 years, and we hope to help even more families. Achieving that goal means we need even more support, and that is why I am here. I look forward to joining the team already in place so that together we can achieve great things for Edmarc's future.



Personally, I love being part of an organization that provides hope. As Desmond Tutu has been quoted saying, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." Coming to work every day knowing I'm a part of something that is providing hope to families who need it inspires me. Whether we are providing hope

for the journey that leads to a healthy discharge for a child who's been battling a life-threatening illness or we're providing hope for a family to pick up the pieces after losing a beloved child, we are here for our families to make the world a better place.

I'll share just a little bit about me. I spent the first part of my career in marketing communications working for a variety of organizations that include the University of Vermont, Ferguson Enterprises and The Mariners' Museum. More recently I moved into the development field and worked for St. Mary's Home, another local nonprofit with an amazing mission, for nearly 12 years. My family background is in eastern North Carolina, but my father was in the Army and we moved many times while I was growing up. My husband and I moved to Hampton Roads in 1995, and we now live in Great Bridge with two sons and two dogs. I look forward to meeting all of you - our supporters, volunteers, friends and families!



# MEET RHONDA

My name is Rhonda Tucker-Williamson and I am a second year

student at Norfolk State University pursuing a Masters level degree in Clinical Social Work. I am a retired second class Petty Officer of the United States Navy and I spend my free time swimming and snuggling with my fur babies. I am a Piece by Peace volunteer group facilitator, and have facilitated grief counseling groups in various nursing homes in Virginia Beach. I will be here assisting and learning with Abby and Brittney through May of 2018 and look forward to participating in Edmarc events. I anticipate graduation on May 5th 2018.



## AMIE BATY JOINS THE EDMARC FOUNDATION



Amie is a Research Analyst and Assistant Portfolio Manager at Wilbanks, Smith and Thomas. In this role, she serves on the firm's investment committee and is responsible for investment research, account management and client relationships on the wealth management side of the business. Prior to joining Wilbanks, Smith and Thomas, Amie worked at Waypoint

Advisors, a research investment firm in Norfolk, conducting research on a variety of asset classes.

Amie was born and raised in Franklin, Virginia. She earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a minor in Economics from Longwood College, and an MBA from Old Dominion University. She also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and is a member of CFA Virginia. Amie is also a member of the LEAD Hampton Roads class of 2013. She enjoys tennis, running and spending time with her husband and two daughters.

# TAKE ACTION: These are the ways you can help Edmarc!

- Like Edmarc on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/EDMARC516
- Help us expand our reach on social media. Share our posts!
- Do you shop at Kroger? Register your Kroger Plus Card online and designate Edmarc! You will raise money for our organization while you shop. https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards
- Designate Edmarc as your Rite Aid KidsCents charity at www.kidscents.com with your Rite Aid Wellness card member number. Then all you have to do is shop and round up!
- Edmarc is a certified United Way Agency. Designate Edmarc during your company's United Way campaign.
- Want to volunteer at Edmarc? Email volunteer@edmarc.org for more information!
- Is your family or company hosting a party? Think about raising money for your favorite charity, Edmarc, in lieu of gifts!



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## AN INTRO FROM ADDI, EDMARC'S NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATOR

After being an Edmarc volunteer, I am excited to be on staff here as the new Community Resource Coordinator. Over the five years I have been in the field, hospice has become my passion, and now that I am also able to work with children and serve them and their families, I feel at home.

I hail from Dallas, Texas, where I studied Sign Language Interpreting. I moved to Portsmouth a little over 3 years ago and have been slowly falling in love



with its historic charm and sense of community. Outside of work, my life is filled with family time, cuddling with my four dogs, playing guitar and piano, gathering eggs from our chickens, and planning for my upcoming nuptials.

I am thrilled to be here at Edmarc and have been welcomed with open arms by the staff. This is going to be an awesome journey.



# Edmarc's Volunteer Spotlight Shines on SHARON SUITTON, Volunteer of the Year

"In July of 2015 I retired and found myself like an abandoned boat adrift on the water, with no sense of direction or purpose. Fortunately, a friend suggested I volunteer at Edmarc, since I was familiar with their mission and the services they provide for families with life-limiting children."

This is how Sharon came to be a volunteer at Edmarc, and since that retirement summer, she has become a staple here. Our staff and families are truly blessed to have her support. Whether it is answering phones or stuffing mass mailings, sweating in the heat of our golf tournament or sponsoring families for the holidays, Sharon generously and graciously serves in whatever capacity she is able. She brings a sweet spirit to the office and any event she attends.

Thank you, Sharon, for all that you do and for being such a willing and special part of the Edmarc team!

In Memory of Edmarc Hospice for Children gratefully acknowledges the outpouring of support in memory of family members and friends. February 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017

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### HAPPY GOODBYES

We at Edmarc rejoice that Sha'nyah H. , Andrew T. , Naomi B. , Cody 0., Mia C., Jonathan R-A., Camden L., Kira W, Kaleb V., Kyle T., Jatevia A., Vivian M., Collin S., Carson T., and Latheena W., are doing well, and are currently not in need of our services.

### Thank you ... for supplies,

toys, special event tickets and items for Edmarc families, February 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017

- Advanced Design Fabrications for 61 plaques to recognize volunteers, all signage and etching for golf tournament, signage and decals for the Edmarc vehicle
- Apostles Lutheran Church for quilts
- Artisan's Bakery & Café for baked goods
- Auto Bell for golf tournament coupons
- Elizabeth Bair for thermal bags
- Arnold and Laurie Barbaro for household items
- Battlefield Golf Course for greens fees • Bayside Harley-Davidson for a gift certificate
- Bid-A-Wee Golf Course for golf passes
- Big Woody's Bar and Grill for a gift certificate
- Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Blake for a Fitbit Charge 2
- Mrs. Shirley Bloomer or handprint kits
- Bob Harper Photography for photography for the golf tournament • Mr. and Mrs. Neil C. Bonney for event tickets
- Bow Creek Golf Course for greens fees
- Busch Gardens for event tickets and a parking pass
- Cahoon Plantation Golf Club for providing golf passes and players pass
- CBRE Hampton Roads Asset Services for a computer
- Chesapeake Golf Club for golf fees for golf tournament
- Chick-fil-A Portsmouth for food and dinners for monthly Mom's and Dad's Groups, for a funeral, and a meeting
- Ms. Julie Chop for Camp M.A.G.I.C. supplies • Clayton Dabney Foundation for underwriting
- family expenses Colonial Webb Technologies for maintaining
- our HVAC • Tiffany Comeriati for medical supplies
- Compassion Advocacy Network for goodie bags for children and families
- CSCCC Troop 408 for school items
- Sarah Cunningham for food items for families
- Cypress Creek Golfer's Club for providing golf passes
- Denbigh Kiwanis Club for school and camp M.A.G.I.C. supplies

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February 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017

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- Pat Doeller for a cubicle

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- Empire Machinery & Supply Corp for providing tool set for golf tournament
- Lisa Fly for food items
- Gethsemane Baptist Church for DVDs and a toy
- Girl Scout Troop 1571 for food items
- Golden Horseshoe Golf Club for greens fees
- Abby Gonsalves for craft supplies
- Joe Goodwin for professional clown services for the Edmarc picnic
- gotCUREag for providing a toy
- Greenbrier Country Club for golf passes • Griffin Dewatering - Mid-Atlantic, L.L.C. for
- tape measures for the golf tournament • Hair Kingdom for a gift certificate and gift
- basket
- Hell's Point Golf Club for golf passes
- Heron Ridge Golf Club for golf passes • Hibbett Sports for tote bags for golf
- tournament
- High Street Pawn Shop for a TV
- Brandon Nardoianni and Amanda Hill for infant supplies
- Home Depot for providing a gas grill for golf touranment
- Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, Tidewater Puddle for providing Blue Goose refreshment for golf tournament
- Vanessa Hooks for a pediatric bath chair
- Rebecca Hyland for food items
- Kempsville Golf Course for greens fees
- Juanita Kendall for a DVD player
- Wesley and Nancy King for the board meeting dinner
- Krispy Kreme for donuts Vivian Kujawski for tovs and blankets
- Lamberts Point for golf passes
- Langley Federal Credit Union for wishlist items and gift certificates
- Bob and Nancy Larmore for school supplies • Mr. and Mrs. Philip Lautenslager for a book for
- bereavement • Lovell Productions for professional pictures for
- the Peace by Piece art show • Lydia Manwaring for school supplies, food
- items and a vaporizer
- Massage Envy for a massage certificate and goody bag items

Bobbie Crocker

Mrs. Teddy Devero

Edmarc Children

and Volunteers

Mary Katherine Foster

Edmarc Staff

Suzie Fentriss

Anne Gray

Bette Griga

Jayden Hall

Cathy Heise

Joan Hogge

Ms. Kelly Hogge

Karli Holweger

Patricia Horne

Quave Hudson

Carter O. Jones

Vince Jordan

Marsha Keller

Mr Steve Frazier

John Hackworth

Mr. Derrick Hall

Isaac Hershberger

Colbie Hoffheimer

Joanna Hoffheimer

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hogge

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hoffheimer

I orelei Geoghegan

• Massimo Zanetti Beverage USA for a gift basket and items for goody bags

Mr. Michael Sierra for pocket calendars and

• Signature at West Neck for golf passes

• Skippy's Snoballs for snow cones for the

• Sleepy Hole Golf Course for greens fees

• Smithfield Little Theatre for theater passes

Southwest Airlines for airline tickets

• Mrs. Kimberly Stone for food items

• Alan and Lori Strickland for providing a

• Earl and Dotty Strickland for cookware and

• Sharon C. Sutton for backpacks, a printer, a

• Taylormade Golf Company for golf shoes

Stumpy Lake Golf Course for golf passes

Suffolk Golf Course for greens fees

doormat, a gift card and food items

The Holiday House for infant supplies

• The Pointe Golf Club for greens fees

• Ron and Terry Tong for furniture

• TowneBank for vacuums

the golf tournament

• Thermo King Truck Refrigeration for a

refrigeration truck for the golf tournament

• Washington Nationals for providing game

• WaWa Fulfillment Center for a gift basket for

Women's Fellowship Holy Neck Church for

Womancare Centers for bottled water for camp

• Yardhouse for gift cards for the golf tournament

• Yorkminster Presbyterian Church – Women's

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Ms. Frances Benson Smithfield VA Events

Troy Pegram

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Mr. Charles Paul

Ms. Sara S. Burton Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hogge

Bill and Melissa Waide

Virginia Sigma Alpha Delta Kappa

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Charitable Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. John Sanderl

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Pierson

Dennis and Betty McMurran

King's Fork Woman's Club

Dr. and Mrs. William Owen

The Capital Group Companies

• Susannah Thurston for food items and school

• Smartmouth Brewing Company for a swag bag

• St. Andrew Presbyterian Church for food items,

Standard Calibrations, Inc. for puzzles and wish

• Stellar Exposures for a gift certificate for the

pens

Edmarc picnic

for the golf tournament

capes and treat bags

list items

food items

supplies

tickets

M.A.G.I.C.

Joe and Sonya Langley

Ms. Andrea McMurran

& Julia McPhillips

Kave Lindsev

T.J. Nelson

Stella Payne

Pat Roberts

Frika Smith

Rosemary Ryan

Landon Sanderl

Ms. Lena Short

Caleb\* Shumaker

Ms. Molly P. Squire

Mrs. Nancy Squire

Peter W. Squire

3-year-old twins

Mrs. Margaret Turner

Nancy Minnigh Watkins

Peebles Squire

Dr. And Mrs.

Allison Swan

The Parents of

Mrs. Erin Turner

Mr. and Mrs. Joe

Dr. Linda Pegram

Mr. Debora Penn

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Penn

David and Ginny Pritchett

household items

Circle for toys and gift cards

golf tournament

Bryan Stenman for pens

patient's room makeover

Rosalee Styron for cards

SunTrust for bottled water

- Benjamin and Tara Mather for a therapy pool, wedges, plastic bins, resource books and medical supplies
- MC Lock Doc for locksmith services
- Stuart Miller for handmade blankets and hats
- Steve Milner for school supplies
- Mr and Mrs Eddie Mitchell for food
- Ms. Barbara Moody for fabric paints and toys
- Nansemond River Golf Club for golf passes
- Eric Neet for water bottles and camp M.A.G.I.C. supplies
- Mr. Michael Neudecker for a board game • Bryan and Tracy Niles for books
- Mr. and Mrs. Joe Noha for toys
- Joseph and Sara Noha for Easter items
- Norfolk Tides Baseball Club for event tickets
- Oceanview Golf Course for greens fees
- O'Connors Brewing for a swag bag for the golf tournament
- Office Depot for office furniture
- Barbara Ohmsen for a copy/scan/fax machine • Paradise Ocean Club for pass for golf
- tournament
- Curtis Peters for greeting cards
- Mr. and Mrs. Mike Postma for food items and
- school supplies • Prince of Peace Lutheran Church blankets and quilts
- Q Daddy's Pitmaster BBQ for food items
- Red Bones Raw Bar & Seafood Grille for a gift certificate
- Red Wing Golf Course for greens fees
- Reddy Ice for providing ice for the golf
- tournament
- Rite Aid for toys
- Riverfront Golf Club for golf passes • Riverside Regional Medical Center OR for school supplies
- Rocket Media, Inc. for printing our Case for Support, fundraiser programs and providing all
- the printed material for the golf tournament • Romano's Macaroni Grill for discount coupons
- for the golf tournament Rotary Club of Oyster Point for Living Museum
- passes and food for the Edmarc picnic
- Rotary Club of Yorktown for providing weekend getaway for Edmarc families
- Wanda M. Sannicandro for toys
- Sewell's Point for golf passes • Stephen W. Shaffer for medical supplies

Roger and Martha Frost

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Joan M. Call

Mr. Jim Christol

Ms Alice Butler

Arben "Benny" Lami

King's Fork Woman's Club

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hogge

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hogge

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dilgard

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hogge Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hogge

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hogge

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hogge

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hogge

Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hogge

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Smithfield VA Events

Helen M. Kemp

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Holweger

Mr. and Mrs. William Cummings

Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Bray

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Ruth Benjaminson

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Ms. Sara S. Burton

Ms. Alice Butler



516 London Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704





# Making Things Happen...

Fall Wish List—

- Volunteer baker to make homemade treats for our children/teens grief support group
- Volunteer plumber and electrician
- Gas cards, gift cards to Wal-Mart, Target, Office Max and grocery store gift cards
- Peace by Piece Program Supplies: homemade desserts, bottled water, juice boxes, letter beads
- Individual bottled water
- Tickets to Tides/Admirals games and other local activities including Virginia Living Museum, Marine Science Museum, Nauticus, The Virginia Zoo and Movie Theatre Gift certificates to an arts and crafts store, or \$25- \$50 for scrapbooks for families to make memory albums
- Michael's gift cards to make memory boxes
- 10-ride bus passes from HRT
- "Thinking of you" small gifts for moms and dads (travel-sized hand creams, bubble bath, body spray etc.)
- Gifts in kind for parents: gift certificates for haircuts, pedicures, manicures and massages
- Paper products: paper towels, toilet tissue and facial tissue 30-gallon clear storage containers
- Baby Footprint and Handprint Kits with Picture Frame
- Household cleaning supplies, (i.e. Mr. Clean, Windex, Clorox Clean-
- Up)
- Non-perishable food itemsTall kitchen trash bags
- Large storage units with drawers to house medical supplies (approximately 16", can be cardboard, metal or plastic)
- Gently used or new laptop computer for homebound children

- Baby monitors
- New bedding supplies (dark colors): bed pillows, mattress pads, sheets-fitted/flat in all sizes, blankets
- New large, plush, cushiony stuffed animals to help prop children up in bed
- Humidifier
- Wicker baskets, variety of sizes
- Hand puppets
- Dress-up and play clothes

The Edmarc Visitor is written by the staff of Edmarc Hospice for Children. Jean Bowerman, editor. Steve Spencer, Nexus Direct, layout.

### VROOM! BEEP! BEEP! SPLASH!

Thinking of selling your old car, truck, boat or RV? Why not donate it to Edmarc Hospice for Children? We have a Car Donation Program available. Your donation is tax deductible and free towing is available. For more information, please call Edmarc at 967-9251. Why not choose this easy way to help yourself dispose of a vehicle you no longer need, and help our children and families in the process? Thanks for thinking of us!