



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

December 8, 2016

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SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE TO HELP BRING SANTA TO SUFFOLK FAMILIES

SUFFOLK, VA (December 8, 2016) The Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department is working with EDMARC Hospice for Children in Portsmouth to make this season a little brighter for children suffering from a life-threatening illness. On Sunday, December 11th, Suffolk Fire & Rescue will join other public safety organizations across Hampton Roads to transport Santa, his elves, and carolers in delivering holiday gifts to families in the area. Five Suffolk families will receive visits from Fire & Rescue personnel with the gifts and holiday cheer.

Each year, approximately 100 volunteers deliver holiday gifts to area children who are patients with EDMARC Hospice for Children in Portsmouth. The mission of the program is to decrease the stress an illness brings to a family by providing food baskets and gifts so that the season can be joyful, not more hectic and demanding. This year's deliveries will be made in combination with enthusiastic volunteers along with local Fire & Rescue units carrying Santa and gifts for the Edmarc children and family members.

Suffolk Fire & Rescue Chief Cedric Scott noted, “We are proud to be a part of the holiday season for these local families. The men and women of the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department want to make sure our community knows we are there for them and support organizations such as EDMARC who help make the holiday season special for all.”

EDMARC Hospice for Children is a community-based organization serving greater Hampton Roads whose mission is 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. Founded in 1978, EDMARC was the first hospice in the nation designed specifically for children and now serves as the only pediatric hospice organization in Hampton Roads.

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