



The Bright Light and the Mom who Wins the Fight

Naimen and his mother are one of our favorite families here at Edna Martin Christian Center's Leadership & Legacy campus. Naïmen first came here in 2013 to be in our Pre-K program. Upon graduation, he transitioned to one of our favorite community partners: KIPP Indy Unite Elementary School.

He really excelled there, fitting right in to the academically challenging culture. Days filled with rigorous academics at KIPP and afternoons filled with civic engagement here at EMCC were exactly the fit that his mother wanted for him.

His mom is very active here and nearly always attends our activities. But she is more than just a recipient, she volunteers in more than one capacity and sits down for dinner here only after she has served others.

But late this past summer, Naïmen's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. She suddenly found herself trying to balance work, very aggressive oncology treatments, and raising her busy second-grader. Our Leadership & Legacy staff stepped up and coordinated a scholarship for Naïmen's attendance in all of our programs, so that there would be one less bill to worry about. She accepted humbly and gratefully with tears and hugs.

Christmas, however, can present a challenge all by itself. We recognize

the season can be a mixed blessing when a family has special needs. So, when the holidays arrived, the Leadership & Legacy team rallied around this dear family to make sure that they would have everything they needed for a "normal" celebration. On the last day of our program year, there were more tears and more hugs as we surprised mom with twenty wrapped gifts to put under her tree. Naïmen woke Christmas morning to find a football, Star Wars action figures, clothes, an over-the-door basketball goal, and many other fun things. We also made sure that they had a box of treats and snacks to eat until school started again.

But God saved the best Christmas gift for his mom: We were all overjoyed when she announced that her treatments have been successful—she is now cancer-free! She has asked us to keep her in prayer as the doctors continue to monitor her condition, because she is committed to winning this fight.

Naïmen's spirit is a bright light to our program. His funny jokes and playful mindset add joy to the overall environment here. And his mom's optimistic prognosis restored hope this past Christmas, and hope does not disappoint. Naïmen, his mom, and all of us here at EMCC are grateful to God for your involvement. We don't know what we could do without your help. ☺

2017 Highlights

Last year was a busy year in all departments, and our staff was able to help a lot of people in many different ways. Here are some quick statistics:

YOUTH PROGRAM

- 157 students are currently active.
- 4 sites (in addition to our main site) host EMCC programs on school days.
 - IPS School #88
 - IPS School #51
 - New Era Church
 - KIPP Indy Public School
- In addition, students from 12 other schools come directly to our Leadership & Legacy Campus. We are all over!

CHILDCARE MINISTRY

- 100 youth received childcare
- 10 On My Way Pre K/Indy PSP students enrolled for 2017-'18.
- 25 students received subsidies.
- 25 students received scholarships.
- 100% of staff:
 - hold a post-secondary degree or industry certification,
 - earned more than the amount of training hours required by Paths to Quality,
 - are CPR & First Aid certified.

CENTER FOR WORKING FAMILIES

- 468 individuals helped overall.
- 30 participants received an HSE diploma or an industry-recognized credential.
- 125 gained new employment or retained current employment.
- 127 moved from financial crisis to stability by receiving job training and financial literacy education.
- 80 improved their financial stability and increased net worth.

SENIORS

- 100 active members
- 26 homebound members
- 100 seniors enjoyed Thanksgiving meals with us.
- 103 seniors received assistance at Christmas.
- 119 receive Commodity Food Boxes monthly.



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Wanna go for a slide?



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CHRISTIAN CENTER

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Scan the QR code to visit our website:
www.ednamartincc.org

Volunteers from Allstate Insurance's Indiana-Ohio Property Claims office showed long-term commitment by fixing up the playground they first installed in 2013. They tightened bolts, replaced the swings, added a second slide, fixed the gate and the latch, re-mulched, and added a beautiful pergola at the entrance. Over the years, kids here have had lots of fun thanks to the \$15,000 and all the manpower that Allstate has invested here.

MILLION \$ MATCH

If we raise \$1,000,000 by the end of February, we will receive an additional \$1,000,000 from one of Central Indiana's major funders—it's that simple.

This matching grant is a big part of our **Thrive!** Campaign, the two-phase, multi-million-dollar effort to renovate and expand our Leadership & Legacy campus. L&L is the headquarters for all of our youth programs, and it comprises a 24,000-square-foot building complex, 13 acres of grounds, and a whole lot of untapped potential. To see all of our plans, please call us at 317-637-3776 or go to our website, www.ednamartincc.org.

Since this matching grant was announced last November, we've been busy raising our million, **AND WE'RE CLOSE!**

As of this writing, we have raised more than 80% of our goal! If we can complete this match, phase one will be almost fully funded! Plans are in place, and construction crews are ready to begin this spring!

Can you help us get the maximum? You can donate today via the enclosed envelope, or donate at our website, www.ednamartincc.org. If you give online, please select the "Thrive--Million Dollar Match" button when you donate.

But please remember:

- 1) There is only a match for what we raise. So, we will only receive \$1 million if we raise \$1 million ourselves! And
- 2) There's a time limit: we only have until the end of February, 2018!

Wish List: Our Food Pantry offers visitors any 20 items they choose from our list, and so our need for many staples is constant. Here is a sampling, but the entire list is available on our website.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apple sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> Dried beans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baby food | <input type="checkbox"/> Instant potatoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef stew | <input type="checkbox"/> Jello ® |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta noodles / spaghetti |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned meats & tuna | <input type="checkbox"/> Pancake mix |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned soups & chili | <input type="checkbox"/> Pudding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condensed milk | <input type="checkbox"/> Raisins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grape jelly | <input type="checkbox"/> Ramen noodles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peanut butter | <input type="checkbox"/> Rice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juice | <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ravioli | <input type="checkbox"/> Bath soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spaghetti sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SpaghettiOs ® | <input type="checkbox"/> Detergent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boxed dinners | <input type="checkbox"/> Dishwashing liquid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cake mix | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair shampoo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast cereal | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer / hand soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn bread mix | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crackers | <input type="checkbox"/> Tooth paste |

... more wishes at www.ednamartincc.org

upcoming EVENTS

Pancake Breakfast

- March 28, 7:00 AM
- 37 Place, 2605 E 25th Street
- Join us on the Thursday before Easter as EMCC board members have fun flipping flapjacks.



Driving for Dollars

- Sunday, April 15, 3:30 PM
- 9200 E 116th St, Fishers
- Join us at Topgolf, the area's coolest driving range, for a fundraiser with dinner, fun, and buckets of balls.

Walking for Dreams

- Sunday, May 20.
- Join EMCC and 40 other non-profits as we walk to raise money on the canal in downtown Indianapolis.