



VOLU- NTEER GUIDE

Estimate
March 2026

Mission Statement

To invest in the lives of all in Martindale-Brightwood and surrounding neighborhood through community-driven opportunities that foster stability, growth and a vision of hope.

Vision Statement

Edna Martin Christian Center envisions peaceful, connected, and thriving neighborhoods where all are free to live, learn, work, worship, and play.

Resources

Find our Volunteer Information, Social Media Links,, Keep up to date and other resources with out Linktree! Scan the QR code below!



2605 East 25th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46218



Phone: (317) 637-3776
Fax: (317) 637-4989



www.ednamartincc.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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01	Welcome
03	About EMCC
05	EMCC Timeline
07	Core Values
09	Volunteer Impact
11	Volunteer Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Prerequisitesb. Code of Ethicsc. Confidentialityd. Attendance & Communicatione. Dress Codef. Use of EMCC Propertyg. Supervision & Supporth. Voluntary Participation
13	Acknowledgements



Welcome, and thank you for your interest in volunteering with Edna Martin Christian Center (EMCC).

We are truly grateful that you are considering sharing your time, talents, and heart with our community. Volunteering is a meaningful way to connect, contribute, and make a difference, and we are honored that you are exploring that opportunity with us. This handbook is designed to give you an overview of who we are, what we value, and what you can expect as a volunteer, so you feel informed, supported, and inspired as you begin this journey with us.

About Us

Edna Martin Christian Center

Founded 1941

Edna Martin Christian Center was founded in 1941 by Edna Martin, a dedicated community advocate who recognized the need for compassionate, accessible support for individuals and families facing hardship. Guided by her faith and commitment to service, she worked to create a place where people could find help, hope, and encouragement.

What began as a grassroots effort has grown into a comprehensive community center serving thousands each year. Today, Edna Martin Christian Center offers programs and services that support education, wellness, stability, and personal growth, all while continuing to honor the values on which it was founded.

Though the Center has evolved over time, its purpose remains the same: to uplift individuals and strengthen the community through service rooted in dignity, respect, and care.



**SCAN QR CODE TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR FOUNDER!**



Our History and Timeline

1941

Edna Martin started a Christian day care in a one-room rented apartment on Roosevelt Avenue. Two young girls are the first to benefit.

1942

Now beyond capacity, the rented apartment is no longer practical or affordable. Daycare relocated to a large tent.

1946

Edna's work gained support of Indianapolis Baptist Churches, designated as a Home Mission, officially named East Side Christian Center, and relocated to a three-room house on Martindale Avenue. After-school programs began and children's choir started.

1949

Center buys a house and two empty lots on Arsenal Avenue. An addition would be built at this site later, and another house would be bought for use as a second-hand store.

1974

Suffering from cancer, founder Mrs. Edna Martin passed away at the age of 76. East Side Christian Center renamed the Edna Martin Christian Center.

1970

Soul Ark, a separate program just for teens, opens in its own building on Roosevelt Avenue. 1,001 kids attend the Center's Christmas party.

1965

Center builds its own building at 1970 Caroline Avenue with programs including tutoring, housekeeping, sewing, cooking, arts, music, 19 clubs, 9 study classes, 4 basketball teams, and a library. Edna received an honorary doctorate from Franklin College.

1960

Center nursery school becomes licensed. More than 2,400 meals were served on a budget of \$100. Indiana Bell donated colorful phone wire so kids can weave baskets.

1955

Playground equipment added. Sewing and cooking classes started. VBS hosted 600 hot meals.

1995

Dozens of EMCC kids attend summer camp at Indian Creek Baptist Camp, and have continued every summer since.

2013

Center relocates to 37 Place, a more central location in the heart of the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood. The Edna Martin Childcare Ministry also became a certified Level 3 FSSA Paths to Quality day care.

2016

After-school programs move to a new facility on Ralston Avenue. Recently the home of Jireh Sports, this former Mobile Oil Processing facility offers room to grow in the 23,240 sq.ft. building.

2017

Phase 1 of Thrive! Campaign is completed at the Leadership and Legacy Campus. A new child care center now houses 88 additional students and offers state of the art classrooms and offices.

2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, EMCC staff were designated as essential workers and served over 6500 individuals, doubling from 2019.

2024

EMCC acquires ownership of the community hub, 37 Place, the Heartbeat of Martindale-Brightwood.

2026

EMCC celebrates 85 years of service!



Core Values

What is the core of Edna Martin?

Servant Leadership

Demonstrating our leadership through serving the community with humility, compassion and excellence.

Integrity

Holding ourselves to the highest standards in stewardship while embracing community accountability.

Faith

Grounding our ministry in faith with a love for our neighbors and hope for a brighter future.

Community

Amplifying community voice to galvanize actions towards social and economic justice.

Collaboration

Promoting authentic collaborations essential to achieving desired outcomes

Equity

Fostering a sense of belonging and ensuring access to resources for all who benefit and serve.



Volunteer Impact

At Edna Martin Christian Center, volunteers are a vital part of our daily impact and long-term vision. Your time, skills, and compassion strengthen our programs, support our staff, and expand our ability to serve children, families, and seniors with excellence. The difference you make doesn't stop within our walls — it creates a ripple effect throughout the community. Every act of service builds confidence in a child, stability in a family, and connection among neighbors. Because of you, hope grows stronger, opportunities increase, and lives are changed in ways that extend far beyond a single moment of service. We are sincerely grateful for your commitment and the impact you help make.



Volunteer Guidelines

What is expected of volunteers at Edna Martin Christian Center.

Prerequisites

We ask volunteers to complete the following before their first volunteer opportunity

- Completion of a volunteer application and any role-specific screenings (roles involving children will include a background check)
 - Volunteer Application
- Review and sign our waivers to help protect the privacy of those we serve

This is included in our application. If you are unable to fill out the application online, we will have physical copies available. The waivers are also listed below.

Code of Ethics

- Treat all individuals with dignity, respect, and compassion
- Use respectful language and behavior at all times
- Follow staff direction and volunteer guidelines
- Avoid discrimination, harassment, and inappropriate conduct

Confidentiality

In the course of volunteering at Edna Martin Christian Center, volunteers may have access to personal, sensitive, or private information about clients, families, staff, or other volunteers. Protecting this information is essential to maintaining trust and dignity within our community. We ask volunteers to keep all confidential information private and to use it only as necessary to fulfill their volunteer role. To ensure understanding and compliance, all volunteers are required to sign a confidentiality waiver acknowledging their responsibility to safeguard information during and after their service with Edna Martin Christian Center.

Dress Code

Volunteers are encouraged to dress in a way that fits the activities they'll be involved in and the setting of the program. Clothing should be comfortable, modest, and suitable for working with the community. Closed-toe shoes may be required for certain activities. Additional guidelines may be provided for specific opportunities.

Use of EMCC Property

We ask that you use EMCC facilities, equipment, and supplies responsibly and only for approved activities. If something appears damaged or needs attention, please report it to the staff.

Voluntary participation

Volunteers may end their service at any time with or without notifying EMCC staff. EMCC also reserves the right to discontinue volunteer service if guidelines or expectations are not followed.

Volunteer Supervision and Support

Volunteers will be supervised by EMCC staff or designated program leaders. Questions, concerns, or suggestions are always welcome and can be directed to your project supervisor or the volunteer coordinator.

Thank you for choosing to volunteer with us!

Your generosity, compassion, and willingness to serve reflect the very best of our community. The time and care you give speak to your character and the values you carry with you each day. Volunteering is not simply about showing up — it is about offering patience, encouragement, presence, and heart, and in doing so, you help create spaces where people feel seen, supported, and valued. We hope your experience here has been meaningful and enriching — filled with connection, growth, and moments that remind you why service matters. Whether your involvement is short-term or long-standing, visible or behind the scenes, it matters deeply. You are appreciated not just for what you do, but for who you are, and you will always be a welcome and valued part of this community.

Acknowledgments

Please review and sign the following if you have not completed your application.

Application Certification

I confirm that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete; I understand that inaccurate or incomplete information may affect my ability to serve as a volunteer.

Confidentiality Commitment

I understand that I may learn personal or sensitive information about EMCC clients, families, donors, staff, or operations; I agree to keep this information confidential during and after my volunteer service and to share it only with authorized EMCC personnel.

Participation & Responsibility Acknowledgment

I understand that volunteer activities may involve some level of risk; I choose to participate voluntarily and accept responsibility for my involvement; I understand that EMCC does not provide medical insurance coverage for volunteers and that I am responsible for my own medical expenses; to the extent permitted by law, I agree not to hold EMCC, its staff, or representatives liable for injuries or losses related to my participation.

Photo & Media Release (optional)

I give permission for EMCC to photograph or record me for use in promotional materials, publications, or social media.

Volunteer Agreement

I agree to serve as a volunteer with EMCC in a respectful and professional manner, to follow policies and staff guidance, and to maintain confidentiality regarding any sensitive information I may encounter; I understand my role is voluntary and unpaid, may require a background check, and involves some inherent risks; I accept responsibility for my participation and understand EMCC does not provide insurance coverage for volunteers.
