

Edmarc Celebrates New Williamsburg Office



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a note from **EDMARC**



Dear Edmarc Family,

As we welcome the crisp air and vibrant colors of fall, I want to take this opportunity to share the wonderful happenings at Edmarc over the past few months. Our Spring Fling and Summer Picnic events brought joy and laughter to our children and their families, creating cherished moments that will be remembered for years.

We also enjoyed another incredibly successful Golf Classic, where the spirit of camaraderie and competition translated into essential support for our mission. Each swing on the green represented a commitment to helping those who need our care the most. The generosity displayed during this event is a vital part of our ability to serve those in need.

This season, we celebrated a special Camp M.A.G.I.C. weekend for our bereaved families, offering a nurturing space for healing and connection. The stories shared and friendships formed during this retreat are invaluable to those navigating their grief.

Moreover, I am thrilled to announce that we held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for our new Williamsburg office! This expansion of Edmarc's programs allows us to reach and care for even more children and families who require our support. It's an exciting step forward in our mission to provide compassionate care.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the unwavering generosity of our community. Your support fuels our efforts and ensures that we can continue to make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Edmarc family. Together, we are creating a brighter future for many.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Debbie".

Debbie Stitzer-Brame

Executive Director, Edmarc

Edmarc Celebrates New Williamsburg Office

On July 9th, Edmarc proudly celebrated the grand opening of its new office in Williamsburg with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by staff, volunteers, community leaders, and supporters. This momentous event marks a significant milestone in Edmarc's ongoing mission to provide compassionate care to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

The ceremony was a heartwarming affair, featuring speeches from Edmarc's Executive Director and local dignitaries, all emphasizing the importance of the services Edmarc brings to the community.





families in need,” said Edmarc’s Executive Director, Deborah Stitzer-Brame. “This new location will allow us to provide the same exceptional care and support that we are known for, ensuring that no family has to face these challenges alone.”

The Williamsburg office is strategically located in the New Town area of James City County to serve families across the region, making it more convenient for them to access the vital services Edmarc provides. Continued on page 5...With a team of experienced healthcare professionals, social workers, and dedicated volunteers, Edmarc is committed to alleviating the physical, emotional, and financial burdens faced by families during the most challenging times.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was a testament to the community’s support and the vital role Edmarc plays in enhancing the quality of life for children and their families. Attendees expressed their gratitude and excitement for the positive impact this new office will have on the Williamsburg area.

As Edmarc continues to grow, the opening of the Williamsburg office represents a significant step forward in its 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. The new region is poised to become a beacon of hope and comfort for families navigating the difficult journey of life-threatening childhood illnesses.

Attendees had the opportunity to tour the new office and learn more about the comprehensive care programs Edmarc offers, including pediatric hospice, palliative care, and bereavement support.

The organization had a two-part feasibility study performed in 2019 to determine if there was a need and if it would be able to support the organization’s charity model. The study found the organization would more than double its patient census and that the community would be more than willing to step up and help. In 2022 Edmarc received a \$2 million grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia and over the next 2 years raised \$2 million in matching funds to go towards the expansion goal.

“We are thrilled to open our new office in Williamsburg and extend our reach to even more



A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Campaign Donors

Thanks to the unwavering support and generosity of our donors, partners, and community, we are proud to celebrate the milestone of opening our Williamsburg Edmarc location! Your contributions are making a lasting impact. Together, we are expanding our reach and ensuring that more families receive the compassionate care they deserve.

Campaign Contributors

Campaign Goal: \$2 million

Total Raised: \$2,008,540.70

\$100,000 & Above

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Edmarc Staff

Wendy Anthony – *Patient Care Coordinator*
Teresa Black – *Patient Care Coordinator*
Brittany Boylan – *Community Resource Coordinator*
Rebekah Carcamo – *Patient Accounts*
Kathryn Brown – *Medical Social Worker*
Jurica Brown – *Medical Social Worker*
Adelaide Clemens-Cooke – *Development Associate*
Joni Cormier – *Office Manager*
Rob Ericson – *Patient Care Coordinator*
Megan Gillispie – *Director of Support Services*
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Dorothy Jenson – *Patient Accounts Medical Biller*
Amy Arditi Kuzemka – *Marketing Development Manager*
Maggie Lewis – *Medical Records Clerk/Receptionist*
Latisha 'Tish' Newman – *Systems Manager*
Christine Richards – *Patient Care Coordinator*
Kaitlyn Patton – *Patient Care Coordinator*
Deborah L. Stitzer-Brame – *Executive Director*
Brittney C. Twisdale – *Medical Social Worker*
Jennifer Webb – *Patient Care Coordinator*
Darby Whitley – *Director of Finance & Administration*
Brittany Wilson – *Medical Social Worker*

EDMARC'S STRATEGIC PLANNING: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

At Edmarc, our unwavering commitment is to provide exceptional care and support to children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. Over the past nine months, we have embarked on a comprehensive strategic planning process to ensure that we continue to meet the evolving needs of our community. This initiative will help us chart a course for the future, building on our strengths while exploring new opportunities for growth and innovation.

Why Strategic Planning?

Strategic planning is essential for any organization that wants to remain effective and sustainable. For Edmarc, it's about more than just planning for the future; it's about reaffirming our mission, clarifying our vision, and ensuring that every action we take aligns with our core values. Through this process, we aim to strengthen our services, expand our reach, and enhance the quality of care we provide.

Key Areas of Focus

As we move forward, we're concentrating on several key goals:

- **Growth:** Edmarc will expand pediatric hospice and palliative care to cover major population centers within Virginia, serving more children and families.
- **Finance:** Edmarc will become a financially self-sufficient organization through a multi-prong funding approach, including contributions from donors, partnerships with health systems and health plans, and securing state and federal funding.
- **Structure:** We will develop strategies for organizational self-sufficiency and sustainable growth, supported by a strong board and staff.
- **Model of Care:** Edmarc will enhance its family care and support model to meet the needs of our families today and in the future.
- **Marketing:** We will increase awareness of Edmarc within our service area, across Virginia, and beyond.

Looking Ahead

As we finalize our strategic plan, we're excited about the possibilities ahead. This plan will serve as our roadmap for the coming years, guiding our decisions and actions as we work to fulfill our mission. We're grateful for the support of our community and look forward to sharing more about our plans as they unfold. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.

Camp M.A.G.I.C. 2024: A Weekend of Healing for Families

Edmarc was honored to host eight families for our annual family bereavement camp, Camp M.A.G.I.C. (My Active Grieving Instills Courage), offering a weekend of healing, remembrance, and connection. We gathered at Triple R Ranch in Chesapeake, Virginia, for an unforgettable experience designed to bring comfort and courage to those navigating the difficult journey of grief.



Support group sessions were a key part of the weekend, offering a safe space for children and adults to share their stories, listen to others, and find strength in knowing they are not alone.

We are incredibly grateful to our Camp M.A.G.I.C. sponsors, Tidewater Children's Foundation and Triple-S Steel Supply Co., whose generous support made this healing weekend possible. We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the volunteers and donors who contributed their time, resources, and love to ensure

Camp M.A.G.I.C. provides a unique environment where families come together to honor their loved ones and share memories in a supportive and understanding environment. Throughout the weekend, families participated in a variety of therapeutic activities, each thoughtfully designed to promote healing and togetherness. Horseback riding and canoeing allowed participants to connect with nature and find moments of peace, while memory crafts provided a creative outlet to express their feelings and preserve cherished memories.





that each family had a meaningful experience. A special note of gratitude goes to Triple R Ranch for graciously hosting us on their beautiful property and providing access to their wonderful outdoor activities. Their partnership is vital to creating the transformative experiences that Camp M.A.G.I.C. offers. We also want to say thank you to Goodrich Catering for providing delicious meals for our families and volunteers throughout the entire weekend.



Our vision for Camp M.A.G.I.C. is to continue being a place where families can come together to laugh, cry, play, and honor their loved ones, all while finding solace and strength in the company of others who understand their grief. Camp M.A.G.I.C. is more than just a weekend away—it's a reminder that even amid sorrow, no one has to walk this path alone.

EDMARC'S 28TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC: A HOLE-IN-ONE FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

Edmarc's 28th Annual Charity Golf Classic, presented by One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning, was a swinging success! After some uncertain weather led to a postponement, Edmarc took its mulligan and rescheduled the tournament for the following Thursday at the picturesque Cedar Point Club. The gamble paid off, as clear skies and unseasonably cool weather set the stage for a perfect day of golf, camaraderie, and giving.

Thirty-three teams teed off, eager to enjoy 18 holes on the beautifully manicured course, all while raising funds to support Edmarc's mission of providing care and comfort to children and families in need. The day was filled with excitement, especially when one golfer achieved a thrilling milestone—his first-ever hole-in-one!

The event was more than just a day on the greens. Participants enjoyed a delicious lunch before hitting the course and later gathered for a festive dinner complete with music, a silent auction, and an awards ceremony celebrating the day's top players. The sense of community and shared purpose was palpable, as everyone came together to support a cause close to their hearts.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our sponsors, participants, and supporters, this year's tournament was our most successful yet, raising over \$130,000! These

vital funds will go directly toward ensuring that Edmarc can continue to provide quality, in-home care and support to our amazing families. With less than 8% of our budget covered by insurance reimbursement, fundraisers like this are essential to our work—allowing us to offer our services without families ever receiving a bill.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of this event and helped make a difference in the lives of the families we serve. We're already looking forward to our Inaugural Williamsburg Golf Classic - another opportunity to hit the links for a great cause.





Presenting Sponsor:

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Special thank you to Paradise Ocean Club and Big Ugly Brewing for providing lunch and beer!



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

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In MEMORY of Edmarc gratefully acknowledges the outpouring of support in memory of family members and friends.
February 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024

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MEGAN GILLISPIE PROMOTION

Megan Gillispie has been a valued member of the Edmarc team for over three years, making significant contributions in various roles. Starting as Community Resource Coordinator, she later transitioned to Bereavement Program Director and was recently named Director of Support Services. In her new position, Megan will oversee Edmarc's bereavement program while also supervising our social support department, ensuring families receive the comprehensive care they need.

Born and raised in Norfolk, Megan moved to Richmond in 2012 to pursue graduate studies. She earned her master's degree in social work from Virginia Commonwealth University, specializing in Social Work Administration, Policy, and Program Planning. Throughout her career, Megan has worked extensively in child welfare, children's mental health, quality assurance and improvement, and volunteer management.

Megan's connection to Edmarc is deeply personal. After her first son, Theo, was stillborn in early 2021, Edmarc touched her life in a profound way. Inspired by the compassion and support she received, Megan knew she wanted to be part of Edmarc's mission to help children and their families. In her new role, she is honored to "witness first-hand the undaunted, courageous love our families have for their children."

When Megan isn't at work, she's busy with her toddler son, Anderson, and enjoys spending time with her husband, Dan, as well as family and friends. She loves boating in the summer and exploring new trails during the fall and spring.



WITH LOVE, WE REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

Henry R.A.
Annabelle A.
Drecen R.
David C.

MARCH

Abel W..

APRIL

Otto B.
Lyric C.

MAY

Willemina W.
Asher L.
Brielle M.

JUNE

Jalenn B.
Hailie I.
Nikola G.
Marlon A.

JULY

Little Bean
M.
Jackson J.
Addison B.

*Loving memories
never die,
as years roll on
and days pass by.
In our hearts
a memory is kept,
of ones we loved and
will never forget.*



KIWANIS CLUB OF NORFOLK FOUNDATION FUELS EDMARC'S MISSION WITH GENEROUS THREE-YEAR GRANT

Edmarc is thrilled to announce a generous three-year grant from the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk Foundation, which will enable us to add another vehicle to our fleet. This new addition will significantly enhance our ability to reach and serve more children and families in need, furthering our 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.

As the demand for our services continues to grow, so does the need for reliable transportation. Edmarc's team travels across the region, bringing care directly to the homes of seriously ill children, allowing them to receive the support they need in the comfort of their own environment. This new vehicle will help us respond more efficiently to the increasing number of families who rely on our services, ensuring that no child is left without the care and comfort they deserve.

The support from the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk Foundation goes beyond just providing a vehicle—it represents a commitment to the children and families we serve. By investing in our ability to expand our reach, the Kiwanis Club is directly impacting the lives of those who need it most. We are deeply grateful for their continued partnership and belief in our mission.

This grant is a testament to the power of community and the difference that can be made when organizations like the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk Foundation step up to support local causes. With this new vehicle, Edmarc can continue to deliver critical services, ensuring that every family we serve receives the highest level of care, no matter where they are.



Thank you, Kiwanis Club of Norfolk Foundation, for fueling our mission and helping us drive forward with the promise of care, compassion, and hope for every child and family in our community.

A DAY OF JOY: SPRING FLING FOR OUR EDMARC FAMILIES

This spring, Edmarc hosted a heartwarming celebration dedicated to our courageous children and their families. Although it was a bit rainy outside, the atmosphere was filled with laughter, love, and a much-needed escape from the daily challenges these families face. The event was thoughtfully planned to create unforgettable memories for our children and their loved ones. Families arrived to a wonderland of spring-themed decorations, vibrant flowers, and colorful balloons that set the scene for a day of pure joy. From the moment they stepped through the doors, every child was treated like royalty, greeted by smiling volunteers who were ready to make their day as special as possible. The afternoon was packed with activities designed to bring out smiles and laughter. Arts and crafts stations allowed kids to explore their creativity plus there were games galore.



Families came together and watched as their kids searched for candy-filled eggs from the not-so-difficult Easter egg hunt. A highlight of the day was the visit from our surprise guest—a life-sized, friendly bunny and Wags the Dog. The joy on the children's faces as they hugged their new fluffy friend was truly priceless.

For the families we serve, this spring party was more than just a day of fun; it was a chance to create joyful memories during difficult times. One parent shared, "Seeing my child laugh and play with others, even just for a few hours, meant the world to us. It was a day where we could just be together as a family, and for that, we are deeply grateful."

This spring celebration was a beautiful reminder that even in the face of illness, there is always room for joy, love, and togetherness. We are so thankful to our volunteers and donors who made this day possible, and we look forward to continuing to bring moments of happiness to our Edmarc families.

A very special thank you to the Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists for providing a wonderful indoor venue for our Spring Fling when the weather didn't cooperate with our original outside plans.

We also extend heartfelt gratitude to the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk for sponsoring the event. It's through the support of caring groups and individuals like these that we're able to make events like Spring Fling possible. Thank you for helping us bring joy to the families we serve!



INDIVIDUAL DONORS
February 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024

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Stephen and Nancy Adams
George and Martha Allison
David and Barbara Amaker
Lucy Amos
Brad and Heidi Anderson
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Jonathan and Mari Arena
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SUNSHINE AND SMILES: EDMARC'S SUMMER PICNIC AT THE MARINERS' MUSEUM

This summer, Edmarc families gathered for a day of fun, friendship, and relaxation at the beautiful Mariners' Museum.



The event was generously hosted by the Oyster Point Rotary club, who went above and beyond to ensure its success. They provided all the necessary elements, such as food, games, giveaways, and volunteers. Families had a wonderful time participating in outdoor activities in the courtyard and exploring the museum indoors. For 20 years, the Rotary Club of Oyster Point has been a strong supporter of Edmarc. The summer picnic this year exemplified their dedication to creating memorable experiences for our families.



The Mariners' Museum provided the perfect backdrop for this day of connection and community. Families explored the museum's exhibits, taking in the rich maritime history and marveling at the impressive ship models and artifacts. The interactive elements of the museum were a hit with the kids, offering a fun and educational experience amidst the day's festivities.

One parent shared, “This picnic is something we look forward to every year. It’s a chance for our family to relax, have fun, and spend time with others who understand what we’re going through. We’re so grateful to Edmarc for making this possible.”



Our Summer Picnic at The Mariners' Museum was more than just a gathering; it was a reminder of the strength and resilience of our Edmarc families. It was a day where worries were set aside, and happiness took center stage. We are deeply thankful to The Mariners' Museum for hosting us and to our volunteers and donors whose generosity made this day possible. We can’t wait to do it all again next year!



Thank you ...

Thank you to the many, many individuals, businesses and organizations who make the work Edmarc does possible and bring joy to our families across Hampton Roads by donating back to school supplies, Girl Scout cookies, items for the charity golf classic, quilts and blankets, gift cards, items from our Amazon wish list, professional services and more!

February 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024

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YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES!

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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