



# The Edmarc Visitor

Fall 2012

## ***With God... There is Always Hope*** *by Silas' Mommy*

With God... there is always hope. There is always hope for a broken marriage, for financial struggles, for a wayward teen, for a broken heart, for a sick child, for a grieving parent.... There is always hope because God can. No matter when... No matter how... GOD CAN. God can heal. God can do miracles. God can bring His child home. God can carry me through whatever I have to face. Every day. But whatever He chooses... however He chooses to answer, He is Holy and Righteous and Good... no matter what. Many a time I have cried and whispered through my tears... God is good... because He IS. Facts do not change that truth. Circumstances do not change that truth. Tragedy in my life or around the world does not change the fact that GOD IS GOOD. NO MATTER WHAT. And because I know that He IS good and I know that He CAN, I will continue to make the choice to hope!

Early in the morning of August 16, 2007, five years ago, I went to check in on my little sick Carter. Carter had been born seven weeks early by emergency c-section weighing only 4 lb. 1 oz. He had beaten all the odds and was now developing like a normal 15 month old. But he had been sick with an ear infection and fever. I went into his room and picked him up and then I saw the blue dots (petechiae) on his skin and frantically called his doctor. They told me to bring him in. He started throwing up. He had coffee ground-like black dots in his throw up. He was lethargic. From the doctor's office, we were rushed to a local hospital. Several hours later from the local hospital we were transported by ambulance to CHKD. That night, my husband stayed with Carter in the PICU while I went home to tend to our other three children (Chelsea-15, Jon 14, Hailey 4). The next morning I left Chelsea in charge and rushed back to the hospital.



*The smile which you wear today has healing in it, so smile BIG!*



*Silas surrounded by his loving family*

“Do I need to get my family in here? Is my son gonna die?” my husband asked the physician early that morning of August 17, 2007.

“I really don't think so. It may get worse before it gets better. But we've seen this before.”

Eight hours later, he died. I watched it. I watched my baby boy die. It was surreal. It was like I was in a movie or something. You've all seen the movies... when a patient “codes” all the nurses rush in? That's what happened. His blood pressure started dropping. I ran out of the room to start calling friends to pray. They worked on him. Fifteen minutes later they brought me back in the room. I rushed to his side and sang

to him. They were continuing CPR. They encouraged me to “keep singing to him.” There was a faint flicker on the heart monitor and the doctor then asked everyone to pause and wait and listen. Everything and everyone was quiet. Carter was lying there in front of me...breathless. There was no heart-

## Upcoming Events:

Thanksgiving Basket Distribution  
November 17, 2012

Day of Remembrance  
November 18, 2012

Holiday Party  
December 14, 2012

Santa Deliveries  
December 16, 2012

Christmas Basket Deliveries  
December 22, 2012

## Also Inside:

- Volunteer Recognition
- Dinner
- Annual Picnic
- Edmarc Carnival
- Kiwanis Club of Norfolk
- Poker Run
- 16th Annual Charity Golf Tournament
- Spring Fling
- 42nd Annual Gosport Arts Festival
- New Board of Director
- President
- New Staff Members
- With Love,
- We Remember
- In Memory of
- In Honor of
- Donors
- Thank You

beat. Time stood still. The doctor pronounced it. They called the time of death on my child. I watched my child die. Huh? Did I just type that? Did that really happen? Are you serious? Sometimes I still can't believe that happened. I wailed at the top of my lungs. I think I buckled over almost to the floor. My husband held me so I wouldn't fall. The nurses discreetly closed the glass doors around his room so that I could be as loud as I needed to and give us privacy. Then the shock set in. I stood up, gathered my composure and began calling my friends. "He's with Jesus" I reported... cool as a cucumber. Stunned. Numb.

Some friends had already been there that day to pray for him and had headed back home. As soon as they got the call they turned right back around to the hospital. It was amazing how fast people seemed to get there. I wasn't alone. Not one bit. The body of Christ wrapped their loving arms around us. They cleaned him up and I got to hold him one last time without all the tubes and hospitably stuff. Just me and my Carter-Bear. I have pictures. I have pictures of me holding my dead child. I cherish them. I am so glad I did that.



*From loves comes strenght*

Later we returned to the Peninsula to go tell my other three children and my mom... (in person as opposed to over the phone). We then returned to our home that was already full of people who had cleaned up and stocked my house full of food for the days to follow.

My husband described that night "as an utterly horrific yet amazingly beautiful night." Isn't that fascinating? The night our baby died was amazingly beautiful... the love that oozed out of our household that night smelled of sweet incense. I had three friends sitting around me just "being there" with me. I said things like "This changes me" and "This is only the beginning." I did not realize how profound and true those statements were. My three friends held my hand and just listened. They didn't try to offer any answers. There were none. They didn't

try to offer advice. They just were there. Then, after most everyone had gone, my pastor gathered us all together in a circle around my coffee table and prayed. The sweetest spirit resided in that prayer. I'll never forget that as long as I live.

The next two years I felt literally carried through that valley of grief by the beautiful body of Christ, but continued to have many questions. The autopsy provided no conclusive answers. It was either death from bacteria or a virus that caused his body to go into septic shock. But they couldn't be sure of anything. Some people die of sepsis. That's all the answer we got. Would it have mattered if I got him in sooner? Could he have been saved if we did something different? It seemed like there were no answers to those questions either. I had my "times with God." I got on the floor and had some tantrums. I screamed and cried more than once. That's the thing about God. He can take that. He's not surprised by it. He lovingly walked me through my anger and all my bitterness. He is good. He is beautiful. He is righteous and holy. I thank Him for being there and not turning away from me in my time of grief. Psalm 34:18 "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

He was getting close to zero from me to sustain his life in utero. His initial apgar was very low, but in 12 hours he was breathing on his own. Miracle #1. He made it. He was a strong and robust preemie. We had been through having a preemie before with Carter so we knew we could go through this again. Again, our community rejoiced with us and prayed us through the six weeks in the NICU. "God is good." We all agreed. Thankful.

Silas came home in October and had virtually no health problems. He developed strong and healthy. He hit all of his milestones at the gestationally appropriate age. I cherished EVERY LAST MINUTE. I took nothing for granted. Not even the hardest days. I cherished even the sound of my baby's cry. I rejoiced in the sleeplessness. I knew what it was to have lost this and I wasn't going to take one minute of this for granted. But I also had dealt with some "theology" issues. It was a resounding "God is good" when Silas was born, continued to grow, and met all his milestones. He was walking and starting to talk... getting into everything... climbing on chairs... flicking light switches on and off... pulling everything off shelves... loving chocolate and pizza... putting hats on his head and saying "hat." Absolutely adorable. YES. GOD IS GOOD. BUT... even if God had NEVER given me Silas, He would STILL BE GOOD. This was the preface to which I would stand my faith upon in the days that followed.

Middle of February 2011... Silas gets an ear infection. (This is how it started with Carter, but we shouldn't be too concerned because what happened with Carter was rare and the chances of it happening again were so obscure.) I tried not to worry. Valentine's Day, Monday, February 14, 2011, Silas was starting to get lethargic. I pushed to get him seen by

his doctor. They fit him in and he got an antibiotic shot. They took blood work. "He should perk up by morning." The blood work didn't show anything suspicious.

The next morning I went into check in on my sick little Silas. REPLAY of two and a half years ago. He's still lethargic. He has NOT perked up. There's just NO way it could happen again. NO WAY. He threw up. There's a small amount of coffee ground-like black dots in his throw up. I wasn't messing around. I called an ambulance. They arrived. They wouldn't take me to CHKD but to a local hospital. "Never mind, we'll drive him straight to CHKD ourselves." My mom arrived to care for Hailey. My husband drove us to CHKD. I started texting my friends. As soon as he is taken back into the ER, doctors started swarming. IT WAS LIKE PLAYING THE MOVIE ALL OVER AGAIN. They used the word "sepsis" again. My friends heard the word and were shocked. They started trickling in to the hospital. Some friends were waiting at home with little ones hanging on every text...every phone call... every update. He was moved up to the PICU. THIS WAS THE SAME PICU CARTER DIED IN. Friends by my side were praying with me. Friends at home were "warring" in the heavenly realms. We were all claiming God's promises. As my friends were praying, Jon interrupted me and ushered me into the PICU to consent to intubation. Silas' lungs were failing and he was SEIZING. The SAME doctor that told us Carter would live (and remembered that very day) now told us Silas would probably die. They gave him a 10-15% chance he would LIVE THROUGH THE NIGHT. His heart was damaged. They let all my friends in (as is customary when someone is about to die.) We said our goodbyes. My mom and three other kids arrived at the hospital to also say goodbye. Is this for REAL??? Could the SAME EXACT THING HAPPEN??? There were so many similarities... both boys... looked so much alike... both preemies... But hadn't God restored our family? Wasn't Silas the redemption miracle?

Silas is still sedated so he can endure the tube down his throat. Nightfall comes. They have small "sleep rooms" we can sleep in on the PICU floor. Several friends stay the night in the waiting room "just in case." (Boy do I love my friends and my community.) As I restlessly slept that night, every noise I wondered if it were going to be someone knocking on my door... ten percent chance he would LIVE through the night. Morning comes. No one knocked on my door. Miracle #2.

The next day they tightened up the regulations. He was now in renal failure and his lungs were bleeding and like mush. But he made it through the night. Only two people were allowed in the PICU at a time. This was standard protocol for sick kids. Friends continued to visit bringing food and love. My in-laws flew in from California and arrived that evening. The doctors still didn't know what was wrong. They brought in the Infectious Disease Specialist (I remembered talking to that doctor when Carter was sick. More replay.) They took a guess at what it might be. HUS (hemolytic ure-

mic syndrome, a disease that destroys red blood cells, is the most common cause of sudden, short-term-acute-kidney failure in children).

They started cleaning his blood with this machine. Later that evening Jon and I were in the PICU and saw his blood pressure start to drop. Jon and I looked at each other...watching... waiting... Is this it? The nurses and doctors did their thing. He held on.... Through a second night.

The next morning brought a glimmer of hope... his heart had HEALED OVERNIGHT. Miracle #3. It was damaged and it healed. God CAN.

Throughout the next two weeks the doctors tried the treatment for HUS. If this was the correct treatment we should see results within 3-4 days. He's holding on. But not getting significantly better. For two weeks, the only thing I could hold on to was "God can." With every piece of hard news, all I could muster within my heart was "God can" in order that I didn't sink into the depths of despair. I received valuable wisdom to focus only on EACH day and that day's troubles. Trying to look into the future and the bajillions of "what-ifs" was daunting. Focusing only on today was one of the best coping skills I used during the darkest days of my life. Facebook exploded with "Pray for Silas" statuses and profile pictures. The network of people who were supporting us continued to expand ....all across the globe we had people praying. I started blogging on a caringbridge site to



*Silas in the hospital in February*



*Mother's hold their children's hands for a while....their hearts forever*

chronicle updates as I received them ([www.caringbridge.org/visit/silascameron](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/silascameron)). Doctors still continued to be perplexed. Doctors consulted with other specialists via telephone across the nation and world. We visited every day. Silas continued to be sedated and intubated and on dialysis. All kinds of antibiotics were being pumped through his frail little body in hopes that one would do the trick. At some points he was on “Isolation” for a suppressed immune system. Silas wasn’t responding like he should when they started to lighten some of the sedation drugs. Concerns for brain injury were discussed. An MRI should be done to determine neurological status.

On Friday evening, February 25, we received a call that evening at home. The doctors had another idea. Maybe it was a genetic blood disease...this thing called HLH...which could also provide some answers for Carter’s unexplainable death. In this blood disease, if your body is attacked with germs or a virus, the normal “pac-mans” that eat the bad stuff in your blood, overreact and multiply at obscene levels. The pac-mans (or “macrophages”) attack the cold germs and then the rest of the body as well. Therefore, the HLH had quite possibly DEVoured all of Silas’ organs and his brain. The treatment would be chemotherapy and steroids to stop the overactive macrophages. Treatment would begin immediately. And the neurologists provided the hope that with this therapy he could quite possibly regain some of his neurological function as the swelling in his brain went down. Only time would tell.

That Sunday while visiting Silas, doctors gave me permission to hold him for the first time since he was admitted.



*Holding Silas for the first time in the PICU*

Unable to move anything on his body but his eyes, he opened his eyes and looked at me for the first time since being admitted. What a precious moment! I sang to him his song “You are my Sunshine” and treasured every minute. I came back into the waiting room after holding him in somewhat of a daze. I had connected with my precious child once again as I had been unable to do for two weeks. Holding

him was like a soothing balm upon my very shattered and broken mother’s heart.

So now the focus was on praying for his brain. We wouldn’t know the extent of his injury until they began to wean him off of all the sedation drugs and we could see what he could do.

March 8 provided exciting news. He started WIGGLING and moving his arms and legs. He wiggled for about 3 hours. In hindsight, the part of the brain that controls this moving most likely healed and the swelling went down so the neurons connected and he was able to move. This was an exciting day.

The next two months he was weaned off dialysis. His kidneys began working on their own. He began breathing on his own. They tried to extubate but had to reintubate because of a neurologically floppy airway. Surgery was done to put in a tracheostomy so that he no longer needed a ventilator. A second MRI showed swelling HAD gone down but there was still more healing needed in his brain. Friends continued to help by visiting us at the hospital, or sitting with Silas to give me time to rest. At one point he was throwing up green stuff and pooping blood all in the same day. One doctor told me “you can do this again” (meaning I could survive the death of another child.) Other doctors didn’t know how to tell us he wasn’t gonna make it. We were constantly checking his blood to see if his HLH was flaring back up. Any rise in his temperature could mean his HLH was returning. As they began weaning him off the sedatives, he went through a lot of “neurological storming” which is normal for this stage but his blood pressure was through the roof. He began biting his cheek and producing lots of blood (which the neurologist said to expect him to do for the rest of his life because of the injury to a specific part of his brain.) I asked people to pray for the green vomit, bloody poop, high blood pressure, low white blood cell counts and awful bloody cheek biting. He stopped the cheek biting that he was supposed to do for the rest of his life. Miracle #4. The other health issues healed as well.

The cure for HLH would be a bone marrow transplant at Duke University. Hailey (his full blood sister) was tested and found to be a match. He just had to be able to “sit up and play.” As he began to be weaned off the sedatives he was NOT sitting up. He was barely focusing. He had no head control (like a newborn.) His eyes were pretty fixed in one direction. It started to sink in how significantly injured his brain was. But no matter what, God STILL can.

The next two months he was moved out of the PICU up to the eighth floor. A g-tube was put in his stomach for feeding so that he wouldn’t have to be fed through the tube in his nose. It was glorious to be able to take that tube out of his nose. We began preparing for him to come home. Come home??? How on earth could I take care of him at

home? Medicaid would provide a nurse 16 hours a day and all of his medical supplies. I wouldn't have to travel almost an hour to and from the hospital. It should be less draining on our family for everyone to be at home. A nurse named Teresa introduced herself to me and visited daily from the Hematology/Oncology clinic. She would be his head nurse when he transitioned home and she also worked for Edmarc. I didn't know what Edmarc was but she kept assuring me Edmarc would be there for Silas when he was home. Teresa has been such a blessing to our family.

Shortly before he came home we agreed to participate in an HLH study in Sweden. Silas, Mommy and Daddy would all have their blood taken within an hour span and within 24 hours the blood was put on a plane and shipped half way around the world. Results came back from the test that Silas didn't qualify...**BECAUSE HIS BLOOD WAS NORMAL. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF HLH IN HIS BLOOD.** Miracle #5. So we stopped the nauseating chemotherapy. If his blood was normal, there was no reason to continue to put him through that. We were thankful. But we were still cautious. Was this remission or would a fever or sickness kick HLH back into gear?

The first week of June came... Silas came home. The doctors pretty much gave me 0-12 months for Silas to live when I took him home. That summer was incredibly hard. He went back into the hospital twice. I had NO idea it would be that hard. I still can't figure out why on earth he transitioned so hard back home. But daily it was a struggle for him... whether it was gas in his tummy that he couldn't burp out (because he had a surgery that prevented him from burping)... or mucous plugs in his trach... or nausea from the ongoing chemo... or agitation... his heart rates hit 200 at points. It was ROUGH. June, July and August were pretty much a blur. My in-laws (who had stayed two months while Silas was in the PICU) came back and helped us throughout the summer. All summer long we looked for what might be causing Silas' stress... we tried all sorts of things... adjusted meds... adjusted feedings... changed formulas... added supplements. FINALLY, come fall, his stomach settled. Things started to become more peaceful. His care, while still demanding, was at least going smoothly as long as we didn't try to mess with ANY medicines (and he's on a lot).

And then... Miracle #6. He SMILED. At first it was only in his sleep. And the nurses would tell me about it. And then he started smiling for ME. He smiled AT me... he smiled when he heard the Five Little Ducks story... He smiled when he heard the duck quack. He was beginning to track things when we worked with him. It wasn't too long after that he started to try and "talk" and "laugh" in his own cute little way!

Then we have miracle #7... he passed his swallow test! Little by little we began to feed him soft foods and the bottle. By Christmas time, he was eating at LEAST two meals a

day of soft baby food BY MOUTH and drinking apple juice through a bottle. The little miracle that doctors told me would never walk, talk or think is interacting and laughing and smiling, eating, drinking and enjoying life. Boy do those smiles mean the world to me. And you can tell what foods he likes and doesn't like. And he sure does love chocolate and fruit.



*Smiley Sweets*

June 2012 comes and he's survived HLH for an entire year at home with no flare-ups. Miracle #8. Over the last year, he's still had his ups and downs. He still has no head control or purposeful movement. Yet. He has not qualified for the bone marrow transplant, which was supposedly the "cure" for this horrid disease. Two weeks before Carter's 5th Anniversary when Silas got a fever over the weekend I was very scared. I didn't know if this was the HLH returning to haunt us again for which fever is a telltale sign. I didn't know if being sick would jump start those little HLH pac-mans back into crazy mode and I would lose him this time. But he survived the fever that weekend. No evidence of HLH surfaced. It was a scary and intense weekend. But I'm so thankful he is still here! He is not the same little boy that he was before he was struck with HLH, but I love the boy he is NOW. I miss the Silas that ran around and pulled all the papers off the computer desk and walked around putting everyone's "hats" on. I miss that terribly, but perspective is such a beautiful thing. Had I not had that horrendous agonizing summer where I watched him suffer and fight every day, unable to figure out how to change things, I might not be so patient with his slow progress. (And he continues to progress, but EXTREMELY slowly.) And now? I am so GRATEFUL for every peaceful day... every smile... every laugh... every excited bite of food (he does get excited and talks a lot when he eats)...and now I am even grateful for him being able to CRY. Yes, that's right. Miracle #9. He cried on August 16, 2012, for about 15 minutes. I can't tell you how many times I've heard a child cry and wished that Silas could. And now my sweet little miracle CAN.

Beautiful flowers that brightened a very dark valley. And

still do! I am so utterly grateful... for every meal, every email, every text, every listening ear, every hug, every offer to help with Hailey, every bag of groceries, every anonymous gift card, every massage certificate, every house cleaning, EVERY prayer, every



person who offered to learn his care to provide respite time for me so I can resume somewhat of a normal life with my family...for family time, doctor appointments, school shopping with Hailey. I am grateful for every reminder that people are still here supporting us.

Edmarc has been there every single minute I needed them or had a question.

They are available night or day... seven days a week... even on holidays. A registered nurse would be here as fast as she was able. They answered questions... alleviated my fears about common problems... came and got blood work done so I wouldn't have to take Silas into the hospital...helped change his PICC line dressing...picked up medicines from the pharmacy 45 minutes away and brought them to my house... came and observed strange seizures on Superbowl Sunday. I do NOT know what I would have done without them. I am so thankful to Edmarc. They are the most beautiful group of people. I've always said if I ever went on a game show and played for charity, I would play for Edmarc.

We still have to adjust his meds...try to control seizures... vent gas bubbles out of his g-tube that he can't burp out on his own...work on physical and occupational therapy... stimulate him (we bring playtime TO him since he can't play with things on his own)...visit the neurologist... the endocrinologist... the rehab doctor... the ENT doctor... gastroenterologist... hematologist/oncologist...get blood work every few months. He has developed scoliosis from always lying in bed curved and his hips haven't grown correctly and are out of joint. His body is still not producing the proper amount of cortisol. It is HARD WORK but I am not giving up on him or God. Scientifically, the brain DOES continue to grow and I wouldn't put it past God to do even more for Silas. While the bulk of brain growth is done by age three (which he turns August 31, 2012, one week from the date this article is written) God is not limited by that. I have SEEN what God can do.

I have been blessed with an incredible team of nurses who love him almost as much as I do! That blesses my heart so much! It gives me great peace in my spirit to be able to spend time with my family and rest and know Silas is receiving outstanding care. They are on board with hoping and believing he can always do more through our hard work and God's grace. They are a God-send to him and to me! I am forever thankful for "Silas' Angels" as I affectionately call them. The nurses on



*Silas and his new friend*

staff, the friends who help care for him, the people who come over just to love on him, the prayer warriors who beseech God daily on his behalf who have never even met him... They are all precious, wonderful people. He is one LOVED little boy whose life and testimony has touched thousands. That blows my mind.

For all eternity I will dance and worship our Savior with both my boys... healthy and whole. God has been glorified through all of this most certainly. What God has done through the suffering of my boys is eternal. That's hard to stomach... especially as their Mom. But this is but only a mere glimpse in all eternity.

Watching all that God has done has been a faith builder. I used to think it was scary to "hope". It makes you feel vulnerable. And it does sometimes. But I think it's even scarier NOT to "hope." It is a choice. I can live in despondency daily or I can live in hope. I choose to live in hope, thankful, grateful, and treasuring every moment with my loved ones. But my definition of hope has changed. Miracle #10. My hope is not in a circumstance or an outcome but rather in the Person of God Himself. What more will He do? I don't know what the future holds but I do know He can. Therefore, "I can" face whatever it is with God by my side.

Because God is good no matter what...with God, there's always hope!

## The YMCA'S Camp Silver Beach Teens give Edmarc families some very special summertime fun!

On July 20th the teen campers from Camp Silver Beach of the YMCA on the Eastern Shore hosted a summer carnival for the families of Edmarc. Over 40 campers put this event together including games, crafts, food, and prizes. The teens did a fantastic job!!



*Wags enjoys the company of some new feline friends*



*A little damp but making sure everyone had a great time*

They had corn hole, a water balloon toss, sucker pull, magic tricks, face painting and much more! Unfortunately, the rain did not hold off and we had to move everything inside. While that presented some unique challenges, it all worked out for the best and everyone had a great time. The rain cleared out near the end and some of the teens assumed the position to be targets for the water balloons! Because the weather caused several of the families to arrive later in the day, the teens extended the carnival so that everyone could participate. The teen leadership group at Camp Silver Beach really made an impression on us in their dedication to making sure our families and patients had a great time. They even stood outside with umbrellas to keep the families dry as they walked inside. This is such an incredible program and we look forward to working with this wonderful group in the future. There are discussions in place to make this an annual event and partnership.



*Creativity at work*



*Face painting was just part of the fun*



*Calling on her creative muse*

Thank you to Rhonda, the lead staff, and Sam, the lead counselor, for thinking of Edmarc for this very special project. Each and every member of the group worked hard to bring this together and we look forward to future projects.

***Attention Please:***  
**Santas, Elves and Turkeys!! We Need You...**  
**Because The Holidays Will Be Here Before You Know It!**

Dear Community Member:

It's never too early to commit to helping a child. There are many ways in which you may help Edmarc Hospice for Children during Thanksgiving and Christmas. We hope that your family, business, congregation or office will consider adopting one or more families this holiday season, or make a donation to help children with life-threatening illnesses.

Last year, with the help from community members in Hampton Roads, close to 250 people (75 Edmarc families) enjoyed much brighter holidays than they would have otherwise had. This year, we will once again help more than 75 Edmarc families!

Please consider helping in one or more of the following ways:

- \* Thanksgiving dinner food baskets: Providing the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal helps our families tremendously. (Baskets are due by Thursday, November 15.)
- \* Deliver Thanksgiving food baskets in the Hampton Roads area. (Delivery: Saturday, November 17)
- \* Gifts for families: We'll provide a "wish list" and information about the family to help with gift purchases. For the majority of our families, the Christmas gifts that donors like you provide are the only ones Edmarc's families receive. (The deadline for unwrapped gifts is Friday, December 7)
- \* Support the annual holiday party for our bereavement support group, Peace by Piece. Please consider donating decorations, drinks, paper products and other items to help make this evening a special time. (Party will be held on Thursday, December 20.)
- \* Gift wrapping: Join with friends and co-workers and come to the North Pole, a.k.a. Edmarc's office, and wrap the gifts that have been donated. (Gifts will be wrapped December 8 and 15) Must RSVP for time slot.
- \* Be an elf for a day! Join Santa and the Edmarc staff for our annual Santa Delivery and help deliver the gifts to the families who will enjoy a visit from Jolly Saint Nick himself! (Sunday, December 16.) Note: Must be 18 years or older to participate in this event
- \* Christmas dinner food baskets: Providing all the fixings for a meal for Christmas helps our families immensely. (Baskets are due by Thursday, December 20.)
- \* Deliver Christmas dinner food baskets in the Hampton Roads area. (Delivery: Saturday, December 22)

As you can see, there are many ways you can help make a difference in the lives of children this holiday season. We hope that you will join the fun and help make the holidays just a little easier and a lot less stressful for Edmarc's children and families.

Please call Jessica Plank at 757.967.9251 ext. 203 for more information. Please return the enclosed form by mail or fax it to 757.967.9124 as soon as possible. Thanks for your support!



## Edmarc Hospice For Children 2012 Sponsorship Form

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate with which project your group will participate:

Thanksgiving dinner food baskets: Providing the fixings for a meal for Thanksgiving helps our families tremendously. (Baskets are due by Thursday, November 15th).

Number of families you wish to sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Size of Families: Small (2-3people) \_\_\_\_\_ Medium (4-6people) \_\_\_\_\_ Large (More than 6 people) \_\_\_\_\_

Deliver Thanksgiving food baskets in the Hampton Roads area.

Saturday, November 17th \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts for families: We'll provide a 'wish list' and the family's information so as to help with your holiday purchases. For the majority of our families, the Christmas gifts donors like you provide are the only gifts they will have for Christmas morning. (The deadline for unwrapped gifts is Friday, December 7th ).

Number of families you wish to sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Size of Families: Small (2-3people) \_\_\_\_\_ Medium (4-6people) \_\_\_\_\_ Large (More than 6 people) \_\_\_\_\_

Support the annual Holiday Party for our bereaved support group, Peace by Piece. Donations needed include decorations, drinks, paper products and other items to help make this evening a fun time. (Party is December 20th.)

Gift wrapping: Join with co-workers or friends and come to the North Pole, a.k.a. Edmarc's office, and wrap the gifts that have been donated. You must RSVP for gift wrap days.

Saturday, December 8th \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, December 15th \_\_\_\_\_

Be an elf for a day! Join Santa and the Edmarc staff for our annual Santa Delivery and deliver the gifts to the families who will enjoy a visit from Jolly Saint Nick himself! (Sunday, December 16th). NOTE: You must be 18 years old to participate in this event.

Town you prefer to catch the trolley (first come, first served basis): \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas dinner food baskets: Providing all the fixings for a meal for Christmas helps our families tremendously. (Baskets are due by Thursday, December 20th).

Number of families you wish to sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Size of Families: Small (2-3people) \_\_\_\_\_ Medium (4-6people) \_\_\_\_\_ Large (More than 6 people) \_\_\_\_\_

Deliver Christmas food baskets in the Hampton Roads area. (Delivery: Saturday, December 22nd )

Please return this form to:

Jessica Plank, Community Resource Coordinator

516 London Street

Portsmouth, VA 23704

Fax: 757.967.9124

For more information: contact Jessica (967.9251 ext. 203)

Thank you for offering to help children in Hampton Roads have a happy holiday!

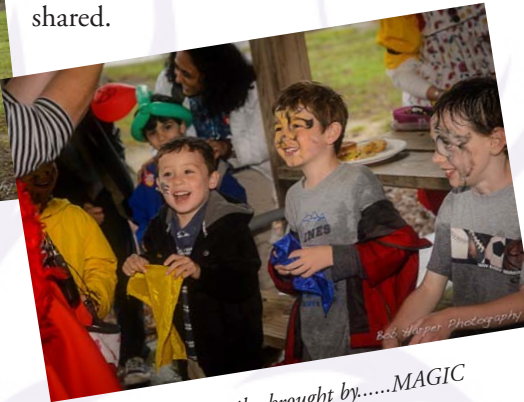
## Sunny Smiles Dampen The Rain's Effect at Edmarc's Annual Picnic

The Annual Picnic, held at Bayville Farms in Virginia Beach, was a soggy one! Despite the wind and the rain, several of our families and volunteers came out and had a fantastic time. We were able to stay dry under the shelter where TwoCanJam was playing happy music to enjoy the rain by. The Merry Heart clowns brightened up the gloomy day with face painting, balloon creations and magic tricks. Special guests, Santa and Mrs. Claus, came to add to the fun as well. Those who were willing to brave the rain were able to play in the bounce house, made all that much more slippery fun due to the weather conditions.

Undaunted by the drippy conditions, members of the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk spent the afternoon huddled under umbrellas to keep the grill going, providing a welcome feast of hamburgers and hot dogs to a hungry crew. All of the attendees brought delicious side dishes and desserts that were generously shared.



*Whats a little rain to some great chefs.*



*Great big smiles brought by.....MAGIC*



*Two Can Jam brings music to the park*

Despite the damp and gloom, everyone had a great time. It takes more than a little wet weather to spoil our fun!



*It's the wet-drenched look*



*A beautiful butterfly named Sabrina*



*What a cool dinosaur*

## Introducing Nemo Larmore, New Board of Directors' President

My name is Nemo Larmore and I am an audit partner at the accounting firm KPMG. I was born and raised in Virginia Beach, where I met my wife of 17 years, Stacey. We have two boys, Townsend, who is 12, and Ian, nine, and we reside in the Kempsville section of Virginia Beach.

Ian was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma in 2006 at age three and was hospitalized at CHKD for 296 days while he underwent a challenging protocol to kill the cancer. Through that time frame and post treatment, Edmarc became a special part of our lives. Once we got out of the hospital, limiting the return visits for a four, five, or six-year-old boy was critical to the mental healing process of surviving cancer. Edmarc gave us the ability to not have to go to the hospital for routine blood draws or various lab results.

Once Ian became a survivor and entered the phase of remission, my focus was on giving back to the community that had given my family so much. Stacey and I formed a foundation, the Ian Wilson Larmore Foundation, which raised over \$100,000 and significant awareness through various fundraisers (golf tournaments, spaghetti dinners, bracelet drives and blood drives.) During this process, I joined the board at Edmarc and became involved at the board level. I have grown to love Edmarc and admire how well the organization is run on a day-to-day basis and I truly believe in its mission.

After a long tenure of faithful leadership, former board president, Pam Brunner, has stepped aside and handed me the reins. I am honored to serve with Pam, my other faithful board members, Debbie Stitzer-Brame (executive director) and the rest of the staff at Edmarc. I hope my two years as acting president of the board will guide us as we strive to provide increased clarity regarding our ability to run our programs in perpetuity as well as to increase Edmarc's footprint and reach more children in need in our local community.

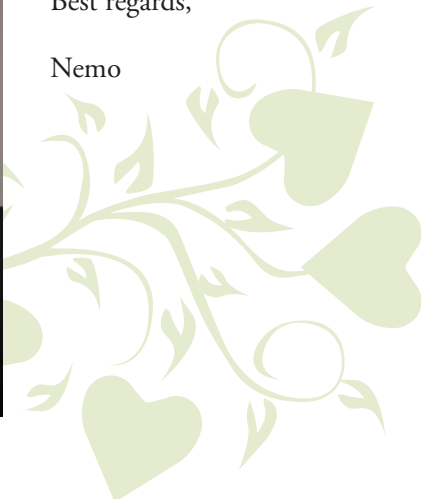
Please accept this note as my sincere appreciation for the opportunity the board has provided me.



*Nemo Larmore, New Edmarc  
Board President*

Best regards,

Nemo



## Introducing The Newest Peace by Piece Facilitators

A hearty welcome to Edmarc's newest Peace by Piece grief group facilitators who just completed their 23 hours of facilitator training on August 26, 2012.

This grief support training is perhaps the most intense training that Edmarc offers to adult volunteers who want to work with grieving children, teens, and adults at our twice monthly Peace by Piece group meetings. These new volunteers are now prepared to facilitate and support grieving families who enroll their children, ages 5-18, in Peace by Piece.

Peace by Piece children and teens have experienced the death of a parent, grandparent, sibling, best friend, or other significant loved one. At group meetings, children and teens are divided into age appropriate groups (there are two adult groups, too) and are encouraged to garner support from each other, as they talk about their loved one, or play grief related games. The commonality of their death loss can be a powerful healing tool.

Welcome Amanda, Anna, Jody, Lakyta, Mary, and Twanna to our family of the most skilled and committed volunteers on the planet! Thank you for your time, energy and enthusiasm for helping grieving children and teens in Hampton Roads.

## Thank You For Your Designations!

Many, many friends, nearly 1,500 of you, designated Edmarc Hospice for Children as the recipient of your contributions in last year's workplace fund-raising campaign. That includes all United Way donors and federal employees who participated in their workplace campaign.

A reminder - the new campaign is upon us. We count on your designations and deeply appreciate your faithful support. Thank you again and again for all you do!



**Community Partner**

## 42nd Annual Gosport Arts Festival Brought out the Crowds and Success for Edmarc's Programs!

### Yorktown Rotary Weekend Brings Fun and Special Memories

Every summer the Yorktown Rotary sponsors a spectacular event for several of our families called the Yorktown Rotary Weekend. This event makes it possible for the families to take a short and oh-so-welcome vacation in the Yorktown area with some very exciting and fun filled activities on the agenda.

This year was no exception, and so once again on Father's Day Weekend, June 15th through the 17th, several of our Edmarc families headed out to attend this very special weekend hosted and sponsored by the Yorktown Rotary.

The families spent the weekend at the beautiful Duke of York Hotel, right on the water. The weekend kicked off with a special meet and greet picnic on Friday evening. Saturday's activities included a family fishing trip and an evening designed to give both parents and kids some time of their own, with a pizza party to delight younger palates and, for the parents a night out with dinner at a local restaurant. Sunday included some lounging time at the pool before the families headed home.

The entire cost of the weekend is covered by the Rotary, and is truly a treat for all in attendance. A huge thank you to the Yorktown Rotary for, once again, providing lots of fun and special memories for our Edmarc families.

### A Special Time To Come Together To Share Needs Your Help

Edmarc's annual Day of Remembrance is scheduled for Sunday, November 18, 2012. As in past years, we invite our bereaved families to participate in honoring and memorializing the children who have died.

This sacred day is a time to talk about the children, share stories and memories, and reflect. Often, the commonality of the experience helps parents in their grief, and new friends are made.

Following the candle lighting service, we invite our guests to a special reception where they may continue conversations while they enjoy light snacks and beverages.

Without the financial and volunteer help from community groups and agencies, this service will not be available to our bereaved families. If your community group or agency would like to financially assist Edmarc with supplies for the memorial service, or with food and drink for the reception, please contact Anne Chisman Abraham, MSW, CT, Edmarc's Bereavement Program Director, at 967-9251.

The 42nd Gosport Arts Festival was held over a beautiful Mother's Day weekend in Olde Towne Portsmouth. The festival brought in over 120 artists from all around the country with a wide variety of mediums represented. There were artists displaying glass works, mixed media, oil paintings, metal works, clothing, pottery, sketches, jewelry and much more. Each of these generous and talented artists also donated a piece to the ever popular silent auction. The silent auction proceeds go directly to Edmarc and this year was the best year yet as it raised over \$6000!

The Festival, including the silent auction, raised over \$26,000 to support the mission and programs of Edmarc. The show was superbly run by new executive director, Shelley Brooks, and a small but dedicated committee. With all of the planning efforts, the show ran very smoothly. It was a beautiful weekend and the crowds were out in large numbers.

The newly remodeled Children's Museum hosted the artists' reception on Saturday night. There artists received awards for each medium and for Best in Show. Special recognition and appreciation were given to Millie Johnson for all her outstanding work as the executive director of the show for the past 26 years.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to the local talent who gave their time and efforts to entertain all who came and to support the show. Thank you to Derek Smith, Beige, Drew Darrell, Dancing with Dragons and Vinny Dileone.

This event is a wonderful fundraiser for Edmarc and raises a lot of awareness for our mission. We would like to thank all of the sponsors, volunteers and artists for making this show one of Portsmouth's crown jewels!

### 2012 Gosport Arts Festival Award Winners & Sponsors

Kris Taylor | \$2,000 Best in Show | KPMG, LLP  
John Furches | \$1,000 Award of Excellence | Bath Fitter, Inc.  
Pamela Hill | \$500 Award of Distinction for Painting | Jerry's Artarama  
Madelaine Gray | \$500 Award of Distinction for Photography | The Brooks Family  
Chad Alan Clark | \$500 Award of Distinction for Sculpture | Innovative Spas  
Daniel Christie | \$500 Award of Distinction for Ceramics | The Stanley Blaxton Foundation  
Karen Mason | \$500 Award of Distinction for Jewelry | Captain & Mrs. Michael R. Gluse  
Candiss Cole | \$500 Award of Distinction for Mixed Media | Friends of Gosport  
Jonathan McKee | \$500 Award of Distinction for Glass | Patrick and Karen Callahan  
John Payton | \$500 Award of Distinction for Wood | StratusLIVE  
Carolyn Currie | \$250 A. B. Jackson Award | Cigar Masters  
Robbie Garrity | \$250 Patricia J. Sawyer Memorial Award | Trish's Family

## The Kiwanis Club of Norfolk: Rallying for Edmarc!

On June 2nd, nearly 100 riders on 45 motorcycles from friends of the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk held a “Poker Run” from Virginia Beach to Chesapeake. Eagle’s Nest, Boneshakers Sports Bar and Grill, La Casa Rana, Grumpy’s and Big Woody’s provided the stops along the way.

But it was at the fifth stop - Big Woody’s - where the celebration activities went into full swing. MOcean provided the music...and what a band they were! It was a wonderful event with lots of riders, motor bikes and, most of all, a whole lot of smiles.



*Sign up right here!*



*We're off and Running!*



*A moment of rest*

**The event raised nearly \$10,000 to help underwrite the cost of new windows and replace wood structures at Edmarc’s administrative and support building.**



*Everybody played a part*



*MOcean in motion making music*

We at Edmarc are extremely grateful to the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk, all the volunteers and each of the rallying points for coming together for the cause and making it such a resounding success. An extra special thank you goes to Lisa Hanlin and Walter Groesbeck who coordinated the entire event.

## First Soutside Friendraising Breakfast Scores Big!



*Ian is an inspiration for all*

was a healthy discharge from the services of Edmarc! Ian's story is one of strength, courage and inspiration for all. He is living proof that children are resilient and miracles do happen. The event focused on the importance of being at home and how Edmarc makes that happen. It was evident that everyone understood the real reason for the event and why it is so important to support Edmarc.



*The perfect host, Joe Flanagan*



*A ballroom full of Edmarc friends*

So far, the event has raised over \$12,000 with future pledges to be made. But probably more importantly, the event helped create friends for the future. An extra special thank you to Debbie Jones and Sharon Cole for Co-Chairing the event. Also thank you to committee members, Kellee Jones, Ellen Keeter, David Kenerson, Steve Reader, Susanna Adams and Mark Jones for all their efforts in making the First Friendraising Breakfast a huge success!

On October 11, 2012, friends came together to show their support for the Edmarc children and their families. The Atlantic Ballroom at the Virginia Beach Wyndham hosted the breakfast and it couldn't have been more beautiful. The theme for the event was "The Many Faces of Edmarc". There were 176 guests in attendance from our families, current and past families, board members, supporters, volunteers and staff. Enthusiasm filled the room as guests engaged in conversation. None other than Joe Flanagan was the host of the event and Mayor Will Sessoms did the official welcome on behalf of the city of Virginia Beach.



*Official welcome from Mayor Will Sessoms*



*Nemo shares the real meaning of Edmarc*



*A special photo-op with co-chairs Debbie Jones & Sharon Cole in center*

## 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!



### 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!



## Day Of Caring Eases The Burden

Fridays are typically a day when work slows down at the office and workers are looking forward to the weekend. Things were different on Friday, September 14, 2012 – United Way's Annual Day of Caring. There wasn't much down time on this day!

Employees from QED, PRA, Earl Industries, NASA, MAERSK, Bank of America, Patten, Wornom, Hatton & Diamonstein, ODU Wrestlers and Old Point National Bank all donned jeans and t-shirts to help Edmarc and its families check things off their "To Do" lists. Thanks to NASA volunteers, one Edmarc family had its floors and doorways repaired. Another family benefited as QED volunteers powerwashed the house, mowed the yard and even moved a wooden swing set. It helps to send engineers to do a job like that – the guys got right to work at 9:00 a.m. drawing specific plans to create the new deck. Last, but far from being the least, the PRA (Portfolio Recovery Associates) volunteers helped in a big way at Edmarc's office by assisting with cleaning and organizing the office along with some much overdue lawn maintenance.

Edmarc Hospice for Children sincerely appreciates the time, efforts and energy that each Day of Caring volunteer gave to its families and staff. We know that the work done on this annual day of giving will be cherished for a long time to come.



## Fore Edmarc, Fore Kids! The 16th Annual Edmarc Charity Golf Classic

On August 16th, our friends from the Edmarc Golf Committee coordinated the Annual Edmarc Charity Golf Classic. It was a gorgeous day at Cypress Creek Golfer's 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 charities; it is not just about the money. We have no celebrity spokesperson to rally the community, but rely on the dedication of the committee's members -- tournament Co-Chairs Jeff Boynton and Clayton Jenson, Noel Talcott, Don Smith, Bud Brame, Dorothy Jenson, Daniel Pabon, Jess Plank and Debbie Stitzer Brame -- all of whom gave their time and efforts to make this a fun event for the golfers and all who participated.

The Larmore Family joined us at this year's tournament. They shared the ups and downs of their son, Ian's, cancer journey. Ian is living proof that children are resilient, and that miracles do happen. It was evident that everyone understood the real reason for the event and why it is so important to support Edmarc.

This year we had the good fortune to have Tri City Developers step up as our Premier Sponsor. Corman Marine Construction, First Team Auto and KPMG were our Partnering Sponsors. Joining the list as Golf Cart Sponsors were Allied Concrete Products, Cashman, CHUBB, Bud Brame, Davies Commercial Masonry, HBH Industrial Services, LifeNet Health, McLean Contracting Company and Q.E.D. Systems. And for the first time we had Hertz Equipment Rental sponsor our Closest-to-the-Pin Par 3 prizes. In addition we want to say thank you to our Beverage Sponsors, G.W.R.R.A and William Harper, DDS, Vandevanter Black and Peter & White Constructions. We were also fortunate to have a long list of hole sponsors as well.

In addition we want to say thank you to our Beverage Sponsors, G.W.R.R.A and William Harper, DDS, Vandevanter Black and Peter & White Constructions. We were also fortunate to have a long list of hole sponsors as well as other supporters.

Baxter Simmons and Baxter's Sports Lounge provided the fabulous meal at the awards dinner along with our dear friends from the Kiwanis Club of Mercury 64 who helped underwrite the dinner. And this year we had, along with some very special raffle prizes donated by area businesses and a silent auction, by far the best prize packages for the top finishers in the tournament.

**Mark your calendar for  
Thursday, August 8, 2013  
for next year's tournament!**

## New Staff Members

**Alicia Miller, RN**

Hello- I'm Alicia Miller and during my short tenure with this amazing organization, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you and look forward to working with each Edmarc family.

The desire to be a Registered Nurse has always been within and after working in Human Resources for a staffing company for 11 years, I accomplished my goal!

For the past two years, I have been working at the Sentara Careplex Hospital on a medical monitoring unit. I am passionate about children and hospice nursing and am blessed and incredibly humbled now to be of service in this capacity. I believe in the mission of Edmarc and consider it a privilege to be a part of the team here.

I have been in the Tidewater area for 15 years and reside in Hampton with my 17 year old son, Luke. My favorite past time is just being at home with Luke and our dog, Ginger. However, I also enjoy traveling, reading and taking walks on the beach nearby.

Again, I anticipate working with all of you in support of Edmarc and the patients and families we serve.

**Jennifer King, RN**

Hello! I am Jennifer King. I am a new addition to the Edmarc family! I am an RN with several years experience in pediatric hematology/oncology.

I earned my nursing degree from Old Dominion University. I never dreamed of doing anything other than nursing! My passion for nursing developed as a young girl caring for the neighborhood children. My husband also has a nursing degree from Old Dominion University! We have a little boy named Ty (and a baby on the way)! I LOVE spending time with my family, shopping, hot chocolate, travelling, anything crafty, college football, reading, and freshly baked peanut butter cookies!

I am incredibly excited to be on this journey with the Edmarc family!

## Congratulations!

To the new parents and family members of Audrianna R., a healthy, 8 lb baby girl who arrived on August 9, 2012

To Xavier, on his graduation from middle school

To Carlo upon receiving the Arrow of Light award, the highest award given to a Cub Scout

To our very own Jess Plank for receiving her masters degree in Accounting from Old Dominion University



## With Love, We Will Always Remember

**Knyson P. (10/11/07 – 03/17/12)** – Knyson was an amazing little boy who held the hearts of all he met. He was always full of laughter and energy, and could melt the hearts of everyone around him. Knyson will be lovingly remembered by his father Wallace, mother Natasha, brothers Kiveon, Keyshawn, and Keon, as well as many other family members and friends.

**Chanel C. (02/22/95 – 03/17/12)** – Chanel, who preferred to be called Belle, was a beautiful, strong, and courageous young lady who touched the lives of everyone she met. Her strength and gentle smile inspired all who had the pleasure to know her. Chanel loved music and spending time with family and friends. Her son, Jamarion; her parents, Henry and Stephanie; her siblings, Chenee, Crystal, Dominique, Charmaine, Christopher, and Colby as well as numerous family members and friends will forever remember Chanel with love.

**Delilah D. (09/16/09 – 03/31/12)** – Delilah was a courageous little girl who touched the hearts of all around her. She had strength, perseverance, and the ability to overcome incredible circumstances and physical challenges, and a smile that could melt any heart that came her way. Her mother, Liza, and brother, Robbie, as well as many other family members and friends, will always and lovingly hold Delilah in their hearts.

**Lloyd “LJ” J. (10/13/94-04/24/12)** - Lloyd, who preferred to be called “LJ”, was a strong, courageous young man who fought hard against his challenges. He will remain forever in the hearts of his brother, Malik, and his sisters, Tamara and Melanie.

**Kaleb P. (05/12/11-06/06/12)** – Kaleb was an incredibly strong fighter who fought so very hard. Although his time here was short, Kaleb touched the hearts of everyone he met. Kaleb’s family refers to him as “Our Little Warrior.” Kaleb will be always be loved and remembered by his parents, Michael and Cassandra, as well as numerous other family and friends.

**Delvery D., Jr. (05/24/07-06/01/12)** – Delvery was an amazing little guy who was adored by all those who had the privilege to know him. He was rarely seen without a smile on his face, no matter what the day brought. Delvery fought a long, courageous battle with cancer, but he never let it hold him back. He loved spending time with his family, going to school, and participating in church. He brightened the lives of all those in his presence. Left to cherish his memory are his parents, Delvery and Clarissa, his little brother, Cristian and numerous other family members and friends.

**Kaelynn D. (7/11/12-7/11/12)** – Kaelynn Nicole Renee was a beautiful baby girl who touched so many hearts in her short time here on earth. Although baby Kaelynn’s time here was far too short, she was deeply loved by her family. Left to cherish her sweet memory is her parents, Anthony & D.J., big sister, Michaela, and numerous other family members and friends.

**Oliver C. (8/18/05-8/23/12)** - Oliver was an amazing little boy who fought a long and courageous battle. Oliver blessed the lives of so many along his way. He loved spending time with family, friends and attending church. Oliver will always be remembered for his strength, courage, smile and big heart. He will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by his parents, Israel and Maria and sister Angie, as well as many other family members and friends

**Angel G. (9/1/12-9/8/12)** - Angel Diamond was an amazing and beautiful baby girl who has a special place in the hearts of many. Though her time here was far too short, she touched the lives of those who came to know her. She was adored by all who had the privilege to meet her. Angel will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by her parents, Yonette and Markland; her big sisters, Angelina and Diamond and numerous other family members and friends.

**Elric C. (1/7/02-9/9/12)** – Elric was a brave young man who fought a long, courageous battle with his cancer, never letting it dampen his spirit. Trips to the Aquarium, video games, movies, books, and Pokemon were just a few of his favorite things. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family. Elric had a huge heart and a smile to brighten anyone’s day. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his parents, Eric and Kelly; his buddy and grandfather, William; his little sister, Kat and many other members of his family and friends.

## Edmarc Recognizes Some Special V.I.P.'S



Townsend Larmore starts the evening off with a poem

Volunteer Recognition was held during National Volunteer Week on April 19th at the 3-Way Café in downtown Norfolk. This very special occasion was a little different than in years past. Townsend Larmore opened the ceremony with an inspirational funny about volunteers and then our incoming board president and his sons, Ian and Townsend, presented the awards to all the recipients.

Each volunteer recognized received a framed award with his or her achievement and a photo of one of our children in recognition and as a reminder of the reason he or she volunteers. Every volunteer in attendance was also given a "Volunteer Prescription" as a thank you for the hard work, commitment and dedication given on Edmarc's behalf. The awards were presented to the following:

### Pam Brunner- Lifetime Achievement Award

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."*

This quote clearly describes our Lifetime Achievement Award honoree. This special individual has been a part of Edmarc's leadership a long time, -- 15 years to be exact. She joined the board to offer her expertise in managed care and reimbursement. Shortly after she began as an Edmarc volunteer, she assumed the president's position on the board at a time when the and the then executive director had just announced she would be relocating. To say it was a time of transition would be an understatement. This committed volunteer welcomed the challenge and embraced it with open arms. In her 15 years of service on the board, Pam Brunner has served as president for over 13 of them.



Pam Brunner & Debbie Stitzer-Brame get an assist from Teete

Over the years, she has gently touched the lives of many through volunteering at each and every event/activity Edmarc has engaged in. From spending countless hours and days serving as a hospital pal to little Jackson and providing tender loving care to watching Edmarc go from a small "mom and pop" organization to serving hundreds of children and families each year.

It is only fitting that today we recognized Pam Brunner for her selfless acts of kindness over the



Pam & Debbie embracing after Pam receives award

years. Because as Tracy Chapman would say...

*"I've seen and met angels wearing the disguise of ordinary people living ordinary lives."*

~ Tracy Chapman

### Mark Jones – Volunteer of the Year

This year's Volunteer of the Year award recognizes a person who has performed just about every volunteer job available at Edmarc. This is our go-to guy for anything and everything, no matter how big or small the job, no matter the time of day or how short the notice. Our super hero! He has participated in the Day of Caring for Edmarc and for the children and families; sponsored various events and activities and currently serves in a leadership capacity on the Edmarc Foundation Board of Directors and on the Development Committee as well. Mark has also helped us raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the agency's mission.

On a side note, he has even recruited his wife, Debbie, and daughter, Kellee, to join in on the volunteer fun at Edmarc.

*"Great things happen when people set their minds to it. Dreams come true. Ideas become results. Strangers become friends and allies. Making a difference becomes a way of life."*

~ Author unknown



Nemo and Townsend present Mark Jones with his award.

## Ben Burbic- 2012 Leadership Award

This year's Leadership Award goes to someone who joined the ranks of Edmarc a number of years ago. He came to know Edmarc through a group of motorcycle riders known as the Red Knights of Newport News. This unique organization is made up of an esteemed group of individuals who are firefighters and rescue personnel. Over the years they have volunteered and raised money through a variety of fundraisers to support the work of Edmarc.

This award recognizes a gentleman who literally represents us on the Virginia Peninsula. He has taken his leadership role very seriously by canvassing the Peninsula community, meeting with community leaders and sharing the message of Edmarc – who we are, what we do and how they can help. He has spearheaded a number of fundraising/awareness events and activities and has raised significant financial support and awareness of the services Edmarc provides.



*Ben Burbic at the awards dinner with Nemo and Townsend*

### Awards were also presented to:

**Amy Paulson**

**Peace by Piece: In recognition of her invaluable contributions to the Peace by Piece Program**

**Lindsey Chase**

**Everyday Angel Award: In recognition of her invaluable contributions to Edmarc Hospice for Children's Bereavement Program**

**Shelley Brooks**

**Events Extraordinaire: In recognition of her invaluable contributions to Edmarc Hospice for Children's family and fundraising events**

**Advanced Designs**

**Community Impact Award: In recognition of the positive impact they have had on the children and families of Edmarc Hospice for Children.**

**Janie Bearmone**

**Helping Hand Award: In recognition of her invaluable contributions to Edmarc Hospice for Children's clinical support program**

**Judy Poynter**

**Administrative Excellence: In recognition of her invaluable contributions where no job is too small or too large**



*Lindsey Chase is all smiles after receiving her award*



*Jim and Karen Davita with Nemo and Townsend*



*Judy Poynter receives her award from Nemo and Townsend*

***Each and every volunteer is priceless to Edmarc! We could not provide all of our programs without their support and dedication to our mission. Thank you to each and every volunteer that has given of their time and their hearts!***

## Spring Fling Comes With Fun and Excitement and Some Very Special Friends



Reid keeps company with a pair of faithful friends.



Shakur and Bobdi, the therapy dog, have a close bond.

Edmarc's Annual Spring Fling was held on Saturday afternoon, March 31st, in between rain showers. Once again, we had over 3000 Easter Eggs filled with candy and prizes donated for the much-anticipated Easter egg hunt. Girl Scout Troop #382 came out and provided craft activities for the Edmarc patients and siblings. The Easter Bunny took time out of his busy schedule to come and make an appearance with his dear friend Wags! New this year was a special cake prepared by Stacey Fruchey of Icing Smiles. Icing Smiles is a wonderful organization that provides specialty cakes for sick children. The cake was wonderful and accomplished the goal of bringing lots of smiles!



To everyone's delight, an Icing Smiles Cake came to the party!

The event was sponsored by KPMG, whose annual support makes this event possible. Not only do they sponsor the event financially but they also volunteer and play a critical role in getting the Easter Bunny here! The VOICE Club from Nansmond River High School spent the morning hiding all 3000 eggs in and around the Edmarc gardens and Regina and Jaiden provided face painting.



Felicia and Wags spend a special moment.



Sharing colorful fun with Troop #382

The families had a wonderful time thanks to all of the volunteers that were here to make it such a success.

Thank you for all you do and continue to do throughout the year!

### 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 King  
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

Alicia Miller  
Patient Care Coordinator

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 Ms. Joan E. Zetter  
 Mr. and Mrs. George Zender  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Zimmerman



## Thank You

for supplies, toys, special events tickets and items for Edmarc families  
March 1, 2012 – September 20, 2012

Aldersgate United Methodist for food items  
Panera Bread for food items  
Ms. Jillian Anderson for games  
Artisans Bakery & Café for food items  
Ms. Nina Babb for food items  
Beachcrafters for arts and crafts items  
Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School for Easter baskets  
Mrs. Shirley Bloome for Easter Baskets  
Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Boatwright for gift cards  
Crystal Borgeson for Easter Baskets  
Mr. Douglas Bowles for toys  
Mrs. Mary Briley for writing materials  
Kristan Burch for food items  
Ms. Barbara Byrd for Easter Baskets and food items  
Ms. Therese Camp for Easter Baskets  
CHUBB & Son Group for Easter Baskets and Eggs  
Community Portsmouth Presbyterian Church for gift Boxes  
Community United Methodist Church for Easter Eggs  
Joshua Crandell for paper products  
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Crawford food items  
Ms. Kathy Crocker for a gift card  
Dollar General for infant and medical supplies  
Ms. Linda Lamm English for toys and clothes  
Gordon Freedman for a toaster oven  
Girl Scout Troop # 1094 for a bicycle  
Girl Scout Troop # 1218 for food items  
Girl Scout Troop #525 for food items  
Girl Scout Troop #721 and 271 for food items

Girl Scouts Brownie Troop 479 for food items  
Dr. and Mrs. Aaron Glassman for food items  
Goodrich & Watson Insurers, Inc. for a cradle  
Debbie R. and Charles M. Harbin for a gift card  
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Harlow for a gift card  
Ms. Wilma Jack for a cooler  
Ms. Eileen C. Jewett for paper products, infant supplies and gift cards  
Lisa Kerr for quilts  
Ms. Megan Korving for food items  
Wendy Kowalski for Easter basket supplies  
Mr. Shelagh Krakower for clothes and toys  
Mrs. Geraldine Laplante for food items, cleaning supplies, paper goods and toys  
Ms. Margaret Lynch for memory boxes  
Ms. Nidia Ortis Madrigal for food items  
John and Alicia McCarthy for a gift box, baby bag, clothing and food items  
Chris Medel for blankets and infant supplies  
Moira C. Wright Revocable Living Trust for food items  
Monumental United Methodist Church Men for sundries  
Ms. Linda Nichols for meals  
Ms. Janice Palmer gifts for families  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pavlat for paper products, cleaning supplies and personal items  
Ms. Lindsay Pryor for gift cards  
Ms. Kassandra Pulver for a blanket  
Ms. Kelli Ragland for medical supplies  
St. Mary's Catholic Church for school supplies  
Ms. Kimberly Stone for food items  
Virginia Beach Elks Lodge for Camp Magic supplies  
Ms. Angie Watahovich for food items and trays  
Waters Edge Church for Easter basket supplies  
Western Branch Community Church for Easter basket supplies  
Woman' Club of Portsmouth for paper products  
Chamaine Woodis for personal items, blankets and books

## Making Things Happen...

### Fall Wish List

Volunteer Plumber and Electrician  
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.)  
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  
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)  
Gently used or new laptop computer for homebound children  
Computer educational games  
Baby monitors  
"AAA" and "AA" Batteries  
Disposable Cameras  
New bedding supplies- bed pillows, mattress pads, sheets-fitted/flat in all sizes, blankets  
New large, plush, cushiony stuffed animals to help prop children up in bed  
Cans of spray paint for memory boxes- pink, blue, green and red  
Large laminator sheets  
Clay Hand Print Kits (can be purchased at Wal-Mart for \$15.00)  
Diapers- Infant and Toddler Sizes

Morton "Nemo" Larmore President	John Holloway Director	Jack Pavlat Director	Steve Reader Chairman	Benedict Burbic Director	Ellen Oast Keeter Director
Nancy King Vice-President	David Kenerson Director	Diana Williams Director	Amy Folkes Vice-Chairman	Leigh Ann Folkes Director	Morton "Nemo" Larmore Director
Debbie Harbin Secretary	Kelly McCann Director		David Kenerson Treasurer & Chair of Investment Committee	Steve Frazier Director	George Pelton Director
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We are always trying to improve our publications and would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to answer some brief questions about our newsletter. Please Click on:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?fromEmail=true&formkey=dHp3VVltTF9PS1VBY0tvNFdYR0VNLVE6MQ>

The Edmarc Visitor is written by the staff of Edmarc Hospice for Children. Jean Bowerman, Editor. Daniel Pabon, Layout.