

The Edmarc Visitor



Spring 2014

LOVE AND FAITH WIN OUT

~ By Kaiden's Mom

Kaiden was born on November 26, 2009, which also happened to be Thanksgiving Day. My little turkey baby came out completely healthy and almost 8 lbs.

Things were going great, until I happened to feel a tiny lump in Kaiden's nose. I took him to his pediatrician who assured me it was just a clogged tear duct and we had nothing to worry about. Kaiden was two months old at the time. We couldn't see the lump - just feel it. When we noticed that the lump had begun to grow, we called the doctor. He felt it might just be an infection and called in a prescription for an antibiotic.

We gave that a few days, but couldn't see any difference and the lump continued to grow. At this point we could see the lump bulging out and beginning to cut off the airway in his right nostril. We ended up going to the children's hospital where my little baby had to get a CT scan.

At the time the scan was the scariest thing to me. The results showed it was a tumor. The doctors wanted to do a biopsy to see if the growth was benign.

At this point it was a whirlwind going on in our minds. Kaiden had his biopsy done, and two days later we received a call telling us our son has Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma, a soft tissue cancer that normally affects teenagers but my now three- month old has it.

Kaiden started 42 weeks of chemotherapy, and did five and a half weeks of proton radiation. Through all this, he remained a happy baby, always with a smile on his face regardless of the harsh medicine going through his body. He finished his treatment a couple of months after his first birthday and we tried to get our lives back to normal.

Kaiden was scheduled to have scans every three months. Right before his six-month scans, I felt alongside his nose and found the smallest lump inside, The doctors said they didn't know how I found it, but Kaiden had relapsed.

He was given a five-percent chance of survival - words no parent ever wants to hear. We chose to



try an alternative treatment because we didn't want to put of

because we didn't want to put our one-year-old through a year of harsh medications.

He did have surgery to remove the tumor and surrounding tissue, and was doing well. But about three months later, the tumor came back. The alternative treatment helped slow the growth but was no cure. He had to start another 46 weeks of chemotherapy.

Kaiden was still doing great and didn't let anything stop him; he took the year like the champ that he is. He was now three years old when this second round of chemotherapy was completed. The doctors were happy, but didn't like the scar tissue that remained where the tumor used to be. We felt the surgery they wanted to do was severe and chose to wait.

Two months later Kaiden relapsed again.

This made four tumors my poor baby had had in

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With Love,

We Remember

In Memory of

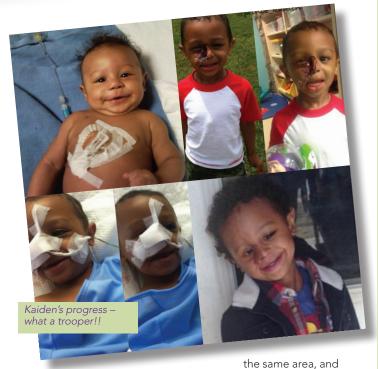
In Honor of

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Thank You

SPRING Wish list





we knew the surgery was necessary – the hardest decision of our lives.

In the summer of 2013, he underwent a seven- hour operation, removing half of his nose, part of his cheekbone and the surrounding tissue inside and out. Kaiden was in the most pain he had been in throughout his ordeal. For the first time he didn't just wake up and bounce right back pushing all the pain away. Six days later he had another surgery – six and a half hours - to start rebuilding his cheek.

But our Kaiden was back! He woke up in the PICU and said, "Can I go to the playroom?" Yes, he is that strong and amazing. Kaiden had a series of surgeries the whole summer to rebuild his nose and get everything to function. He celebrated his fourth birthday this past November and is as strong as ever. He recently had a seven-month scan and it showed NO EVIDENCE of cancer. He has never made it this far without a relapse.

He's looking forward to starting school this year, and finally being a normal kid, just with super powers! He still has to deal with small surgeries to work on the nose and other things that come with going though all he has gone through, but his story shows anything is possible with prayer and faith. God bless.

VROOM! BEEP! BEEP! SPLASH!

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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!



EDMARC CELEBRATES FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS AT '20'S STYLE GALA

On November 2, 2013, Edmarc supporters came together to enjoy a festive and philanthropic gala themed around the vintage elegance and glamour of the 1920's, Gatsby and Boardwalk Empire in what turned out to be an unforgettable evening. We transformed the Paradise Ocean Club at Fort Monroe back to the Roaring 20's. It was anticipation and excitement that filled the room as 250 guests engaged in the extravagance of the times and, let's just say, the evening was perfect

Guests were offered the opportunity to bid on some of Hampton Roads' most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes. Included in the line-up were musicians, physicians, engineers, MMA Fighters, attorneys along with IT professionals and local representatives from WVEC, WAVY and WTKR.

With your help, we fostered existing relationships and made new friends too. Vanessa Coria and LaSalle Blanks, anchors of 13News Daybreak were our hosts, and the auctioneers for the live auction. This exuberant pair kept the evening flowing, perfectly balanced with their witty sense of humor, charisma, style and grace.

Gala guests enjoyed live music by The Blue Mile Band and The Tidewater Concert Band, along with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and dessert. The event also included a silent auction, with the chance to take home artwork, vacation packages, an elegant evening

An extra special thank you to our sponsors:

Elizabeth River Crossings

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-Great Gatsby Sponsor

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Dancing the night away

Los Establos Boutique Inn Panama Monarch Bank Norfolk Admirals One Life Fitness Outback Steakhouse Brian Parsons Arts Peerless Restoration Planet Fitness Riverfront Golf Course Rocksteady Tattoo Parlor Sandler Center Servpro of Portsmouth Simply Chic Salon Soulful Journey St. James Club Antigua

St. James Club Morgan Bay
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The Pearl French Bistro
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Virginia Beach Rock Gym
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York Lighting

Thanks to everyone who helped make this an evening to remember!



This is Raggedy Anne Sage with her Raggedy Andy brother

THIS YEAR'S FALL FESTIVAL WAS A HAUNTINGLY GOOD TIME!

Edmarc's 2013 Fall Festival was sponsored and put on by The Norfolk Jaycees. Things were done a little bit differently this year than they've been done in the past.

The Masonic Lodge in Norfolk allowed us to use their facility and, with that space, we were able to create a haunted house on the second floor. There were games, food, prizes, and lots of fun to be had bringing forth a boatload of smiles. Special thanks to everyone who made this a fabulous Fall Festival.



THANKSGIVING DELIVERED BY VOLUNTEERS FOR WHOM WE ARE SO VERY THANKFUL!

Sophia has a great, big,

On Saturday, November 23rd, volunteers from all over Hampton Roads showed up at Edmarc ready to deliver Thanksgiving baskets provided by donors throughout the community. Thanks to these fine folks, Thanksgiving food baskets were provided for all of our Edmarc families this year.

Special thanks to the Middle Peninsula Jeep Club for doing a special set of deliveries. The Jeep Club put together five baskets and in a Jeep caravan delivered them to each home, making this Thanksgiving a memorable experience for those Edmarc families.

A huge thank you to all who came to deliver. You made the Edmarc's families.



SECOND ANNUAL SOUTHSIDE FRIENDRAISING BREAKFAST A GRATIFYING SUCCESS!

On October 10th, 2013, supporters came together to provide hope for children and families throughout Hampton Roads. The First Hall of First Presbyterian Church in Norfolk hosted the breakfast and it could not have been a more perfect event. Despite the rainy weather, the turnout was impressive. One hundred and fifty guests from our families, current and past current and past board members, supporters, volunteers and staff attended. Enthusiasm filled the room as guests engaged in conversation and shared stories. With your help we fostered existing relationships and made some new

Chuck, with Alpha Omega Catering Breakfast Creations, offered us just about the best comfort foods imaginable. Joe Flanagan kept the morning flowing, with a perfect balance of his sense of humor and sensitivity to the subject matter. Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, who serves as Edmarc's medical director, hit a home run talking about his experience caring for children with lifethreatening illnesses and for their families. The highlight of the event was a presentation from Bradley Hilliard who touched the hearts of everyone with his inspiring story of courage and strength overcoming cancer.

The Friendraising Breakfast raised over \$13,000 for Edmarc. Equally as important, the event helped create friends for the future. An extra special thank you to Debbie Jones and Sharon Cole for co-chairing the event. And a huge thank you to First Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, Alpha Omega Catering, Joe Flanagan, Lieutenant Governor Northam and all who participated in making the Second Annual Southside Friendraising Breakfast a huge success!





With love, we remember

San'Le G. (9/30/13-10/03/13) – San'Le was a beautiful baby girl who touched so many hearts in her short time here on earth. Although baby San'Le's time here was far too short, she was deeply loved by her family. Left to cherish her sweet memory are her parents, Santee and Tiffany, brothers Santee, Jr, and Michael and big sister India, along with numerous other family members and friends.

Dustin F. (8/01/97-10/04/13) – Dustin was an amazing young man who brightened the lives of his family and all who had the privilege to know him. Dustin fought a long difficult battle with his illness, enduring with enormous courage and strength. Dustin is lovingly remembered by his mother, Julie, sisters, Brittni and Lacy, and many other family members and friends.

Haley M. (11/16/97-10/09/13) - Haley 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. Haley is lovingly remembered by her parents Darren and Stephanie, brother Darren, little sister Ashlyn and numerous other family and friends.

Allison B. (5/03/04-11/12/13) - There are few words that can describe how amazing Allison was. Allison was a very strong and courageous young lady who never complained about a thing. Allison lived her life so full of love and happiness. She embraced every day and made sure she had fun. She brought so much joy to all those around her and taught many of us some very valuable lessons. It was an honor to all who had the privilege to know her and spend time with her. Allison will be lovingly remembered by her parents, Brian and Kelly, her little brothers, Mason and Bryson, and many other family members and friends.

Naithan S. (3/29/01-11/24/13) – Naithan, whose preference was to be called "Nate," was a strong, courageous young man who fought hard against his disease. Nate had a heart of gold and never had an unkind thing to say. He was both an inspiration and a blessing to all those around him. He will be loved and remembered always by his parents, Josh and Rebekah, sisters Kaycie and Emmaleigh and numerous other family and friends.

Jahnavi L. (3/19/07-12/07/13) - Jahnavi was an amazing little boy who held the hearts of all he met. Jahnavi was always full of laughter and energy and could melt the hearts of anyone around him. Jahnavi will be lovingly remembered by his father Paxton, mother Laura, step mother Montoya, sisters Alayzia and, Zimyya, brothers Levon, Kevin and JaVae as well as many other family members and friends.

Keishaun W. (7/30/97-12/11/13) – Keishaun was an inspiration to all who had the pleasure to know him. A very strong, determined young man who never complained, Keishaun captured those around him with his bright smile and loving heart. This young man displayed courage and wisdom far beyond his years, a true fighter. Keishaun will be lovingly remembered by his devoted mother, Deborah, two sisters, Keishauna and Nalsyah, and numerous other family and friends.

Zaevyonne H. (6/17/08-1/11/14) – Zaevyonne was a wonderful little man that always graced us with a huge grin on his face. He fought a long and difficult battle with cancer, yet he never complained and always found time to laugh and enjoy every moment. Zaevyonne will be greatly missed by all those who had the privilege to know him. He is lovingly remembered by his parents, Harrell and Valeria, his siblings, Zaquise, Zyontae, Zyasia, Zaequan, and Zamora, and many other family members and friends.

Alaina K. (1/14/14-1/17/14) - Alaina was a beautiful baby girl that blessed the lives of her parents as well as the rest of us. Though her time here was very short, she brightened the lives of all those around her. Alaina is deeply loved and missed by her parents, Kurt, Jr. and Amber; big brother, Kurt, III and numerous other family and friends.

Gyah W. (12/16/13-1/27/14) – Gyah was a beautiful baby girl who touched so many hearts in her short time here on earth. Although baby Gyah's time here was far too short, she was deeply loved by her family. Left to cherish her sweet memory are her parents, Jamal and Shunetta, big sister Dy'ann and big brother Nesta along with numerous other family members and friends.

Cayden A. (8/09/12-1/31/14) – Cayden was a strong and amazing little boy who touched the lives of so many. Cayden taught all those around him so much, without ever saying a word. He was adored by all who had the privilege to know him. Cayden will be lovingly remembered by his devoted mother, La'sha as well as numerous other family and friends.

Ty L. (2/19/11-2/02/14) –Ty was a bright little boy who held the hearts of all he met. Ty had strength, perseverance, and the ability to overcome incredible circumstances and physical challenges. Ty had a smile that could melt the hearts of all those around him. Ty is lovingly remembered by his father Edwin, mother Charlene, brother Kaleb and numerous other family and friends.

Edmarc Takes Grief Support to Virginia Beach Public Schools

With the beginning of the New Year, many children and families are grieving for loved ones who have died the previous year or perhaps years ago. Sometimes there just isn't much "Happy" in New Year's greetings.

For this reason, Edmarc's Bereavement Program decided to go to school. A small group of Virginia Beach public school teachers, counselors, and administrators came together on Tuesday, January 7th to hear about grief and how it affects school children and school staff when someone we know and love dies.

What do I say to a child when they come back to school after a parent or sibling has died? What do we say to the children when a teacher dies? What do I do with my grief when that teacher or staff member was a friend? How can I go back to school when a family member dies and my grief feels overwhelming? These and other

questions were explored and discussed in an atmosphere of support, sharing, acceptance and learning.

Edmarc's Bereavement Program strives to be present for children and adults throughout the Hampton Roads community to answer these tough questions; to help our school children, teachers, counselors and staff in making referrals; and to remind families that Peace by Piece offers camaraderie and sharing as an excellent grief support group for children and teens, ages five through 18. For more information about Edmarc's Bereavement Program, call 967-9251.

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The Edmarc Visitor

HELP-PORTRAIT CREATES BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES

Help-Portrait is a global movement of photographers, hairstylists, and makeup artists that use their time, tools, and expertise to give back to those in need. This is the first year that Edmarc has participated. We are thrilled that one of our volunteer photographers, Kelly Delaespriella, brought this opportunity to our attention and put on the entire event for us.

On November 9, 2013, volunteers and families came together for the event. The result? Absolutely STUNNING portraits. Some Edmarc families had never had a family portrait making this special time even more

meaningful. Not only were the portraits taken, but they were printed and framed that same day. Thank you to all the volunteers and to Help-Portrait for making this happen for our Edmarc families!





DAY OF REMEMBRANCE A SACRED TIME FOR EDMARC FAMILIES

Sunday, November 10, 2013 was a very significant day at Edmarc Hospice for Children. This was the day that Edmarc's bereaved families from the Hampton Roads community and beyond came to remember and memorialize their precious children. Thank you to St. John's Church in Olde Towne Portsmouth for providing the space for this special event.

This is a very difficult day for bereaved parents, as this service is another "reality" that they must try to incorporate into the makeup of their grief. For Edmarc's staff, it is a day to grieve the children we've cared for and loved within the first 30 seconds of meeting them. Edmarc's bereaved parents and families are magnificent, and inspire us with their unconditional love, wisdom and resilience.

We were welcomed to the service by local singer and guitarist Derrick Smith, who provided lovely background acoustic guitar melodies that soothed our hearts. As each family came to light a candle in memory of their beloved child, Derek's music provided the backdrop for tears and remembering.

After the service, families were invited back to Edmarc for a balloon release, and catered reception. The reception was splendid, as always, thanks again to Baxter Simmons, Sr. whose restaurant supplied the delicious fare.

Special thanks to Community Church at Western Branch for volunteering to help before, during, and after the event.

Our hope is that this special attention for Edmarc's bereaved families helps them realize that their children and their families will never be forgotten, and will always be a lasting part of Edmarc's hearts and history.

THE 2014 GHENT WINTER BAR TOUR IS A REPEAT SUCCESS!!

Way back in the dog days of summer 2005, a TVA beach volleyball team named the Yard Dogs was composed of several coworkers from the shipyard who played weekly matches.

Several Norfolk and Virginia Beach team members were relatively new to the Hampton Roads area. It was decided that, on a weekend evening, the two town factions would take turns showing each other around their local areas.

The Norfolk crew went first, taking the Beach team members to the midtown Norfolk neighborhood of Ghent. In order to really get the "feel of the town," the Norfolk contingent decided to hop among several bars and to invite several friends along to make it worth the venture out.

The first Ghent Bar Tour was born. The crowd only managed to make it to eight of the planned 15 stops but each held nothing but fun, libations and new-found friends. Some made it late into the night, while others chose an early finish to the evening.

The Ghent Winter Bar Tour roared and soared once again on Saturday, February 22, 2014 as the grandest of charity pub crawls raised \$21,000 for Edmarc Hospice for Children. Fourteen establishments, thirty-one sponsors, ninety volunteers, and a huge crowd helped to make this annual pub crawl larger than life.

As much fun as the whole tour was, it just wouldn't be the super-fun event without a huge party at the end. For the first time ever, Ghent Bar Tours hosted its very own closing ceremony, taking over 757 Makerspace on 22nd Street and throwing the largest and most elaborate wintertime block party Norfolk has ever seen. There were local bands and DJ's playing tunes all night long while the 'menu' boasted robust beverages from Victory Brewing Company and Copa de Vino and along with a delicious selection from some of our city's great local food trucks.

With enough heaters, hot chocolate, twinkling lights, and enthusiastic participants, the party heated up the night like no party before it.

Thanks again to all sponsors, donors, volunteers, and participants for their support – with a special thanks to Scott Gurlinger, Matt Pait, Glenn Williams, Julie Kalaikai, Richard Carmichael, Stephanie Smith, Rachel White, Maggie Lee, Amy Pait and Erin O'Connor.

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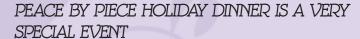
Edmarc Receives Video Grant from The Giving Library

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation established the Giving Library in 2012. It is the purpose of this special library to connect donors to non-profit organizations through the use of high quality video productions designed to address the challenges of how to give smart.

Earlier this year, Edmarc was awarded a Foundation grant that covered the entire cost of the production of two videos. The short format video offers a detailed understanding of the work Edmarc does. The long format video includes an in-depth exploration and explanation of the impact Edmarc has on our community.

We hope you enjoy the video...please like and share, share, share. Sharing this video will help us get the word out!

To access the video, please visit the following link: http://bcove.me/pm3go2gp



Each December, Peace by Piece staff, facilitators and families gather to share food and fellowship, and remember their loved ones. All who attend participate in a casual memorial service for loved ones who were important in our Peace by Piece children's lives.

This potluck dinner is a special highlight of the program where varieties of food and flavors are delightful and delicious. Along with the good eating, another regular treat for this event is the welcome presence of Ryan, the Balloon Guy. Ryan is a one-of-a-kind balloon magician -- even the adults are awed by his magical balloon creations.

Holidays are always difficult without that parent, grandparent, sibling or friend who has died. Peace by Piece gives children and teens, ages 5-18, an opportunity to come together to share memories and stories in a safe and comfortable environment.

Heartfelt thanks to Ryan, and to all of the Peace by Piece staff, facilitators and families, for making the annual holiday potluck such a wonderful success. We especially want to thank St. John's Episcopal Church, our next door neighbors for, once again, providing the space for us to host this event. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

PEACE BY PIECE WELCOMES SEVEN NEW FACILITATORS

A warm and hearty welcome to Edmarc's newest Peace by Piece grief group facilitators who completed 23 hours of grief training on January 26, 2014.

These seven facilitators are now equipped to facilitate groups of grieving children and teens, ages 5-18, and their adult parents or guardians. These groups are divided by age, and group members have all experienced either the death of their dad, mom, sibling, grandparent, other relative, friend, teacher or someone else especially close to them If the death is significant to the child, then that child is eligible to participate in Peace by Piece.

At Peace by Piece there is lots of commonality in the room and participants feel safe and supported while they share their stories and memories. Games and activities are all grief related.

Welcome Becki, Kristen, Mary Beth, Mike, Miranda, Rebecca, and Shaunte. Thank you for joining our bereavement team.





Edmarc Shines the Volunteer Spotlight on WENDY MEZZENGA

"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they just have the heart" – Elizabeth Andrew

This quote couldn't be more fitting when it comes to Wendy Mezzenga. Edmarc came to know Wendy in 1991 when her daughter, Maddie was admitted into our program. For 16 years, Edmarc was with Wendy, Maddie, and their family throughout their Journey; and we feel blessed to have known such a loving, happy 17 year old girl! She will always be a part of our family and holds a special place in each of our hearts.

Wendy has helped Edmarc in just about every capacity possible. Whether attending and helping with our special events, doing presentations, advocating for Edmarc, helping around our office, and, most of all, she is our number one elf at holiday time. Without Wendy, it would be almost impossible to organize holiday deliveries.

The time Wendy gives to her community does not end with Edmarc. She spends a significant amount of her time at local animal shelters, helping animals get adopted by dressing them up and taking their picture. We are so very thankful to have such a wonderful, giving individual as part of our Edmarc family.

ON THE TOWN WITH THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

On Saturday, March 1st, The Van Lefcoe Leadership Class and Towne Bank took five Edmarc families to the watch the Globetrotters play at the Ted Constant Convocation Center in Norfolk.

Families were treated like royalty as they were chauffeured from their homes to "The Ted." Upon arrival, they were taken to Towne Bank's box seats where they met Hot Shot, one of the world-famous Globetrotters. The families had a fabulous time as they enjoyed all the food they could imagine while watching the very entertaining game.

Many thanks to our dear Towne Bank family and The Van Lefcoe Leadership Class for an afternoon of great fun and warm memories.





JOY AND LAUGHTER FILLED THE AIR AT THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

This past year's holiday party, held on December 13, 2013, was sponsored and put on by Deep Creek United Methodist Church. The night was filled with joy and laughter as our families spent time together, enjoying each other, the very welcomed pizza and the festivities.

The wonderful volunteers from Deep Creek United Methodist Church set up stations with games and crafts. The highlight of the evening was the arrival of the man of the hour, Santa himself. The jolly old elf was there to have pictures taken with the kids and to grant their special wishes! Thank you to everyone to helped make the party into a holiday celebration!



THE REAL 'MAGIC' OF CHRISTMAS

The Noblemen have partnered with Edmarc for the past 17 years to provide Christmas to Edmarc Families. The members of the Noblemen are all volunteers and spend most of their time planning and holding events to raise money to help Virginia Beach children.

Gifts and food are provided for the children of each family along with a special visit from Santa and a happy intrusion of community minded high spirited Noblemen members.

This year we even had the Chesapeake arm of the Noblemen adopt three of the Edmarc families. They too came bearing gifts, food and that ever magical visit from good ole St. Nick.

The real gift, as in the past, is that the families of Edmarc allow the volunteers to spend special time with them. The tears, laughter, hugging, and caroling go on all night. We've been told that the Noblemen love this event and will continue to support Edmarc in this special way simply because

There's nothing quite like a

hug from Santa

they feel they are the ones that receive the blessings along with the families.

Heartfelt thanks to all our dear Noblemen for the continuation of their "noble" deeds!



It's all about love





SANTA AND FRIENDS DELIVER HOLIDAY JOY TO EDMARC'S FAMILIES

On December 15th, Edmarc staff, elves, and Santa went out to homes throughout Hampton Roads bringing holiday cheer to the families of Edmarc. In years past, holiday deliveries have been made in many forms. However, this year's deliveries were made, thanks to enthusiastic volunteers driving in caravans and four rather large CINTAS trucks that carried the holiday crew along with the gifts in Santa's pack, to all the Edmarc children and family members.

There are many different factors that impact the lives of our families when a child is ill. Most of us take the ability to go out and shop in all the crowds and chaos for granted. For our families the avoidance of that stress is a very welcome relief during the time of their child's illness. It allows the family to stay home and provide care, love and support. With

your help, we can offer our families removal from the stress and expense that accompany the holiday season.

It takes a huge and caring community effort to provide Christmas for all of Edmarc's families. Thanks to your contributions and volunteer efforts, this year we were able to provide meals and gifts to over 80 families. This could not have been done without the help and support of those volunteers and sponsors. Our thanks

to all who took part in making this happen.





SEVENTH ANNUAL PENINSULA FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST BRINGS FOLKS TOGETHER FOR A GREAT CAUSE

On February 27th, the 120 guests in attendance viewed a spectacular sunrise over the Chesapeake Bay from the ballroom of the Paradise Ocean Club at Fort Monroe. This gathered crowd of Edmarc friends came out to show their support for the Edmarc children and their families.

Mr. Christmas himself takes a break on Edmarc's porch

It's Santa, Mrs. Claus and a coterie of

elves all gathered for fun

The theme of the morning was "The Many Faces of Edmarc." Enthusiasm filled the room as Edmarc families current and past, distinguished city officials, elected city officials, board members, supporters, volunteers and staff enjoyed the early morning camaraderie.

Glenn Oder, executive director of the Fort Monroe Foundation, offered up the official welcome. Cliff Bowen served as host and kept the morning moving with his charisma and larger-than-life personality. Dr. Mikels, one of our clinical partners from the Naval Medical Center shared her experience working with Edmarc's staff and the important role Edmarc plays in the clinical team.

The highlight of the event was a presentation from John O'Hearn, lil Faith's Dad. He shared their family's ups and downs, daily struggles and triumphs in Faith's battle to live. Their story was powerful – one

of strength, courage and inspiration for all.

We took a few special moments to remember Baxter Simmons, Sr., a very special Edmarc friend; the many contributions he made to the organization over the years and the impact he had on the lives of the children, staff and all who came to know and love him

Edmarc would like to express our sincere thanks to John, Christine, Faith and Sophia 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, and Dr. Richard Donzell for all of their preparations and hard work. The event could not have been a success without the support of our generous sponsors, Davenport Co., Kiwanis Club of Mercury 64 and Q.E.D. Systems. Our thanks to them for this valued support.

At the end of the day, the event raised over \$10,000, and -- an equally important part of this gathering together -- the message was shared about how important the services of Edmarc are to our entire community.

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Edmarc Staff

Laurie Barbaro Director of Patient Care

Teresa Black Patient Care Coordinator

Anne Chisman-Abraham Bereavement Program Dir.

Catina Davis Medical Social Worker

Dawn Jennings Patient Care Coordinator

Madalyn George-Theimann Patient Care Coordinator

Kristen Jones Community Resource Coord.

Dorothy Jenson

Maggie Lewis Administrative Office Assistant

Jeane Liburd Child Life Specialist Mellissa Mark, MD

Co-Assistant Medical Director

Alicia Miller

Patient Care Coordinator

Ralph Northam, MD Medical Director

Linda Pegram, MD Assistant Medical Director

Bryan Selitti Child Life Specialist

Debbie Stitzer-Brame **Executive Director**

Shantel Thomas

Kim Towles Patient Care Coordinator

Brittney Twisdale Medical Social Worker

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Mark Jones

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Morton "Nemo" Larmore

George Pelton

Charity Volman

Diana Williams

EDMARC WELCOMES SUSAN BLAKE AS A NEW FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER



Hello families and friends of Edmarc Hospice for Children. My name is Susan Blake and I have recently become a trustee on the Edmarc Foundation board of directors. I am the vice president of Human Resources for Dominion Enterprises and its parent, Landmark Media Enterprises, and live in Norfolk with my husband, Pat.

I hold a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the College of William and Mary. I have spent many years involved with non-profit

organizations. I served as Chairman of the HR Committee for the American Red Cross of Southeastern Virginia and currently sit on the Campaign Cabinet of the United Way of South Hampton Roads.

After learning about Edmarc Hospice for Children and the great things the organization does for area children and families, I knew I wanted to become a part of the organization. I am honored to be a part of Edmarc's Board, and cannot wait to get started!

EDMARC'S FOUNDATION BOARD WELCOMES MARK JAKOBOWSKI

Hi. My name is Mark Jakobowski and I am honored to serve as a trustee for Edmarc's Foundation board of directors. I am the senior design engineer and project manager with TAM Consultants, located in Williamsburg, VA.

I have always had a heart to serve and have had the privilege to serve on the boards of several nonprofit organizations throughout my career. I learned about Edmarc Hospice for Children through The Honorable Order of the Blue



Goose, Int., a fraternal organization comprised of individuals who work in the insurance related industry. After hearing the mission of Edmarc, I knew I wanted to be a part of the organization.

When I am not volunteering, or working, I enjoy spending time with my wife, Lynne, and our daughter, Alex. I look forward to making a positive impact in the lives of our Edmarc families.

Mark Jakobowski has over 30 years in the design, engineering and construction industry. He was appointed to the United States Air Force Academy in June, 1970 and later graduated from Hartwick College with a B.A. degree in architectural history and design and from the University of Virginia with post-graduate work in engineering and physics.









WELCOME TO NEW EDMARC BOARD MEMBER, KATHY O'CONNOR



Friends and Families of Edmarc Hospice for Children! My name is Kathy O'Connor and I have recently joined Edmarc's Board of Directors. I currently work for Sentara Corporation, as the director of Strategy and Planning; I am responsible for developing Sentara's strategic and business plans and the analysis of growth opportunities within the corporation.

Last year I was asked to help Edmarc develop their strategic plan for 2014-2016. After learning more about Edmarc and the great

things they do for the community, I knew I wanted to be a part of the organization. I have always loved volunteering - I have volunteered with the Larchmont Elementary PTA; the Larchmont Friends Circle, which supports the Children's Hospital of the Kings' Daughters; and United Way of Southampton Roads.

When I am not working and volunteering, I love being with my husband Mike, and our two children. I am honored to be a part Edmarc!



PAT GARVEY JOINS EDMARC'S FOUNDATION BOARD

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve Edmarc Hospice for Children as a trustee on the Foundation board of directors. I first 'met' Edmarc during a visit to our Kiwanis Club in Poquoson, Virginia by Debbie Stitzer-Brame. From the minute I heard about the organization and

work it does with the children of this community, I was hooked.

I've lived in the Hampton Roads area since 1991, and have been fully retired since the summer of 2011. Prior to that I served in the United States Air Force for 25 years and spent 14 additional years as a business development representative with The Boeing Company. For the last 15 years, I've run a high school soccer tournament that raises funds in the fight against cancer. Fifty percent of our tournament proceeds now support Edmarc.

My wife, Jane, and I have five children and are now blessed with eight grandchildren. We enjoy every opportunity to travel and are blessed to have the chance to be a part of Edmarc.

WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER OF EDMARC'S FOUNDATION BOARD

My name is Charity Volman, and I am a new member of Edmarc's Foundation Board of Directors. I currently am the South Hampton Roads Market President and Commercial Banking Team Leader for Sun Trust Bank. I was born and raised in southern Maryland, in a small town called Port Tobacco, which happens to be the smallest incorporated town in Maryland. I have had the honor of working with a number of organizations throughout my career, including The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, D'Art Center, and



Eastern Virginia Medical School. After meeting with Debbie and learning more about Edmarc Hospice for Children, I wanted to be a part of this organization! I cannot wait to get started and am truly honored to be on a part of your Foundation Board! Thank you!!

CONGRATULATIONS

...to Catina and Mike Barnes, on the birth of their son, Michal Langston Barnes, who arrived, weighing 7 lbs 2.5 oz, on October 20, 2013. Welcome to the world!

...to Shantel and Tyrone Thomas, who welcomed an 8 lbs. 3 oz. baby boy into the world on November 7, 2013. Welcome Tyler Owen Thomas!

SHANTEL THOMAS JOINS THE RANKS AT EDMARC

My name is Shantel Thomas and I am the executive assistant at Edmarc. I am originally from Iowa, and came to Virginia in 2006 when I joined the Navy. I am married and my husband and I have three beautiful children.

I got out of the military in 2012 and attended college at Medical Careers Institute. The Institute has an internship program that allows students to go into the field of their chosen arena for invaluable hands-on experience. Thankfully, Edmarc Hospice for Children was accepting healthcare administrator interns. I jumped at the opportunity to work with an organization that has such a dramatic impact on the lives of so many.

Let's just say it was love at first sight! I knew the moment I interviewed with Debbie that I wanted to work right here. Shortly after my first internship, I was hired part-time. In November, I had my third child and in December, I finished my B.S. in Healthcare Administration. In January, I was hired full-time. I love my job and am honored to be a part of such an amazing organization.

PLEASE MEET OUR NEWEST EDMARC STAFF MEMBER, DAWN JENNINGS

My name is Dawn Jennings. I have been a nurse for nine years and in pediatrics for over seven years. I love the Emergency Room work, but am excited to try something new. As far as life at home, I am married and we have been blessed with my heart and soul, five-year-old Connor. We enjoy spending lots of time in the great outdoors in and on both land and water. I have recently started training for an 8K run this summer. I look forward to working with all y'all!!! Did I mention? I'm from Kansas!

The Edmarc Visitor

Messages from Families...

To the Edmarc Staff & Volunteers,

Thanks for all you do to make the season bright. Words cannot express how much we appreciate everything you have done and do for our family. Many thanks with much gratitude. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Sincerely, the McCarthy Family

It was pure luck (God) that we have Edmarc in Our lives. The way things are going with my little miracle is only from the grace of God and help of Edmarc. I really want to thank all of you from Edmarc and am grateful to have you all in our lives. Everything you have done for us is the Best help we could receive. Thank you, Jones/Wood Family.

Dear "Everyone" at Edmarc,

...the happiness of the holidays, warm memories of the season, and thoughts of very special people like you. Love always, Debbie, Joe & Angel Jenna, XOX-"Always" in our hearts! XOX

THANK YOU!

The kids love the bears! Especially Vivian with all the clothes and accessories! You were so kind to think of us. I hope this finds you all well... Sincerely, Vanessa

Rejoice! Merry Christmas 2013, Love the Hilliard Family, God Bless & Much Love

Have a joyous festive season. Wishing all of you a wonderful Christmas and many blessings for 2014. With love and gratitude, The Hoells

To the Edmarc Staff- May the gentle beauty of nature brighten your holidays.

You all continue to brighten our life with your cards "from Jennifer"- she, of course, is always with us in our hearts. Thank you for all you do for the families who so much need your support. The Lord bless you all! Love. Richard & Diane Scott

Edmarc Staff- Sending you a little Jesus and a lot of love this Christmas! Peace-Bill, Melissa & Sabrina Waide Blessings in 2014

Merry Christmas- Wishing you the happiest of holidays and joy in the year ahead, Lynnette, Brooke, and Charlie

We cannot thank you enough- Thanksgiving dinner- Santa- Christmas dinner. So amazing! We were so touched – we tear up just thinking about the generosity shown toward Brock and our family. We will always think fondly of Edmarc, Love, and The Parvins

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My Dearest Edmarc Family,

I have dreaded this day for so long. I hate goodbyes. Words cannot express how much you all mean to us. At the worst point in our lives, you showed up with open arms. I have been working in non-profit for so many years on the giving end. This was the first time I was on the receiving end. We felt we belonged, and you were there for Ava no matter what. You guys were such a blessing to Caden and brought a sense of normalcy to our lives, our new "normal." It's hard to go through such a hard time and feel so alone. But the moment Edmarc came into our lives, we felt loved and cared for, with no expectations in return. What you guys do is so amazing and so unique. We are forever grateful for the love and care you treated our family with.

I am going to miss our visits, and tremendously miss the amazing gatherings you put on. Christmas is going to be tough this year without Santa coming to our San Diego house. I hope Caden will understand-ha, ha!. But — you're of course welcome to come, but you'll have to come by plane instead of a bus caravan.

You will forever be a special part of our lives and we will never forget how much you have done for us. I will continue to pray for an Edmarc San Diego. Don't forget my awesome idea!!

We will stay in touch & expect progress pics and updates with Avaboo!

Thank you for the bottom of our hearts, Love: Dave, Kriste, Caden & Ava

Thank you ... for supplies, toys, special events tickets and items for Edmarc families September 1, 2013 – February 28, 2014

- ABNB Federal Credit Union for teddy bears
- Aldersgate Church for food
- Jacqueline Andra for food items
- Angels of Destiny for stuffed angels
- Apostles Lutheran Church for blankets
- Artisans Bakery & Café for food
- Nina Babb/Troop 780 for toys and activities
- Cathy and Bill Bailey for food items
- Barbara Baise for holiday gifts
- Kellie Baldwin for food items
- Brenda Barrett for toys
- Jennifer Beasley for food items and holiday gifts
- Berea Christian Church UCC -Missions Committee for paper products
- Melissa Berry for holiday gifts
- Boneshakers Social Club for bicycles
- Crystal Borgeson for clothing items and a booster chair
- Gary Boxhorn for toys
- Becky Brewer for holiday gifts and food items
- Jennifer Brody for holiday gifts
- Danielle Brown for holiday gifts and food items
- Ian and Sarah Bugbee for holiday gifts and food items
- Kristan Burch for food items
- Alice Butler for food items
- Beth Campbell for holiday gifts
- Laurie Campbell for food items
- Capital Group for gift cards, a chair and a shredder
- Capital One for food items
- David Chadwick for holiday gifts and food items
- Churchland Preschool Center for clothing items
- Vanessa Clark for gift wrap supplies
- Leslie Coleman for food items
- Mary Coleman for food items
- Candale Covey for gift wrap supplies
- Mary Cowling for toys
- Sandra Cox for food items
- Kindra Daugherty for food

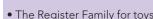
items and G-tube

- Kent Daughtrey for food items
- Ann Dayton for food items
- Deep Creek High School for holiday items
- Ed Delaespriella for holiday gifts and food items
- Bill and Tricia Disney for food
- Joe and Ginny Doherty for greeting cards
- Naoma Doriguzzi for event passes
- Marguerite Duke for toiletries and cleaning supplies Patty Dwyer for holiday gifts
- and food items Robin Falk for holiday gifts and
- food items
- Bruce and Sherry Ferki for a recliner
- Sherrie Fletcher for food items
- Heather Flynn for holiday gifts
- Food Lion for office supplies, food items and holiday items
- Alison Foss for food items
- Michael and Darcel Franklin for
- Jody Gaynor for holiday gifts and food items
- Gianna's Italian Restaurant for holiday gifts
- Nicholas Gordon for toys
- Tracy Grandon for holiday gifts and food items
- Mary Guptill for food items
- Katey Harbison for food items
- Gary Hays for food items
- Carolyn Higgins for cards
- Holy Communion Lutheran Church for holiday gifts
- Stewart Howard for holiday gifts
- Pauline Hundley for holiday
- gifts
- Dianne Hunter for food items
- International Christian Church for greeting cards
- Dorothy M. Jenson for a printer
- Linda Jernigan for furniture
- Joannou & Associates for beverages, paper products, toys and art supplies
- Kempsville Lions Ladies Auxiliary for toys
- Wesley and Nancy King for board meeting and support group dinners and holiday gifts
- Takeala Langston for toys and art supplies
- Ashley Law for holiday gifts and food items
- Jean M. Lawrence for food items



- Patty Letchworth for holiday gifts and food items
- Renauda Lewis for food items
- Jennifer N. Lillehei for toys and food items
- Doris Lindsay for toys
- Linda Manigault for gift wrap supplies
- Lynn and Doris Martin for blankets and holiday items
- Jessica Masciangelo for holiday
- Kelly McCann for food items
- Juanita McCants for hats and blankets
- Al Midgett for holiday gifts
- Candace Miller for gift wrap supplies
- Eddie Mitchell for food items
- Briana Monk for holiday gifts
- Nanesmond River Pilot Club for Wish List items, gift cards and event tickets
- Michael and Jennifer Napier for medical supplies
- Navy Special Warfare Spouses for gift cards
- Marie Nelson for food items
- Nexus Direct for food items
- Mr. Nickter for holiday gifts
- Oakes-Williams Foundation for
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Paola Pachon for gift wrap
- Janice Palmer for toys, gift
- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pavlat for a television set
- Peninsula Catholic High School for holiday gifts
- Jane Perrine for gift wrapping
- John and Stephanie Perrotta
- Cathy Peterson for food items
- Pilot Club of Portsmouth, Inc., for gift cards and toys
- Port Norfolk Church for diapers
- Portfolio Recovery Assoc. for office supplies
- for paper products and food items
- Portsmouth Women's Club for paper products and food items

- The Register Family for toys
- Betty Ripley for holiday gifts and food items
- Rita's for food items
- Karen Roberson for clothing items
- Donna Robertson for gift wrap supplies
- Christie Ross for food items
- Merin Shekitka for holiday gifts and food items
- Keren Smith for gift wrapping supplies
- Lisa Smith for toys
- Sons of Solomon Masonic Lodge for food items
- Trish Sterling for medical
- Ashlee P. Stewart for food items
- Kimberly Stone for food items
- Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Taylor, Jr. for paper products
- Tidewater Therapy For Children for food items
- Glenn Tinsley for a flag
- Todd Lane Vet Hospital for gift cards
- Towne Insurance for food items
- Trinity Episcopal Church for food items
- and gift wrap Catherine Walsh for toys,
- cleaning supplies, paper products and office supplies
- Anita Ward for food items Lakisha Ward for food items
- Taylor and Logan Ward for holiday items
- WFLO Radio Station for office supplies
- April Wheeler for holiday gifts and food items
- Krystal White for toys
- Mrs. Charlotte Gottshall D. Williams for toiletries
- Sonia R. Williams for greeting
- Melanie Woolard for holiday gifts and food items
- Regina Wright for greeting cards
- a doll house Yorkminster Presbyterian









- gift passes
- School for gift wrap supplies
- supplies
- wrap supplies and food items
- Mayra Perez for greeting cards
- supplies and food items
- for medical supplies
- Portsmouth Retired Teachers

YNot Pizza & Italian Cuisine for



In Memory of Edmarc Hospice for Children gratefully acknowledges the outpouring of support in memory of family members and friends.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 - FEBRUARY 28, 2014

IN MEMORY OF

Taylor Adkins Sullivan Anderson Heather Nicole Arnold Matthew Austin Madelynne Baals Bennie Barker Cora Barker Brucie Bartley

Eileen Bauersfeld Dave Bednarcyck Sarah Benson

Garrett James Beydler George and Estelle Boynton Jennifer Braun Michael Bright Janet S. Brock Steve Bryant, Jr. Bill Bundy Justin Callihan Lily Cao Darrell Lydell Clark Curtis Coleman Trevor Coleman Matthew J. Connor John Couser William Cox, Jr. Briana Crawford Kelly Creecy Patrick J. Croall Augusta Darnell Jim Davis John Dickinson, Sr. Ricky A. Dillon William G. Drake Eley Duke Leroy Edwards Jean M. Epperson David Fulk Ken and Sarah Fulkerson Elise Gabor Tracy and Chris Gaines Jordan Gammal Davis Ranzy Gammal Davis Betsy Gannon

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Reid Hargrave

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Dawn Crosby Graham

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Cameron Hewitt Jamie Hirsch Bernard Hogge Marcus Hogge Phyllis Hogge

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Amanda Ward Lucretia Watt Russell White Elijah and Zechariah Winn Mary Woodruff Gerald Wrenn Linda wright

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SEPTEMBER 1. 2013 – FEBRUARY 28. 2014

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Milton and Sarah S. Brown
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and Family
Dr. and Mrs. Hall Squire
and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Squire
and Family
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Squire and Family
Dr. Peter W. Squire

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HOLIDAY GIFT OF A DELICIOUS DINNER FOR EDMARC'S BEREAVED PARENTS

Edmarc's bereaved parents enjoyed a wonderful holiday dinner this past December, prepared and hosted by long-time Edmarc board member, Nancy King, and her husband, Wesley. This pair of chefs extraordinaire cooked a fabulous meal, including dessert, that was definitely worthy of "The Most Delicious Ever" award.

Holidays are an especially difficult time for parents who have lost

a child. Food and fellowship, with shared stories and support, can be very helpful while swimming in a sea of grief. Edmarc hosts these special events for our bereaved parents in the hope that this sharing and support make this difficult time of year a little less stressful.

Thank you, Nancy and Wes, for your long time support of Edmarc, and your continued support of Edmarc's Bereavement Program.





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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!



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!







516 London Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704

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Making Things Happen...

Spring Wish List—

- Volunteer Baker to make homemade treats for our children/teens grief support group
- Volunteer plumber and Electrician
- Gas cards

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- 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 and Movie Theatre
- 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
- 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
- Baby monitors
- "AAA" batteries
- 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
- Bottled Water
- Vacuum Cleaner

The Edmarc Visitor is written by the staff of Edmarc Hospice for Children. Jean Bowerman, editor. The Primm Company, layout