

Good Morning! As today is my first real report, I wanted to take a few minutes to introduce this year's NJASC State Charity and the work that they do.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the process, each year, the NJASC executive board selects a State Charity. This charity must be based out of New Jersey and work with New Jersey students and youth.

This year, our executive board chose The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, and I'm sure each and every single one of you is going to be as thoroughly impressed with the work that they do as we were.

ECF was founded 36 years ago by a family who had lost their son to pediatric cancer. They formed ECF to try and serve as a beacon of light for New Jersey families dealing with pediatric cancer. To this day, their mission remains the same.

ECF focuses on three main aspects: 1) *Counseling and Advocacy*, 2) *Material Support*, and 3) *Emergency Financial Aid*.

1. A small staff of professional caseworkers are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide in-home counseling for every member of the family. In addition, ECF advocates for families with insurance and medical providers, utility companies, and landlords.
2. ECF provides groceries, clothing, toys, household items, and birthday/holiday gifts to families. They also reach out to their community contacts in order to help families with specific needs. For example, if a family cannot afford to fix a flat tire and their car is their primary means of transportation to medical centers, ECF can reach out to the community to find an auto shop willing to repair the tire at no charge. These efforts help ease families' burdens and preserve their quality of life. **go over stats*
3. Facing pediatric cancer can devastate finances. Families are in danger of having their utilities and phones shut off and even losing their cars or their homes. Many families are forced to choose between working and caring for their sick child. ECF's emergency assistance fund can help pay utility, rent, phone, and insurance bills, cover the cost of meals while they spend time at their child's bedside in the hospital, help with costly

transportation to treatment facilities, and aid families who cannot meet the high cost of burial and funeral expenses for a child who has lost his or her battle to cancer.

ECF strives to be a helping hand and a shoulder to lean on. They don't want any family to have to have the same struggles as Emmanuel's family had all those years ago, and they work every day to try and make such a difficult ordeal just a little easier for hundreds of New Jersey families.

That is Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, and throughout the year, NJASC will provide them with monetary support, volunteers, and will help spread the word about the amazing work they do so they can help even more New Jersey families!

That's all I have, so if anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to try to answer them!