



MetroWest Master Association Challenges the Community to Support Edgewood Children’s Ranch

Through Sponsorships and Gift Card Donations, MetroWest Can Assist At-Risk Children

The MetroWest community can help at-risk children and families find hope by supporting the Edgewood Children’s Ranch and participating in the MetroWest Master Association’s 2023 Community Charity Challenge taking place now through Dec. 8.



Edgewood Children’s Ranch (ECR) is needed to help make a difference in the lives of children across Central Florida. Edgewood Children’s Ranch provides children and their families a safe environment to change negative behaviors and the direction of their lives. ECR’s residential program allows children to attend school onsite and live with others in a family-style unit emphasizing responsibility, accountability, self-control and self-reliance.

Since 2014, the MetroWest Master Association (MWMA) has organized a successful community-wide Charity Challenge that resulted in important necessities being donated to Edgewood Children’s Ranch. Last year, the MetroWest Charity Challenge raised more than \$4,000 for ECR.

The Charity Challenge seeks donations



from residents in the form of gift cards from local businesses that ECR can use for ranch and school supplies, family night events, student recognition and other special occasions/needs. Examples of gift cards that would be the



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most useful include: Visa or MasterCard, Sam's Club, Walmart, Publix, McDonalds, Chick-fil-A, Josie's Pizza, Marco's Pizza, Pizza Hut, or Office Depot.

In addition, MWMA is asking local businesses to help sponsor the Community Charity Challenge. Sponsorships are available in increments of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. MWMA also has donated this space in MetroWest Connect to ECR.

Donations (in any amount) will help Edgewood Children's Ranch continue to provide a safe and loving environment where kids can learn to thrive and succeed in life and where families can find healing. ECR relies on community support, sponsors and individual donors to keep the program affordable for families in need.

To participate in this year's Charity Challenge, please request your donation box by reaching out to the MetroWest Master Association at (407) 601-5995 or mwma.admin@cfl.rr.com. Or you can drop off any type of gift card at the MetroWest Master Association headquarters (2121 S. Hiawassee Rd., Suite 132) or at your own community clubhouse now through December 8.



Calendar

December
8

The MetroWest Community Charity Challenge benefiting Edgewood Children's Ranch ends today. Be sure to have your gift card donations submitted by noon at either your community's clubhouse or the MetroWest Master Association headquarters at 2121 S. Hiawassee Rd., Suite 132.

Connect with us!

Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MetroWestMasterAssociation) to ensure that you don't miss any MetroWest community news. Also, scan the QR code for our website. It provides a wide range of timely news and updates about MetroWest, including events, business, community stories and more.



National Night Out Unites the MetroWest Community



MetroWest National Night Out 2023 on Oct. 3 was a great success! Thank you to MetroWest Public Safety, MetroWest Master Association, and all participants and attendees who contributed to this wonderful event. And a special thank you to our event sponsors:



MetroWest Public Safety Corner

Holiday Shopping and Safety Tips from MetroWest Public Safety

With the Winter Holiday Season around the corner, MetroWest Public Safety would like to remind the community of some quick tips for being safe while out and about.

For When You Are Away From Home:

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. Piled up mail and newspapers are a sign that no one is around.
- Have a TV or radio on inside, so that it appears someone is home.
- Don't leave wrapped gifts in the line of sight.

Holiday Shopping:

- Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
- Save all receipts. Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases. Start a file folder to keep all receipts together and to help you verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.
- You may also consider alternate options to pay for your items, such as a one-time or multiuse disposable credit card, so that you are at less of a risk of being a victim of fraud.
- When waiting to cash out, keep your credit cards close; scam artists may be able to take a picture of your information!
- Tell a security officer or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package.
- Make a plan in case you are separated from children. Select a central meeting place and teach your children to ask store employees if they need help.

Walking in Public and General Vehicle Safety Tips

- People may fall victim to having their valuables taken from their person. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.

- Park close to your destination.
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Don't unlock your vehicle until you are close in case someone enters the vehicle without your permission.
- Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.
- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if possible, take them directly home.

Shopping Online

- Update the security software on your computer. Everyone's PC should have anti-virus, anti-spyware, and anti-spam software, as well as a good firewall installed. Free software downloads are available from www.bytecrime.org.
- Be careful of "bargains" from companies with whom you are unfamiliar – if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- Use secure websites for purchases. A sign that the website is secured will be an icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen, the URL Box on a MAC, or "https" in the URL address.
- Shop with companies you know and trust. Check for background information if you plan to buy from a new or unfamiliar company.
- An easy way to research a company would be to Google their name and read reviews.

Most important of all, should you see suspicious persons or vehicles in the MetroWest area, report the activity to OPD and MetroWest Public Safety. You can contact OPD via 911 for emergencies and (321) 235-5300 for non-emergencies. For MetroWest Public Safety, please call (407) 473-2021.

Have a Safe Holiday Season!



The Laundry Room Celebrates Grand Opening

Located in the Bravo Market plaza, The Laundry Room Wash & Fold celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 23. The Laundry Room offers residential and commercial laundry services with free pickup and delivery for all wash and fold orders over \$35, fast turnaround, real time updates, and customizable options. For more information about The Laundry Room, visit orlandolaundryroom.com.



BIZCENTER USA Marks Fifth Anniversary

BIZCENTER USA recently observed five years of being in business in MetroWest and were honored with a visit from West Orange Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.

Congratulations to BIZCENTER USA for five successful years as part of the MetroWest business community! To learn more about BIZCENTER USA, visit bizcenterusa.com.



MetroWest

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MetroWest Master Association management and MetroWest Public Safety officers toured Edgewood Children's Ranch recently to receive a better understanding of ECR's mission. MetroWest communities participate in an annual Charity Challenge to benefit ECR, with the current Charity Challenge ending Dec. 8. Pictured, left to right are: ECR Director of Operations Adam Gragg; MetroWest Public Safety Officer Gustavo Tejada; MWMA Assistant Manager Allison Folgore; MetroWest Public Safety Manager Amber Belanger; MWMA Administrative Assistant Terrell Fawbush; Indiana Jordan; ECR Executive Director Bruce Jordan; and MetroWest Public Safety Officer Otis Jackson.