



Yellow & Door
FOUNDATION

This Month at Yellow Door

**YDF Welcomes Two New Families:
Lilly and Helena**

**A Warm Welcome to Stephanie Gatewood: Yellow
Door's New Executive Board Member**

Evan: A Christmas Miracle

Xion Heads Home

Yellow Door Delivers Gifts for the Holidays



**6103 nights of free
lodging!**



For 76 pediatric patients



Along with 255 family members!



Families travel an average of 121 miles



Stay an average of 82 days

**We Welcome Lilly and Family to
Our Baer-Hart Apartment**



On New Year's Eve, we welcomed Lilly Belle, her parents, grandparents and three year old sister Lana to our Baer-Hart apartment.

Lily was diagnosed before birth with chromosomal abnormalities doctors had never seen before. They knew her complications would vary but would include heart, brain, and stomach issues and last into her childhood and adulthood

Shortly after birth, Lilly was airlifted from their home in Pound, Virginia, five hours from Charlottesville, to UVA Children's. Mom says, *"We didn't know what to expect we only knew that she was much loved. We were panicking financially and terrified of being so far away from our three year old. When we were told about Yellow Door, we felt it was too good to be true. They made it so quick and easy to get into a beautiful, safe apartment so close to our baby girl. We will always be grateful for their kindness and generosity during the toughest time of our lives."*

**The Nest Welcomes
Helena & Family**



This week, we welcomed Rob, Helena, Anina and Lucas to our Nest apartment. The Winchester family will be with us for the duration of 16-year-old Helena's treatment for b-cell acute leukemia (ALL).

**Welcome Stephanie Gatewood
to the Yellow Door Executive
Board**



In December we welcomed Stephanie to the Yellow Door Executive Board. Stephanie brings 20 years of business operations and management experience with her. A 45-year resident of Virginia, UVA '92 graduate and University of Richmond MBA '03 graduate, Stephanie is a mom to two children Alex (16) and Claire (14) and wife to David. She has hit the ground running bringing new ideas and energy to Yellow Door. We are so fortunate to have her as part of the team.

When asked what was it about Yellow Door that spoke to her, she shared:

"Within minutes of meeting JoAnne for the first time, I knew that I wanted to support the Yellow Door Foundation. JoAnne and I had met for lunch so she could tell me more about the organization. She talked about the mission with such warmth and passionate enthusiasm that afternoon, that I couldn't wait to get involved. Since then, I've heard JoAnne talk about Yellow Door many, many times, and that same level of warmth, enthusiasm, and deep care for each Yellow Door family permeates every conversation.

The more I volunteered and learned about Yellow Door, the more involved I wanted to be. I saw how meticulously Yellow Door outfits each apartment, thinking of every detail—from the comfortable furnishings and fully-equipped kitchens to the small touches like an extra blanket at the foot of the bed. Every apartment is a sanctuary, a true home away from home, that serves many purposes: a quiet place for work or study, a respite to recover and recharge, a family gathering spot for a home-

cooked meal, or a safe place to release the inevitable emotions that arise from caring for a child with a severe illness.

If JoAnne is the lifeblood of Yellow Door, the families that the organization serves are the heart. After meeting many of them, I've witnessed the truly life-changing and far-reaching impact that Yellow Door has on each one. Being asked to join Yellow Door's board was an easy decision, especially after meeting the other board members. Being able to serve this organization with such an amazing group of women is truly an honor, and I'm beyond excited to contribute to the continuation of Yellow Door's mission."

Evan: A True Christmas Miracle



This Christmas Eve, Yellow Door experienced a true Christmas miracle.

Evan, 12, who has been fighting heart and lung issues most of his life

and was turned down for transplant at several hospitals over the last couple of years, finally got his new heart at UVA Children's on October 28, 2022.

The surgery wasn't without complications, but after some setbacks, we are thrilled to say Evan was released to The Nest for a few days before heading home to be with his parents and seven siblings on Christmas Eve!

Here's Evan and his wonderful smile on his CorduRoy bed at our Nest apartment.

Though Evan still has challenges ahead, Mom reports, "He has so much more energy and he's growing! He's 1 1/2 inches taller since the transplant and his feet have grown for the first time in five years."

We are so grateful to have met this joyful young man.

Xion Heads Home



After a six week stay at UVA Children's and surgery to correct a heart condition, Xion was cleared to head home this week. His three-year-old sister Icelyn was so thrilled to finally meet him.

Mom told us, "It has been so overwhelming to deal with the circumstances of our situation, but Ms. JoAnne has made it so peaceful with the services she has provided. I have a 3-year-old and although she was away from home, she loved being here in a private space to play and still be with mommy."

Wishing this family all the best as they move from Chesapeake to their new home in Georgia.

Delivering A Little Cheer for the Holidays



The Yellow Door elves were busy in late December making deliveries to each apartment.

We are so thankful for the friends and supporters who helped us make Christmas special for our families. **Wegmans and the Emergency Food Network** once again supplied much needed funding.

Volunteer Cindy Kersey and her team "adopted" families that they generously supplied with gifts and meals. Homemade braided bread loaves were lovingly baked by Mark Kindler, board member Ashby's husband, and included with each gift delivery. We are so grateful for the

generosity of our "Elves" to ensure each child staying with Yellow Door over the holidays received a special from their wish list.

If you would like to be part of the Yellow Door Family Care Team, contact JoAnne.

Come Visit Us to See Your Impact First-Hand



Dreamer Apartment Bedroom

If you would like to visit a Yellow Door Apartment to meet families and see first-hand what your support does, or volunteer your time and talents:

Please contact JoAnne: 434-953-9123

Donate Here

Follow us for more updates



Our mailing address is:

Yellow Door Foundation
435 Merchant Walk Square, #300
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Contact Us:

joanne@yellowdoorfdn.org
434-953-9123

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