

Edmarc: Embracing Our Family Through So Many Stages



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a note from **EDMARC**



As the season of spring arrives, we welcome it with renewed enthusiasm, and we are embracing this time with open arms. As new leaves begin to grow on branches and flowers bloom on the ground, we are reminded of the hope and optimism that comes with turning a new corner. This year seems particularly meaningful to me as we embark on a new strategic plan that will guide Edmarc into the future. The dedication and expertise our Board of Directors and Edmarc staff possess is playing a crucial role in shaping the future of our organization so we can continue making a positive impact on the lives of our families.

Over the past few months, I have been continually inspired by the dedication and passion that Edmarc staff, volunteers, and supporters bring to our mission. The expansion into the Williamsburg area is moving along steadily as we train two new nurses so they can welcome families in our new area this quarter.

There is important work yet to do. As we embark on this commitment to have the Williamsburg office up and running, we know you will be there for us. With your continued support, we will serve even more children and families, expand our programs and services that will improve the lives of children in our community, our Commonwealth, and maybe even across the country for decades to come.

The future of Edmarc is an ambitious and exciting one. We remain eternally grateful to our loyal supporters, strong partnerships with businesses and community groups, and to those who have surprised us with some truly amazing gifts. As we look forward, evidence shows us that more children than ever before will need our support. We are committed to meeting this challenge by offering the very best care to children and families, both now and in the years to come.

Thank you for being a part of our journey, and I look forward to achieving even greater heights together.

Well wishes for a new season,

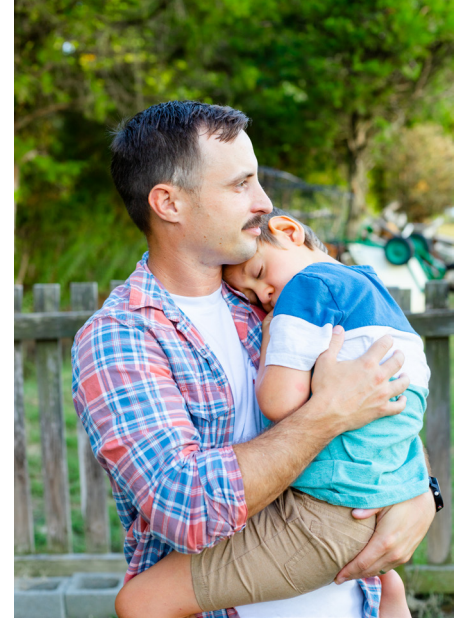
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie".

Debbie Stitzer-Brame

Executive Director, Edmarc

Edmarc: Embracing Our Family Through So Many Stages

Pregnancy is usually a time of joy, filled with expectations and dreams for a new addition to the family. It's a season of celebration with weekly milestones, pregnancy announcements, gender reveals, baby showers, and the awaited arrival of the new baby. However, this joyous journey can sometimes take unexpected turns. Our family faced such a challenging time when we were introduced to Edmarc.



We were referred to Edmarc's perinatal program, Bridges of Hope, shortly after receiving the news that our son had a neural tube defect called an encephalocele as well as a rare brain malformation called holoprosencephaly. In layman's terms, his skull didn't close as it should've and his brain didn't divide. Our maternal-fetal medicine team was phenomenal but had little to offer in the way of good news or hope. We were gently told our son would likely not survive to delivery, and if he did, his time here would be brief. Suddenly pregnancy looked very different. Edmarc met us in the "different" and brought with them hope for our journey.

At our initial meeting with Edmarc, we were overwhelmed by our son's prognosis and uncertain about the next steps. Brittney, our exceptional social worker, attentively heard our story and assured us that Edmarc would support us every step of the way – a promise they wholeheartedly fulfilled. From delivering Thanksgiving meals to home visits, assisting with funeral arrangements if needed, and accompanying us to medical appointments, our time in the perinatal program was defined by the unwavering presence of our Edmarc team. Throughout this journey, the team consistently asked, "What if he lives to birth?" and urged us to maintain hope and prepare. I am

immensely grateful that they did, as against all odds, our son, Barrett Malcolm Burkett, was born alive on December 10, 2015.

Barrett was discharged from the NICU to Edmarc's hospice program a week after his birth. Our deepest wish was to spend his remaining time at home as a family. The Edmarc team listened to our desires and collaborated with the hospital to ensure we had support and necessities for his welcome home. Not only did they manage his care, but they also organized a Santa visit with gifts, and a Christmas meal for our family. The nurses visited our home, guiding us on how to care for our son. They were always available, even at night, providing hope for Barrett's journey and bringing large stuffed animals for our children.

Six weeks after Barrett was born, we were relocated across the country by the military. Edmarc ensured we had the necessary equipment and care arranged for our son at our new location. Saying goodbye to the supportive Edmarc community was one of the most challenging aspects of the move. To our surprise, our connection with them was far from over! Six years later, upon our return to Hampton Roads with the military, our first call was to Edmarc. They warmly welcomed us back, this time to benefit from their nursing and family support services.



While the care services Barrett receives have changed since our initial visit, the consistent support from Edmarc remains the same. Over the past two years, our remarkable Edmarc team has supported us through relocation, rebuilding a strong care network, tough decisions, surgeries, and much more. Not only did they stand by us during difficult times, but they also brought immense joy throughout the journey. From special visits from Santa on Barrett's birthday to summer pool parties and family petting zoo experiences, Edmarc continues to embrace our family and walk beside us. It's a source of joy! The care and attention shown, not just towards our son but to the entire family, is remarkable! This is what Edmarc excels at – they embrace your entire family and become like family in the process. We are so grateful to have Edmarc beside us throughout Barrett's hopeful journey!

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Welcome Letter from Board President, Jon Arena

As we stand at the threshold of 2024, I am filled with profound gratitude and admiration for each one of you who has made our journey at Edmarc so extraordinary. With heartfelt enthusiasm, I step into my role as the new President of the Board of Directors, and I am honored to reflect on the incredible strides we've made together. Our collective efforts will continue to weave threads of hope and resilience for the families we serve. Edmarc has expanded its reach, as we continue our work in the Williamsburg area.

It is an exciting and pivotal time for Edmarc. At the start of the year, we embarked on a critically important strategic planning process to ensure Edmarc's growth, relevance, and success well into the future. The plan will be designed as a guiding light for the organization over the next 5 years. Rather than a static road map, it will be a flexible, living document that will evolve in response to changing community needs.

I want to thank my fellow board members for their passion and dedication to strengthening Edmarc and on behalf of the Board of Directors I want to thank Edmarc's staff and leadership for their outstanding work providing top-notch, family-centered, at-home care to kids in Hampton Roads bravely tackling serious illnesses.

Working together, we will continue to grow stronger and continue to fulfill our critical mission to ease the trauma of a child's illness or death, and to reduce the disabling effects of pediatric illness, loss, and bereavement on families.



EDMARC'S 27TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC: CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING EVENT

Rain, rain, go away? Not for these golfers! The 27th Annual Edmarc Golf Classic was a huge success, even with Mother Nature's drenching shower. The golfers' spirits were as high as a birdie on the green as they pushed through the unpredictable weather. And the icing on the cake? A mouth-watering buffet and a silent auction, all wrapped up with a toe-tapping performance by Mike Proffitt and Dana Silvercloud. With a whopping \$82k raised for the cause, it was surely a day to remember!

We extend our sincerest thanks to our sponsors, volunteers, golfers, and the Cedar Point Club team for their invaluable contributions to making our golf event a huge success.



Your support enables us to provide medical care to children in their homes and offer assistance to families dealing with pediatric illnesses and loss.

Last but not least, we'd like to give a special shoutout to the Edmarc families. Your genuine stories exemplified the profound impact Edmarc has made on countless lives, emphasizing why this day is so significant.

Let's give it up for our amazing sponsors!



Presenting Sponsors:

- Nissan of Elizabeth City
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- First Team
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Lunch Sponsors:

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- Paradise Ocean Club

Awards:

- Starr Motors
- The Italian Cellar

After Party Sponsors:

- Mode5
- Persons Orthopaedic Sports & Joint Replacement Center

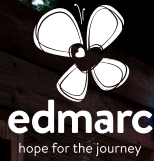


Golf Cart Sponsors:

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- Davies Masonry
- Freedom Boat Club
- H&E Equipment
- Joan & Allen Hogge
Remembering Marcus
- Link-Belt Mid-Atlantic

Tee Sponsors:

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- Sherwin-Williams
- Ted and Becky Clemens
Remembering Cassie Cooke
- The Coffee Shoppe
- The Dynamic Duo



with love,
we remember

THE WORLD MAY NEVER NOTICE
IF A SNOWDROP DOESN'T BLOOM,
OR EVEN PAUSE TO WONDER
IF THE PETALS FALL TOO SOON.
BUT EVERY LIFE THAT EVER FORMS,
OR EVER COMES TO BE,
TOUCHES THE WORLD IN SOME SMALL WAY
FOR ALL ETERNITY.

~AUTHOR UNKNOWN

AUGUST

JAMORA B.

SEPTEMBER

SOPHIA A.
DEALANI A.
ARIANA R.

OCTOBER

SOPHIA L.
DEKIRA A.
FAITH H.

NOVEMBER

GEORGIA B.
GABRIEL D.
JULIAN R.

DECEMBER

FERDI R.
REASON D.

JANUARY

SAMUEL S.
KA'MARION K.
GEORGE C.
LIAM D.
SAMUEL B.



CAMP M.A.G.I.C. 2023



Edmarc waved its magic wand and conjured up an unforgettable experience for families at Camp M.A.G.I.C. (My Active Grieving Instills Courage) the weekend of August 19-20. This year's camp 9 families joined us at Triple R Ranch in Chesapeake, Virginia.



The camp offered a magical dose of therapeutic activities like horseback riding, yoga, memory crafting, and support group sessions. These activities provided an opportunity for families to find joy and comfort in the midst of grief.



Camp M.A.G.I.C. is a place of solace where families come together to find a soft landing from the burden of grief. Our goal with camp is to remind them they're not alone in their journey. Here, families can bond through shared memories and experiences, and discover a ray of hope and healing. It's a place where memories and heart-filled stories were shared to honor loved ones who have passed away.



This year's camp was made possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsor, The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Foundation, along with the volunteers and donors who helped make the weekend a reality. Without their help and support, we would not have been able to provide the amazing experiences that Camp M.A.G.I.C. offers.

It was pure magic, and Edmarc is excited to keep the magical spark alive for years to come!



CREATING UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER MEMORIES FOR FAMILIES

We seriously hit the jackpot this summer, making unforgettable memories for families thanks to our donors and volunteers! We threw not one, but two, amazing events that were jam-packed with sunshine, giggles, and pure joy.



Our first picnic was on June 5th at The Mariners' Museum, and boy, did they spoil us! The Oyster Point Rotary Club went all out, providing us with scrumptious food, super fun games, and even giveaways. Kids ran around the courtyard while parents explored the museum's displays. And get this, they've been supporting us for 19 years! Talk about a dedicated squad!





Then, on August 21st, we dove into a pool party thanks to the Taylor Bend YMCA. They opened their pool and splash pad to us, making sure everyone--regardless of ability--could splash around and have a blast. And guess what? This is the third year they've donated their pool to us! Big thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk for sponsoring all the food and activities that made it a day to remember.



In HONOR of Edmarc gratefully acknowledges the outpouring of support in honor of family members and friends.
July 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024

IN HONOR OF
LATORIA CHANTAE ARNOLD
ART BY RHONDA
BOB ASTON
KAY BARNE
CHRIS BARTLETT
DREW AND KERRY BOLLING
BROOKE BOLTON
STEVE BOWYER
BRITTANY BOYLAN
MRS. SHIRLEY BRAH
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JENNY AND DENNIS BRIDGER
BRUCE AND MARYSUE BRIGHT
MICHAEL BRIGHT
SARAH & MILTON BROWN
DENISE BURTON
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LUKE BURTON
MS. SARA S. BURTON

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BILLY CHOREY
ARIANNA COLBERT
MCKINDLEY COLBERT
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Joan and Allen Hogge
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Herb and Carolyn Culpepper
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Sara S. Burton
Sara S. Burton
Franklin and Verona Crawford
Joan and Allen Hogge

Bruce and Mary Sue Bright
Debbie Nelson
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Anonymous
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Torres Walker
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GEORGE + EUPHROSYNE

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JOAN HOGGE

JOANNA AND LARRY HOFFHEIMER
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Joan and Allen Hogge
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 Jonathan A. Arena
 Jonathan A. Arena
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In MEMORY of Edmarc gratefully acknowledges the outpouring of support in memory of family members and friends.
 July 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024

IN MEMORY OF
KEN ABLETT
TAYLOR ADKINS

BOB AND FRAN ALWOOD
ELIZABETH ARNOLD

MATTHEW AUSTIN
MRS. POLLY BAKER
BENNIE BARKER
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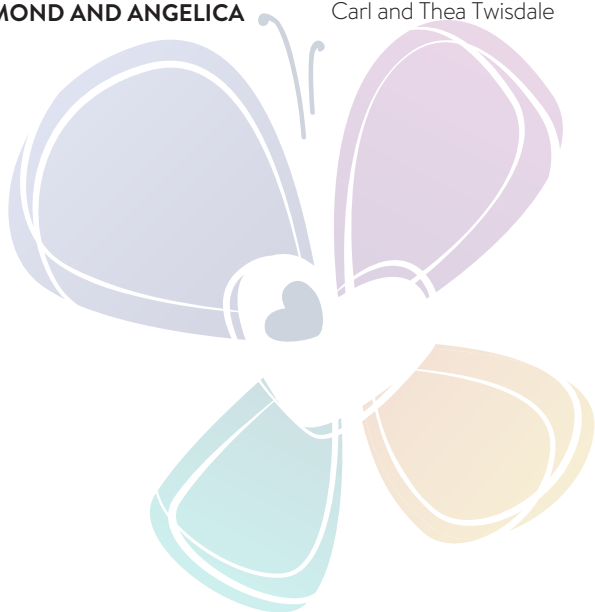
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BEST WISHES...

Congratulations to **Dorothy Jenson** on her semi-retirement. In late January, Dorothy transitioned from her position as Edmarc's Assistant Director as she prepares for her move to Florida. Despite the change, Dorothy remains close to Edmarc by continuing to work part-time remotely as a Patient Accounts Medical Biller.

Dorothy has been a remarkable team member, embodying Edmarc's values and mission. Her dedication and hard work have touched the lives of numerous individuals and families that we support. Through her ceaseless dedication, Dorothy has played a pivotal role in shaping Edmarc into the organization it is today. We deeply miss her and send our best wishes as she embarks on a new and exciting chapter in her life.



NEW STAFF

We are delighted to welcome **Christine Richards** to our team as a Patient Care Coordinator in the Williamsburg office. A graduate of Roanoke Chowan Community College, Christine brings a wealth of experience to her role. Her extensive background includes work in Cardiac Stepdown, ICU, Neuro, Labor and Delivery, Cardiac Surgical ICU, PICU, and as a Clinical Supervisor with Maxim.

Christine is the proud mother of three children – Chloe (14), Landen (8), and Paisley (3) – and they share a love for soccer. Landen plays for Smithfield Soccer Club and practices with HR Sportsplex, while Paisley plays IOW Rec and practices with HR Sportsplex. Chloe is passionate about art and anime. Christine has worked with many of our patients, from those in PICU to those with Maxim and now with Edmarc.



Ruth Turman is Edmarc's new Director of Clinical Services for Edmarc. She has her BSN from Regis University where she was awarded the RN-BSN Nursing Excellence award. Before completing her RN-BSN, she received AAS in Nursing at Northern Virginia Community College. She comes from a family of registered nurses that includes her great, great grandmother from Scotland, her mom, sister and niece as well as both her paternal and maternal aunts.

She didn't realize she wanted to be a nurse until her mom was in training and using her kids as guinea pigs to practice her skills. Ruth's professional background is diverse, having worked as a flight nurse for helicopter EMS, transporting critically ill patients, managing trauma programs at level II trauma centers, and even working as a nurse on television and film sets. Originally from California, Ruth moved to Latin America as a child, an experience she values greatly and believes shaped her love for travel. She is thrilled to be a part of the Edmarc team and is eagerly looking forward to contributing her skills and expertise to Edmarc.



Joni Cormier is our new Office Manager, originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, who recently relocated to Virginia with her fiancé and two rescue dogs. Joni first joined Edmarc as a volunteer in the summer of 2023 and quickly proved to be an invaluable asset to the team. Her contributions ranged from assisting with Camp M.A.G.I.C. preparations, dedicating weekends to volunteering at Camp M.A.G.I.C., handling phone calls, organizing files and the office, and much more. With an impressive 20-year career in the hospitality industry, Joni brings a wealth of expertise in corporate expansions, franchise director training, and team development on a large scale. Joni is ready to apply her knowledge to advance our mission as the leading pediatric hospice and palliative care organization in Virginia. In her leisure time, Joni enjoys paddle boarding, embarking on adventures with her dogs, and continuing her volunteer work.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Miranda Munson embarked on her journey with Edmarc about 16 years ago as a volunteer. Over time, her dedication to the organization grew, leading her to assume more responsibilities. This progress enabled her to undergo training and become a facilitator with Peace by Piece, a role that strongly resonated with her dedication to assisting children and families. Miranda holds a B.S. in Psychology specializing in child development from ODU. For the past 15 years, she has been an integral part of the Facilities Management team at Capital Group Companies in Norfolk, VA, currently holding the position of senior coordinator. Miranda's ultimate goal is to pursue a master's degree in pediatric mental health counseling. She lives in Virginia Beach with her husband and two children, both actively engaged in sports. In addition, Miranda has dedicated the last four years to serving on the board of the Virginia Beach Little League.



Joan Myers-Reif is grateful to serve on the Edmarc board as over 20 years ago she had a very different relationship with the Edmarc family. Edmarc fully supported her son and entire family with services for over three years while her son battled a life-threatening illness. Thanks to Edmarc's assistance, Joan's son made a full recovery and was discharged from their care.

This profound experience reshaped Joan's career path. After years in the corporate world, working in various industries such as telecommunications, aerospace, and healthcare, Joan transitioned to the non-profit sector focusing on healthcare and education. Recently retiring as the System Director at Inova Health System, a prominent non-profit healthcare provider in Northern Virginia, Joan oversaw several patient support service areas including Spiritual Care, Animal Therapies, Volunteers, and more. One of her proudest accomplishments was leading the establishment of Inova's Schar Cancer Institute in Falls Church, VA. Joan resides in Smithfield with her husband, Peter, where she enjoys activities like gardening, golfing, biking, and knitting. Her two children, including the former Edmarc patient, are both in their twenties, and leading happy and fulfilling lives.



Kristen Gardner Beal, a Virginia native, is co-founder of RichWine, a natural wine delivery company that services all of Virginia and Penny's Wine Shop, a Richmond based natural wine bar and restaurant. She graduated from the University of Virginia in 2012 with a BA in Foreign Policy and Sociology. Prior to entering the wine industry, Kristen worked at the Department of State in Lima, Peru, and then shifted to finance at a global investment bank in New York. She served as Vice President for the Hedge Fund Client Coverage Group at Goldman Sachs and ended her career in the Executive Office supporting the firm's 10 Thousand Small Businesses initiative. Presently, Kristen has relocated to Virginia to begin her career at Capital Group and to be closer to family and friends. Kristen is dedicated to her work and has a passion for travel, believing that exploring the world forms the basis of her appreciation for food, culture, gatherings, and wine. She enjoys weight lifting and reading in her free time.



SANTA RUN 2023

Imagine being a kid, bouncing with excitement on the biggest day of the year, when suddenly you hear sirens and see flashes of light. You peek out of your window to spot Santa Claus himself, riding in style on a fire engine, waving like a rockstar! And guess what? He's headed straight for your house! Behind him are Mrs. Claus, caroling elves, and even fire and police personnel, all there to spread cheer and joy!



This wonderful day is what Edmarc kids and families wait for all year long. This year, Santa personally visited families on December 10, 2023, to make sure their holidays were filled with hope and happiness. What an unforgettable day it was! And it's all thanks to the generosity and holiday spirit of the community! People

and organizations adopt families, shop for gifts, and deliver them to Edmarc, and the volunteers wrap the gifts and put them into special Santa Bags for delivery. Fire and police stations from all around the area pick up the bags and join Santa on his

sleigh, singing carols and spreading joy wherever they go!

Edmarc staff and volunteers work tirelessly during the holiday season. In November, volunteers provided Thanksgiving meals to 66 families, and in December, 65 sponsors went above and beyond to deliver holiday meals and gifts to 75 Edmarc families. From mid-November to the week before Christmas, volunteers worked hard to sort food donations and wrap gifts into handmade Santa bags for delivery across Hampton Roads.

It's amazing to see the community come together and spread so much love and happiness. Thank you to our community partners for their sponsorship, to our volunteers who worked tirelessly to sort and organize, to the Fire and Police Departments for their assistance, and of course, to Santa for spreading joy this holiday season!



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 Lewis & Minta Wood Charitable
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 LifeNet Health
 Link-Belt Mid-Atlantic
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 Foundation
 Little Creek Lions Club
 Lynnhaven Presbyterian Church
 Maple Leaf Handyman and
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 Martha Chapter No 10 OES
 PHA
 McAlister Masonic Lodge No 185
 MEB General Contractors, Inc
 Mermaid Circle of the Virginia
 Beach City Union
 Mizell's Hauling, Inc.
 Most Worshipful Prince Hall
 Grand Lodge of Virginia
 Napolitano Homes
 NAVAC MIL Wardroom
 Naval Civilian Managers
 Association
 New Horizons Presbyterian
 Church
 Newport News Shipbuilding - a
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 Norfolk Parole and Probation
 Parkview Christian Church
 Pearson Toyota
 Peninsula Community
 Foundation of Virginia, Inc.
 Peninsula Networking Exchange
 Club
 The Perry Family Foundation
 Persons Orthopaedic Sports
 Medicine and Joint Replace-
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 Philip O. Geib Private Family
 Foundation Trust
 Pilot Club of Portsmouth Inc.
 Pilots for Kids
 Portsmouth Invitational
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 Port Norfolk Civic League
 Portsmouth General Hospital
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 Portsmouth Lions Club
 Portsmouth Lodge 100
 Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
 Priority Auto Group
 The Pruden Foundation

Q.E.D. Systems
 Reaver Beach Brewing Co.
 Rebekah 24 Order of the
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 Red Knights Motorcycle Club
 Restore Church
 Richard Bennett Trust
 Richmond Primoid
 Rite Aid Healthy Futures
 Foundation
 Rivers Portsmouth Gaming LLC
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Thank you ...

A big thank you to all the individuals, businesses, and organizations who support Edmarc's work and bring happiness to families in Hampton Roads. Your contributions, such as donating food baskets, holiday gifts, items from our Amazon wish list, professional services, golf tournament items, school supplies, and more, make a significant impact.

July 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

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With your support, Edmarc continues to accomplish so much to help families facing a child's life-threatening illness. Your generosity helps provide critical nursing care and family support during difficult times. Knowing we have kind people like you to spread hope throughout their journeys means the world and makes life-changing impacts.

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We appreciate ATCO's sponsorship for this edition of *The Visitor*. With over 100 years of collective experience in Tanker, Dump Trailers, Dump Truck & COD hauling, ATCO has been a dedicated supporter of Edmarc through various initiatives like Touch-A-Truck events, Golf Tournament sponsorships, employee volunteers, and more. Their ongoing support helps us provide comprehensive, family-centered, home-based care to children in Hampton Roads dealing with life-threatening illnesses.