



The Edmarc Visitor

Spring 2012

Just Beginning: Jonah's Journey by Jonah's Dad, Eric

April and I got engaged after dating for four months and were married eight months after that. We met at Regent University, which also served as the location for our wedding. Our outdoor ceremony was on a beautiful Sunday, October 10th, 2010.

Five months later April was pregnant. We celebrated



{Jonah visiting with mommy.}

her 30th birthday and a baby shower in her home-

town of Americus, Georgia and were looking forward to returning home for her five-month ultrasound.

At the ultrasound, the technician abruptly ended the procedure and told us, awkwardly, that she had bad news. She had identified a number of abnormalities in the fetus. She took us to a doctor that, unfortunately, alluded that the best thing to do was terminate the pregnancy. To say it was a demoralizing and disheartening experience is a major understatement.

As we drove home from the hospital after this shocking news, we sat in silence for a while feeling the amazing weight of uncertainty. I turned the radio on as a distraction for what I was feeling. A well-known worship song was playing. The words "Our God is an awesome God" seemed to stream straight into my spirit. I had sung it plenty of times from a place of excitement, yet in that moment there was only brokenness. Our voices trembled as we softly began to worship, "With wisdom, power and love, Our God is an awesome God."

During this time we have discovered that God has wisdom, power and a love that transcends the bounds of the world and confounds the minds of men. We transferred to another hospital that was better equipped to deal with high-risk pregnancies. It happened to be Norfolk General and we connected with a wonderful doctor who befriended us and saw us through to the delivery of our baby.

She explained to us that our baby had a small hole in his heart, misshapen kidneys, clenched fists, a clubbed foot; some of his internal organs were growing outside his abdominal wall (a condition known medically as an omphalocele), and other defects -- all indicating markers of a chromosome disorder called Trisomy-18. April got an amniocentesis at eight months that officially confirmed the condition.

We learned the grim statistics about Trisomy-18. Most babies die before birth and those that do survive usually live only a few days. Ninety percent pass away before making it to their first birthday. Our child has already exceeded expectations. I had originally wanted to wait until the delivery to find out the gender of our child. I changed my mind when my wife suggested that we do a baby reveal party. It was a terrific little event amongst close friends. We cut the cake and pulled out a piece that had blue icing on the inside. Blue for a boy.



{Our world in a tiny bundle}

Also Inside

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Camp M.A.G.I.C.
August 11 & 12, 2012

16th Annual Edmarc
Charity Golf Classic
August 16, 2012

United Way Day of Caring
September 7, 2012

Southside Fundraising
Breakfast October 11,
2012. Wyndham Hotel,
Virginia Beach, VA

Volunteer Spotlight
Blue Goose "Ganders"

**Messages from
Families**

**New in the Board
Room**

New Staff Members

**With Love,
We Remember**

In Memory of

In Honor of

Donors

Thank You

Spring Wish list

Continuation from Cover Story.

That same day it was also determined that his name would be Jonah Caleb.

Jonah was born full term on Friday January 13th, 2012, at 12:37am; he weighed 4 pounds 8 ounces. A team of doctors quickly secured Jonah and rushed him off to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Children's Hospital of King's Daughters(CHKD). Jonah made good progress and we were able to take him home after just three weeks. He is on oxygen to help his breathing. He has a nasal-gastric tube to help him feed. He wears a pulse oximeter to monitor his heart rate and oxygen saturation. It beeps loudly if his numbers are too low or too high.

At the NICU we were connected with EDMARC and Jonah was accepted as a patient. We have only been with EDMARC for a month now, but feel like we have been adopted into their family. They have been a huge help for us, especially in this time of transition. Jonah's feeding tube came out in the middle of the night and Laurie came out at 2am in the morning to put it safely back in. Nancy helped him through a bout of constipation. Catina's social work visits have been very comforting and educating. She came with medical supplies and newborn diapers. Madalyn has embraced Jonah as if he were her own son. She has been especially encouraging to us through her heartfelt stories.

Jonah really enjoys interaction and loves to be held. The doctors are impressed at the accelerated healing of his omphalocele. It is about a fourth of its original size when he was born. Skin has almost completely grown over what remains. His clubbed foot is making a progressive correction with the help of physical therapy and a splint. At his last weigh-in he weighed 5 pounds 10 ounces. We rejoiced as we recently saw Jonah's first tears form in his eyes. We look forward to experiencing many more firsts with him.

I believe Jesus is showing me the wisdom of simplicity through Jonah. I feel like he has imparted the power of gentleness to me because of Jonah. I think he is teaching me the priceless value of sacrificial love. These are not easy lessons to learn. There is a certain glory that only comes out of suffering. Regardless of what future hardships we may encounter, I want

to remind everyone who belongs to Jesus Christ that our God is an awesome God! Through His grace He provides for all of our needs, including help along the journey. For Jonah, the journey is just beginning!



{Love Light's Beaming - Eric, April & Jonah}

Fifth Annual Fund Raising Breakfast

On February 8, 2012, friends came together in Newport News to show their support for the Edmarc children and their families. The Pearl Ballroom of the Marriott at City Center hosted the breakfast and it couldn't have been more beautiful. There were nearly 200 guests in attendance from our current and past families, board members, supporters, volunteers and staff. Enthusiasm filled the room as guests engaged in conversation.

The breakfast concluded with a presentation from Stephanie Thompson, Nina's mom, who shared the story of her daughter's battle with cancer. Of greater importance, it was the story of Nina's life and how she lived it. Nina - a prankster; a lover of Disney; fluent in the German that she spoke frequently, especially around the doctors so they didn't know what she was saying. Nina's favorite color was red - at one point she wanted to grow bright red fur like Elmo's. Hers was truly a story of strength, courage and inspiration for all.

The reality of our work is that the children of Edmarc are very sick and many of them die. We cannot do much to change that basic fact. We can, however, be a quiet presence in people's lives at that most difficult time. We cannot be healers of the children, but we can be healers in the loneliness and fear. Everything we do for families, every act of kindness, leaves them better off than they were before we entered their lives. It is a privilege to be a part of such rewarding work.

At the end of the day, the event raised over \$18,000, but, more important, the message was shared of how important the services of Edmarc are to our entire community. We at Edmarc would like to express our sincere thanks to Stephanie Thompson, Patrick Hermes, and Michelle and Simon Hermes for inspiring us. With a very special thank you, too, to the members of the Peninsula Council of Edmarc Hospice for Children and friends - Noel and Nancy Talcott, Charlotte Williams, Mary and Rob Cowling, Stan Winarski, Woody Sadler, Sam Harvey, Dr. Richard Donzell and Ben Burbic - for all of their preparations and hard work!

December's Peace by Piece Holiday Dinner more than just a "Potluck"

In December, Edmarc's Peace by Piece staff, facilitators and families enjoyed wonderful food and fellowship at the annual Peace by Piece holiday potluck dinner at Edmarc. As always, the food variety and flavors were fantastic, plentiful and delicious. Thank you to everyone involved for bringing such wonderful food and family stories to Edmarc.

The real treat, however, was Ryan, The Balloon Guy. This kind young man makes a living shaping balloons into animals and a vast collection of amazing things that you have to see to believe. Spiderman, an angel, a gum ball machine, and a horn of plenty are just a few examples of his creative work. Children and adults were in awe of his rare talent and balloon magic.

Thank you, Ryan, for bringing such positive energy and smile invoking entertainment to our grieving children and families during a difficult holiday season.

With love, we remember

Richard S. (12/17/10-9/18/11) - Richard, Jr. was a beautiful baby boy who blessed the lives of his parents as well as all who knew him. Though his time here was far too short, he brightened the lives of all those around him. Richard will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by his parents, Tomara and Richard, Sr., his big sister, Kyrese, and numerous other family and friends.

Jesus G. (2/9/05-11/1/11) - Jesus was a bright little boy who held the hearts of all he met. Jesus had strength, perseverance, and the ability to overcome incredible circumstances and physical challenges. Jesus had a smile that could melt the hearts of everyone around him. He is lovingly remembered by his father Luis, mother Dominga, and brother Luisito, as well as numerous other family and friends.

Mina Nevaeh B. (12/24/11-12/24/11) - Mina was a beautiful baby girl who touched so many hearts in her short time here on earth. Although baby Mina's time here was far too short, she was deeply loved by her family. Left to cherish her sweet memory is her beloved mother Terrie and loving sister and brother and other family members and friends.

Tyler F. (4/4/01-1/19/12) - Tyler was an amazing young man who fought a long and courageous battle. He blessed the lives of so many people along his way. He loved to spend time with his family and friends, and to attend church. Tyler will always be remembered for his strength, courage, smile and big heart. He will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by his parents, Dale and Melissa, brother Corey and sister Halle, as well as many other family members and friends.

LaShannette "La-La" T. (5/29/09-1/19/12) - Princess La La was a beautiful and amazing little girl who holds a special place in the hearts of many. La La loved music. She loved watching her favorite television shows. Though her time here was far too short, she was deeply loved by her family. Left to cherish her memory is her mother Consuelo, brother Dante, and sisters Derricka and Imia, as well as many other family members and friends.

Edmarc welcomes new members in the Foundation Board Room

Clifford T. Bowen, Chief of Police, Poquoson Police Department

Since June of 2007, Clifford T. Bowen has served as the Chief of Police for the City of Poquoson. He has over 28 years of professional law enforcement experience to include 23 years in supervision or command level positions. From July 1, 2002 until June 30, 2007, Chief Bowen served on the Poquoson City School Board. He was elected to board chairman in July of 2005 and served in that capacity until his departure in 2007. While serving on the board and as board chair, Chief Bowen and the members of the Board were successful in obtaining funding from City Council to design and build a new elementary school.

Poquoson Elementary School opened in 2008 as a state of the art facility designed for high academic and building performance, with special attention paid to daylighting, acoustics, thermal comfort, water efficiency, and energy efficiency. The building has received numerous awards for design including a LEED GOLD certification by the United States Green Building Council. As the Commander of the Major Crimes Division while with the Newport News Police Department, Chief Bowen's experience with juvenile crime victims was strong motivation for him to become an advocate for children. His advocacy has been evident through his volunteer service in organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula, the Poquoson Kiwanis Club and the Poquoson School Board. Chief Bowen sees his involvement with Edmarc Hospice for Children as a wonderful opportunity to continue his support and advocacy for children and children's issues.

Susanna C. Adams, Philanthropic Advisor, Waypoint Advisors

Susanna began working exclusively with non-profit institutions and the wealthy families that support them at Wachovia Bank in Atlanta, GA in 1998. As vice president and Charitable advisor, she assisted families at all stages of the philanthropic process, from initial planning to the implementation and administration of charitable trusts and private foundations. In addition, she worked with non-profit institutions on the management of their endowments and planned giving programs.

A native of Virginia Beach, Susanna joined Waypoint Advisors in 2005 to continue her work with non-profits and high net worth clients in their philanthropic endeavors. Susanna currently serves on the Board of Directors of Future of Hampton Roads, the Camp Foundation, and the Norfolk Academy Alumni Association. She is a member of the LEAD Hampton Roads Class of 2010 and was named as one of the "Top Forty Under 40" business leaders in Hampton Roads by Inside Business in 2011. In addition, she volunteers on the Community Funding Committee of the United Way of South Hampton Roads and for The King's Daughters. She is a member of the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning and The Southeast Virginia Community Foundation Council of Professional Advisors.

Susanna graduated from Wake Forest University, cum laude, with a BA in sociology and a concentration in business and society. She is also a graduate of Cannon Financial Institute's School of Foundation Management.

Gloria Creecy, Community Leader, Chesapeake, VA

Gloria was a stay-at-home mom and homemaker, but as her family matured, her interest in her community also matured and became broader in scope. Now that she had the time she felt the need to give back to her community. Because of her early experience as the child of a working mother, she became very interested in the combined needs of parents and children. Gloria has a passion for worthwhile organizations and believes that there is an organization no more worthwhile than Edmarc. As she says, "It does not take a village to achieve successful results...it takes a whole community and dedicated workers who believe in their mission."

Edmarc's Outstanding Volunteers



Jasmine accepts the Events Extraordinaire Award

We deeply appreciate the commitment of each and every volunteer who donates his or her time, energy and caring to Edmarc. In September, we held our Volunteer Recognition dinner in an effort to thank these wonderful volunteers.

The theme for this year's event was "Volunteers Aren't Clowning Around." What better than a carnival backdrop to create the right atmosphere? Volunteers even got to take their best shots at dunking Jessica in the Dunk Tank!

A significant part of Volunteer Recognition is to 'shine the light' on those volunteers who have gone above and beyond with their time and their efforts for Edmarc's programs.



Janice accepts the Administrative Excellence Award

We recognize volunteers who have met hourly achievements as well as those that have stood out in the various departments. Below is complete list of those receiving awards.

We would like to thank Baxter's Sports Lounge for providing a

delicious dinner, Advanced Designs for providing the plaques and Q.E.D Systems for sponsoring the Dunk Tank. We are looking forward to another great year with all of our volunteers!

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 50 Hours | Steve Reader |
| Jasmine Barmer | Janet Schafer |
| Pam Brunner | Diane Wenz |
| Shelley Casiello | Xerox Corporation, Inc. |
| Sam Harvey | |
| Tim Howerton | 100 Hours |
| Kenneth Mason | Ken and Anne Ablett |
| Michael Mason | Karen Ainsley |
| Wendy Mezzenga | Shelley Barrett |
| Nansemond River High School | John Bell |
| Amy Paulson | Shelley Brooks |
| David Pritchett | Eileen Jewett |
| Amanda Rankin | Valerie Burton |
| Al Schweizer | Judy Poynter |
| Kelli Springs | Michele Sioredas |
| Kimberly Stone | |
| Noel Talcott | 150 Hours |
| Frank West | Brian Boutot |
| | Jorge Sierra |

- 75 Hours
- Dorothy Bell
 - Tiana Bolden
 - D.J. Bradley
 - Amy Folkes
 - Millie Johnson
 - David Kenerson

Volunteer Recognition 2011 Department Awards

- Brian Boutot
Volunteer of the Year 2010-2011 In recognition of your invaluable contributions to the children and families of Edmarc Hospice for Children
- Shelley Abriss Barrett
Peace by Piece 2010-2011
In recognition of your invaluable contributions to the Peace by Piece program
- Eddie Nagle
Peace by Piece 2010-2011 in recognition of your invaluable contributions to the Peace by Piece program
- Linda Lamm English
Everyday Angel 2010-2011 In recognition of your invaluable contributions to Edmarc Hospice for Children's bereavement program
- Kimberly Stone
Helping Hand Award 2010-2011 In recognition of your invaluable contributions to Edmarc Hospice for Children's clinical program
- Jasmine Barmer
Events Extraordinaire 2010-2011 In recognition of your invaluable contributions to Edmarc Hospice for Children's family and fundraising events
- David Kenerson
Leadership Award 2010-2011 In recognition of your invaluable leadership to Edmarc Hospice for Children
- Janice Palmer
Administrative Excellence 2010-2011 In recognition of your invaluable administrative contributions where no job is too small or too large
- Xerox Corporation
Community Impact Award 2010-2011 In recognition of the positive impact you have had on the children and families of Edmarc Hospice for Children

Messages from our Volunteers

Dear Edmarc,
Hi, it is Camryn. When I come to Edmarc I feel helpful when I take the things I've gathered it makes me happy. I'm glad to know I'm helping people who are sick. When I see the butterfly wall, I feel sad but also very proud that you tried to help. Thank you for taking care of little children. Keep doing it.
From, Camryn



Debbie & all of Santa's helpers,
The Mary Martha Class wishes you and your family a Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year 2012 – Peace and Joy to all, Your Sisters in Christ



Dear "Angels"
I don't know all of your names but you are in all in my prayers and thoughts. The time I spent with you was the proudest of my life. I know what I did was not a great offering, but I got to see what great gifts of yourselves you gave to so many families. I was and still am proud to tell people of my meeting and contributions to Edmarc. Many had never heard of the "Angels" who worked and became The Hope of so many sick children. I only had to hear you all discuss their problems and pains to know of your complete dedication. I follow your caring and loving ways with some handicaps we have here.
Have a wonderful Christmas, take a long bus trip with Santa Claus and know you are helping in an important way. I relish it.

Love, Martha

Unsung Heroes

On September 25th this past year, Edmarc hosted its seventh annual Unsung Heroes event. For the second year in a row, we were very fortunate to be able to hold the event at the lovely Aldersgate Campus of New Creation United Methodist Church in Chesapeake. This venue allows much more space and is very accessible for our patients. Our deeply appreciated volunteers decorated the room with a beautiful fall theme that surrounded those present with autumn's warmth and welcome.

The purpose of this event is to provide our Edmarc patients and families with the opportunity to honor those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help out. Families honored individuals who have offered support to them in times of great need. Many of our honorees did not even know why they were here; this made for some very surprised faces. We had nurses, siblings, grandparents, an aunt, and a babysitter among those honored this year.

The day included an introduction along with the importance of heroes, naming of the honorees, presentation of certificates and gifts, and a beautiful slide show of the patients with their special heroes. By the end of the day we had to hand out a lot of tissues for all those teary faces.

The event also included a delectable meal prepared and served by the New Creation volunteers. While fun was had and laughter played its part, this gathering was the most meaningful to the families who had an opportunity to recognize their special heroes.

We're pleased to give a huge thank you to the amazing group of volunteers from New Creation United Methodist Church. They have put this event on for us for several years now and outdo themselves every time. This group provided all the manpower to make the event a huge success. Thanks so much to New Creation United Methodist Church and all the special heroes that help out our Edmarc families each and every day!!

Edmarc has a Facebook Page!

It's been said that if Facebook were a country, it would be the sixth most populated nation in the world. Imagine being able to get your message in front of the Facebook nation for free. That's exactly what Facebook is offering us. It has been a little known secret that we have a Facebook page. Now we're letting the cat out of the bag!

Facebook provides us with a powerful set of online tools to engage our families, friends and supporters. Every day, 3.5 million people become fans of a Facebook page, according to

eMetric's February 2009 Facebook Usage Metrics Worldwide study. That's a LOT of fans. While we do not expect to be that big, please find us on Facebook by searching "EDMARC516," click the "like" button and share with all your friends what we do here at Edmarc.



In the Edmarc Volunteer Spotlight: Blue Goose International

Blue Goose International is a civic group comprised of various individuals who work in the insurance industry. Members of this group are called "Ganders." The local chapter has been extremely active with Edmarc over last several years. They have done fundraisers, as well as a variety of volunteer projects for us.

Most recently, they painted the interior hallways and stairwells at London House. They were able to have the supplies donated by Sherwin-Williams.



{A group photo from 2008}

Sherwin-Williams donated the paint, brushes, tape, drop cloths -- everything needed to paint to perfection! A few of the Sherwin-Williams employees were also on hand to assist the Ganders in their work. They took two days to prime, trim and paint. The house looks fresh and clean and the Ganders now have their sights set on bringing the rest of the house to match.

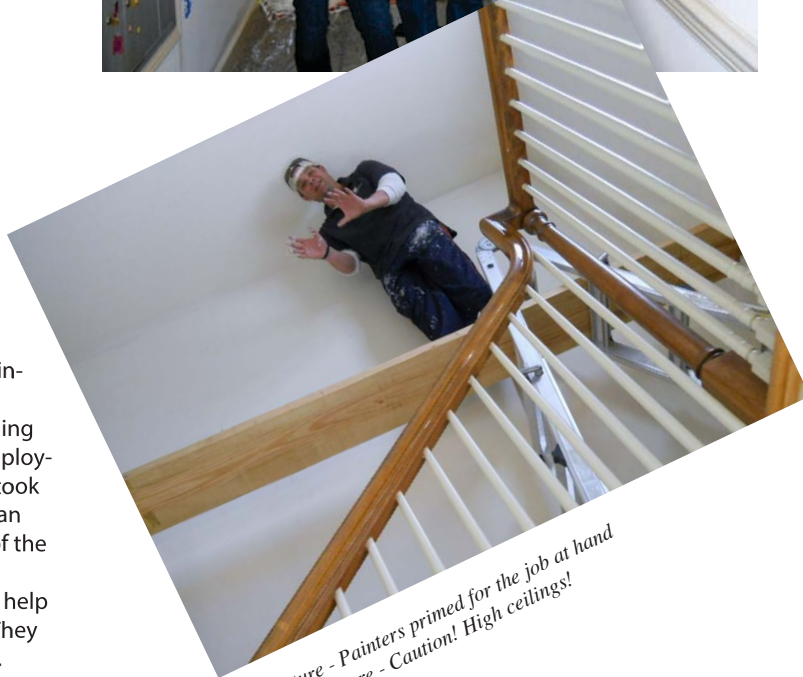
Prior to the painting project, the Ganders have come out to help maintain our Memorial and Infinity gardens on a regular basis. They have also been kind enough to give the house a spring cleaning.

There is nothing too large or too small for this group of dedicated individuals. They are ready, able and more than willing to jump in and help wherever their help is needed.

Last year was the inaugural year for their golf tournament, held at Riverfront Golf Course in Suffolk. The event was a huge success. Each of the affiliated companies had food, drinks or give-aways on the majority of

the holes. Prior to this golf tournament, they used to hold a nine-hole tournament at the City Park Course in Hampton. One of the competitions included longest drive using... Marshmallows!

Our liaison with the group, Bruce "Butch" Beckman, says that he likes to do things that are "out of the box" making ordinary activities a lot more fun. The Blue Goose Ganders are a vital volunteer group that Edmarc counts on. We are truly grateful to have the Blue Goose Ganders as part of the Edmarc family. Thank you for all you do!!



Top Picture - Painters primed for the job at hand
Bottom Picture - Caution! High ceilings!



{Ganders gathered together after a job superbly accomplished (2012) }



{Ganders hard at work in the Memorial Garden}

Fun was The Center of Attention at October's Fall Festival

A week before Halloween, the ghosts, fantasy characters and fairy princesses made an early appearance at the Edmarc Fall Festival. Everyone from Mario of Mario Brothers of computer game fame and Pocahontas to pirates and dinosaurs came out to celebrate this festive occasion. Once again the Norfolk Jaycees sponsored this very popular event. They decorated London House to set the stage for a great party. They also provided food from Gusto's, and Christina made her famous Ghost Brownie Bites and Creepy Cupcakes.

Ryan the Balloon Guy was in attendance making his fantastical balloon creations that boggle the mind. In thirty seconds, you've got yourself a witch hat, in a minute more perhaps a spider backpack. Whatever your idea, Ryan the balloon guy, can make it appear in record time. Kids, parents, volunteers and even staff were lined up to get their very own Ryan balloon creation.

In addition to the Norfolk Jaycees and Ryan, the Balloon Guy, students from Nansemond River's Voice Club were on hand to provide games and jars full of 'eyeballs,' 'intestines' and other spooky gunk. The kids had a blast being grossed out and fascinated by these gooey creations.

The Fall Festival is an event that our families look forward to each and every year. We can't thank the Norfolk Jaycees enough for continuing to sponsor and make it the family fun event that it is. Thank you ALL!!



{Norfolk Jaycees, butterfly included, hard at work fixing fabulous food from Gusto's}



{A most delightful dinosaur named Anthony}



{Pocahontas (AKA Edmarc board member, Diana Williams)}



{It's Mario (AKA Dakotah) with matching Mario balloon}



{Ryan the Balloon Guy in full creating mode}

Peace by Piece Volunteers are the Best of The Best. Welcome to September's Facilitator "Newbies"

One of the most intense and challenging Edmarc volunteer opportunities is as a Peace by Piece Facilitator. Peace by Piece is our children and teens grief support group, and is part of Edmarc's bereavement program.

Volunteers commit to twenty plus hours of grief training, and are expected to function as grief support group facilitators for a children's, teens or adults grief group two Thursday evenings a month. These volunteers are THE BEST OF THE BEST, enjoy a bond with fellow facilitators and serve in this capacity, sometimes for many years, unless job or family commitments take them away.

Edmarc's most recent facilitator training graduated more of these superior volunteers. Congratulations to Diane, Rachel, and Rob who joined our Peace by Piece team in September, 2011, and who continue to serve our grieving children, teens, and families. Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to Hampton Roads' grieving children and families.

If you would like more information on Edmarc's bereavement program - either the parents grief support group for parents who have experienced the death of a child, or the children and teens grief support group for children and teens who have experienced the death of a significant loved one, please contact Anne Chisman Abraham, MSW, CT, Edmarc's Bereavement Program Director at 967-9251.

We Welcome Edmarc's New Executive Assistant Daniel Pabon

Dear Families and Friends of Edmarc Hospice for Children,

I would like to, first and foremost, express how grateful I am for the opportunity, and how humbled I am to work with such an amazing organization. I look forward to serving all of you as the new executive assistant. I truly believe in the Mission Statement of trying to ease the trauma of a child's illness or death, and to reduce the disabling effects of pediatric illness, loss, and bereavement on families.

I was born and raised in New York City where I attended and graduated from John Bowne High School located in Flushing, Queens. Shortly after graduation, six days after turning 18 to be exact, I enlisted in the United States Navy and was shipped off to Boot Camp in Great Lakes, IL. I joined the Navy to travel and that is what I did. Before I reached 21, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit over 20 different countries. For the majority of my 13 years in the Navy, I was home based out of Norfolk, VA and fell in love with the diversity and culture of the Hampton Roads area, which I call home now. I reached the rank of Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, one of my greatest accomplishments not only in the military but in life.

The Navy has taught me great lessons in leadership, humility, hard work and time management. Now I hope to use my life experience for the benefit of the Edmarc organization. It was once told to me by a great mentor of mine "Excellence is not an act, but a habit." I strive for excellence in everything I do.

Please let me reiterate that I am here to serve the families Edmarc supports. Please call or email me if you need anything that I might be able to help with. pabond@edmarc.org or 757-967-9251.

Take care and best wishes.

Daniel

A Warm Welcome to Kim Towles!

Hello..... My name is Kim Towles and I am the new Patient Care Coordinator here at Edmarc.

I am married and the mother of four. My husband, Joe, is career Navy. Our kids' ages range from 13 to 23. The three youngest are all teenagers -- needless to say there is never a dull moment around our house!

I was working as a bodily injury claims adjuster for USAA insurance when I decided to go back to school to pursue my degree as an RN. I graduated and passed the boards in 2008. Following graduation, I spent a few months working on the cardiac floor at Virginia Beach General, and have worked as a pediatric private duty nurse before coming to Edmarc. My passion is taking care of children, so I feel completely blessed to have been given this opportunity.

In my spare time I enjoy reading, shopping, watching our kids play soccer and just hanging out with friends and family.

Edmarc's Laurie Barbaro Selected As March of Dimes 2011 Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse of the Year

On November 12, 2012, Laurie Barbaro, Director of Patient Care at Edmarc Hospice for Children, was recognized as the March of Dimes 2011 Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse of the Year.

Laurie has been with Edmarc since December, of 2000. In her position, she has provided tender, loving care to hundreds of children in the last days or weeks of their lives. Laurie has been a supervisor for 11 years, but she is the first to admit that she would rather be "in the trenches" providing hands-on care than doing just about anything else.

Laurie is renowned for her dedication to quality of life. She measures actions and decisions by how they will affect the child's and the family's quality of life. She is a tireless advocate for Edmarc families and, when it is necessary, will use all of her energy and resources to fight for a child. Laurie works to help Edmarc children and families achieve the most level of normalcy possible.

We are so proud of Laurie on this monumental accomplishment! Congratulations!!!



{Laurie Barbaro accepting the March of Dimes 2011 Hospice and Palliative Nurse of the Year award.}

The Edmarc Holiday Party was a Festival of Fun

A wonderful and festive time was had by all who attended the Edmarc annual Holiday Party hosted by Deep Creek United Methodist Church Youth Group!

On Friday, December 9th, the Deep Creek UMC Church resembled a scene from Santa's workshop. Kids and families had a chance to visit with Santa Claus. Pictures were taken with the jolly old man himself and everyone was given keepsake photos to take home. Santa and his little helpers handed out loads of gifts to all the children. The youth group provided games, and activities and families were able to relax and enjoy pizza, soft drinks and a HUGE and very popular sundae bar. The families had a grand old time. Thank you Deep Creek UMC for making this year's holiday party truly special for the families of Edmarc!



{Love and joy surround Tyler}



Top Picture - A special friend stops by to see Kimani and Kaiden



Top Picture - Carson and friend: "Yes, we are having a lovely time, thank you."
Bottom Picture - Shakur shows his moves.



Bottom Picture - Miracle confides, "...And then, if you please, I'd like..."



Celebrating Success! Seventh Annual Ghent Winter Bar Tour

America's most charitable pub crawl!

Way back when in the dog days of summer 2005, a TVA beach volleyball team named the Yard Dogs, composed of several co-workers from the shipyard, played weekly matches. This team was composed of people relatively new to the Hampton Roads area who lived primarily in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. It was decided that the two factions would each take turns showing the others around their local area one weekend evening.

The Norfolk crew went first, deciding to go out in their local midtown neighborhood of Ghent one Friday evening after work. In order to truly get the "feel of the town," it was decided to hop between several bars that evening and to invite several friends as well to make it worth the venture out. Almost overnight, the first Ghent Bar Tour was born. The crowd only managed to make it to eight of the planned 15 stops, but there was plenty of fun and libation every step of the way. Some made it late into the night; others opted for an early turn-in.

This year, we were blown away yet again by the generosity of the sell-out crowd of more than 1,000 participants at our Ghent Winter Bar Tour on Saturday, February 25th as this grandest of charity pub crawls stood firm against some strong winds and raised \$22,250 for Edmarc Hospice for Children! This fantastic fundraising total solidified the event's position as the most successful charity pub crawl in America. Again, it showed how big the hearts of Hampton Roads really are.

Fourteen bars, eleven sponsors, and one hundred volunteers all helped to make this event, now in its seventh year, run smoothly all day and long into the night, up and down Colley Avenue, 21st Street, and the surrounding locale in the historic midtown Norfolk neighborhood of Ghent. When it was all over, we threw our largest and best closing ceremony yet in a big tent in back of the Belmont House of Smoke featuring some awesome local acts - Longfellow Street and The Tipping Point!

THANK YOU ALL! To all of the sponsors, donors, volunteers, and participants for all of their support - with a special thanks to Scott Gurlinger, Shawn Fagan, Amy Pait, Matt Pait, Jeff Jacobs, Greg Myrtle, Maggie Lee, Becky Boucher, PJ Ringer, Jeff Hohlweg, Kimberly Bronk, Joe Nameth, Richard Carmichael, Lisa McGrath, Jen Concepcion and Katie Feckler!! You guys and gals ROCK!!!

Baron's Pub Brightens the Holiday for Bereaved Parent Dinner

Bereaved parents meet at Edmarc on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. to talk, cry, laugh, and share beautiful memories of their children. In an attempt to make these evenings special, local vendors are asked to provide dinner for these groups. In December, 2011, Tyler, at Baron's Pub, graciously agreed to, once again, sponsor a holiday dinner for our parents. A delicious dinner and dessert made the atmosphere a bit more festive, and casual, and conversations flowed.

Thank you, Tyler, for making the holidays for Edmarc's bereaved parents slightly more bearable for these special families.

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!



Picture your care here!

Thank you!!

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 BB& T 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!



Toys + Trees = Generosity, Fair Trade and a Party!

TREG may mean different things. Some of you may be familiar with this term from The Real Estate Group in Chesapeake and Virginia Beach. For Edmarc it is a combination of The Real Estate Group and TR (Triangle Rental) and EG (EverGreens) or maybe even TR (Toys Required) and EG (Extra Goodies).

Once again, The Real Estate Group held a toy drive for Edmarc on December 4, 2011. It was a large Christmas celebration for many friends and families of The Real Estate Group, and a celebration like no other! The festivities included Christmas Karaoke, a clown making holiday balloon figures, face painting and a tempting array of delicious food.

There were so many toys collected that, once again, serious transport was needed. Triangle Rental generously donated a truck to carry all the toys back

to Edmarc. In return for the toys donated, each guest had the choice to take home a fresh evergreen tree or wreath.

All this was made possible by Gary Lundholm, Joe Auzenne, Steven Edwards and the staff of The Real Estate Group. Edmarc can't thank you enough for what you do every year for the children we serve.



Edmarc Social Workers Present at "When a Baby Dies" Conference

On February 8th, the social work staff at Edmarc had an opportunity to present at the "When a Baby Dies" workshop sponsored by the Eastern Virginia Perinatal Bereavement Coalition. The workshop was held at Mary Immaculate Hospital in Newport News and focused on providing caregivers the tools they need as they deal with bereaved families experiencing perinatal death. The workshop focused on teaching different ways to come to the aid of families with compassion and increasing understanding in responding to families when an infant child dies. The social workers presented on Options and Decisions/Perinatal Hospice and were able to share information about Edmarc, as well as to provide specifics about the support services that Edmarc Hospice for Children provides for its families. We also offered an overview of Edmarc's perinatal hospice program, which provides support services to a woman whose unborn child has been diagnosed with a life threatening or life limiting illness.

The social workers explained anticipatory grief, bereavement issues, and how to be sensitive to these families prior to and after a death. Legacy building and memory-making activities were also presented. The conference offered a great opportunity to educate and get the word out about Edmarc. Our thanks to Eastern Virginia Perinatal Bereavement Coalition for the invitation.

Messages from Edmarc Families

We receive many letters, cards, emails and calls from our Edmarc families and, from time to time, and when it is agreeable with a family, we like to share a few with you. We very much appreciate them, every single one. They let us know where best we can help, and where we may have helped to make the journey a little gentler.

Edmarc Hospice Staff and Volunteers,

You all continue to show how much "our" children (and our Jennifer) are kept in the hearts of those who loved them while they were still with us here on earth. Thank you all for every thoughtful card marking those very special days to us throughout the year,

Love, Richard and Diane

Dear Family at Edmarc,

Merry Christmas to all...and especially to all of you! Happy New Year! Thank you all for always being there for us with all your love and support.

Love always, Debbie, Joe and Angel Jenna and Sunny- XOXO

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Love, Bert, Suzanne and Angel Abigail

To The Edmarc Staff,

Have a jolly fa-la-la-ly holiday! Thank you for all you do and all you have done for our dear, sweet Ava. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely, John, Alicia, and Christopher

Dear Edmarc,

Be Merry! Wishing you a Joyful Holiday Season.

Simply put, that was the most amazing Christmas gift we could have received. Thank you, as always, for bringing such joy to our lives.

Love, Mark, Marina, Owen and Reid

God's Love

Long ago, one silent night, God revealed His glory bright:
His own image came to man for salvation's matchless plan.

Jesus, Savior, Shepherd, King – Lord of all to you we bring

Praises, wonder, thanks, and love for this gift from God above.

Remembering you this Christmas and praying your celebrations bring a heart full of joy as you remember God's amazing love shown through His Son, Jesus.

Love Sharon and John
Thanks for everything!

Volunteers Give the Gifts of Time and Caring To Celebrate the Holiday Season

The holidays at Edmarc were once again very successful thanks to the efforts of the Hampton Roads Community. Our sponsors provided Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, as well as gifts to over 75 families this year! We could not make the holidays special for our families without your help. In addition to the sponsors, we had over 200 volunteers gift wrapping, delivering meals and singing as Santa's elves.

For the second year, Yorkminster Presbyterian church was kind enough to allow us to stage our Thanksgiving and Christmas food deliveries for the peninsula in their facility. This was a huge help because it was more efficient and made it so much easier on volunteers and sponsors. There is a core group of volunteers, the Edmarc Peninsula Council, that makes this possible.

The sponsors went above and beyond in every direction. The holiday food baskets were filled to the brim, sometimes to overflowing that required more than one basket! This is a huge help for our families as it allows them to spend more time at home and less time fighting the crowds.

The gifts that were donated were just as wonderful. Our deeply appreciated sponsors fulfilled the wishes of our families. One parent told us that Christmas meant so much to them because it was one less thing that they had to worry about. It allowed them to focus on their child and not have to worry about the holidays and the stresses that arise with the season.

In addition to the sponsors who provided the gifts, Santa himself made a special visit to each Edmarc family. He took time out of his busy holiday schedule to come to Hampton Roads and spend time with each of our children. Thanks to HRT, he was able to arrive in style. Santa also had a few helpers along the way. Volunteer "elves" accompanied the big guy and sang Christmas carols during each of his visits.

We can't thank our sponsors, volunteers and Santa enough for making this a very special holiday season for the families of Edmarc. Garlands of smiles were seen, and even more important, memories were made! Thank you!!



Edmarc Staff

Laurie Barbaro
Director of Patient Care

Teresa Black
Patient Care Coordinator

Anne Chisman-Abraham
Bereavement Program Dir.

Catina Davis
Medical Social Worker

Jennifer Kling
Patient Care Coordinator

Madalyn George-Theimann
Patient Care Coordinator

Kim Towles
Patient Care Coordinator

Dorothy Jenson
Assistant Director

Maggie Lewis
Administrative Office Assistant

Jeane Liburd
Child Life Specialist

Ralph Northam
Medical Director

Daniel Pabon
Executive Assitant

Linda Pegram
Assistant Medical Director

Jessica Plank
Community Resource Coord.

Jeanette Santos Boze
Patient Care Coordinator

Bryan Selitti
Child Life Specialist

Debbie Stitzer-Brame
Executive Director

Brittney Twisdale
Medical Social Worker

Thank you ... for supplies, toys, special events tickets and items for Edmarc families August 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012

Aldersgate United Methodist Church for food and paper products
 Apostles Lutheran Church for quilts
 Alexa Arias for medical supplies
 Carl Beauregard for bereavement cards
 Timothy and Debbie Bloomer for toiletries
 Shirley Bloomer for gift cards
 Crystal Borgeson for clothing
 Mary Briley for toiletries
 Mr. and Mrs. John Burbank for gift card
 Brian and Kelly Burr for medical supplies
 Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation for general gift
 Bill Cole for event tickets
 Commodore Theater for gift cards
 Community United Methodist Church for paper products
 Anne and Sarah Dubose for diapers, and paper and food products
 Mr. and Mrs. Dale Fago for medical supplies
 Girl Scout Troop 087 for food and party supplies
 Hampton University School of Pharmacy for food items
 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Harvey for garden services
 Nancy Koch for toys, games and baskets
 Loan Care Servicing Center for food items
 Judy MacDougall for toys
 Meaghan C. Herry Charity Foundation for an ipod and a gift card
 Deborah Merrifield for a teen basket
 Moira C. Wright Revocable Living Trust for toiletries
 Meghan Morgan for paper products, school and cleaning supplies and food items
 Norfolk Academy Clubs for Easter supplies
 Mrs. Edward N. Page for toys
 Janice Palmer for food items, toiletries, and arts and crafts supplies
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pavlat for beverage supplies, blankets and food items
 Horace and Deborah Riddick for food items
 Rhonda Shortt for infant, medical and cleaning supplies
 Kimberly Stone for food items
 Virginia Air and Space Center for gift tickets
 Virginia Beach Retirement Association for gift card
 Melodie Walenius for a stroller and car seat
 Vivona M. Ward for food items, paper products, food items and hand sanitizers
 Kathy and Emily Winter for gift cards and food items

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Making Things Happen...

Spring Wish List—

- Personal care items, shampoo, bath soap, deodorant, powder, lotions for children and adults
- Hedge Trimmer
- Lawn Edger
- A Volunteer Electrician
- A Volunteer Plumber
- Gas cards
- Gift cards to Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Target, Office Max and grocery store gift cards
- Peace by Piece Program Supplies – homemade desserts, bottled water, juice boxes, letter beads.
- Sips for sibs- Juice boxes for kids/support group meetings
- Individual bottled water
- Tickets to Tides/Admirals games and other local activities- including Virginia Living Museum, Marine Science Museum, Nauticus, The Virginia Zoo, Movie Theatre and Blockbuster Video
- Picnic items: paper products (plates, cups, napkins)
- 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.)
- Relaxation tapes for kids
- Gifts in kind for parents-gift certificates for haircuts, pedicures, manicures and massages
- Paper products- paper towels, toilet tissue and facial tissue
- Copier paper- 11"x17"
- Epson Printer Cartridges (#s TO444, TO443, TO442, TO441)
- 30-gallon clear storage containers
- Baby Footprint Kits with Picture Frame (can be purchased from the Discovery Store)
- Household cleaning supplies, (i.e. Mr. Clean, Windex, Clorox Clean-Up)
- Canned goods, non-perishable food items
- Tall kitchen trash bags
- Purel hand sanitizer
- Kodak photo paper-high gloss and matte finish
- Large storage units with drawers to house medical supplies (approximately 16", can be cardboard, metal or plastic)
- Touch & Feel Books
- Gently used or new laptop computer for homebound children
- Computer educational games
- Baby monitors
- "AAA" Batteries
- Disposable Cameras

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