



# Sentara Martha Jefferson Early Learning Center

Building on a 125-year tradition of service to our community, Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital is teaming up with Piedmont Family YMCA—another trusted local institution—to serve our region through a new Early Learning Center on the hospital’s campus in Pantops.

When the Sentara Martha Jefferson Early Learning Center opens in fall 2025, it will directly benefit families in our community by improving access to two essential services: healthcare and childcare. It will accommodate 148 children up to age five, equipping them with the essential values and skills for a happy, healthy life. SMJH staff and first responders will have priority for the available childcare slots, with costs assessed on a sliding scale. Knowing that their children are close by and safe will translate directly into peace of mind for our team members, enabling them to devote their full attention to providing the highest possible standard of care for our patients and the community.

Through the Center, we are extending the Caring Tradition to our team members while also creating a powerful incentive for them to stay and grow with Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital. Our team is, of course, the bedrock of our commitment to providing compassionate, clinically excellent care for all in our community.

## At a Glance

**Number of kids: 148**

**Ages: 6 weeks to 5 years**

**Size of Facility: 13,250 sq. feet**

**Classrooms: 2 infant;  
2 toddler; 6 preschool**

**Playgrounds: 3**

**Food Services: Nutritious  
meals and snacks  
provided on-site**

**Operating Hours:  
6:30am – 7:30pm  
(extended to accommodate  
healthcare shifts)**

**Timeline: Opens Fall 2025**

**Sentara is donating the land  
and providing a \$10 million  
gift for construction and two  
years of operational subsidy.**

**Endowment Goal: \$5 million**





**100% of all gifts to the Sentara Martha Jefferson Early Learning Center stay here locally, to benefit the people and families of our community.**

**MAKE A  
GIFT  
ONLINE**



SCAN THIS CODE

## **An Investment in Care**

*U.S. News & World Report* ranks Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital among the Top 10 hospitals in Virginia. Our nursing teams outperform 95% of American hospitals by maintaining Magnet designation—the gold standard for nursing excellence—for 16 years running.

Yet, like healthcare institutions nationally, we are grappling with the impacts of unprecedented national shortages in healthcare workers, record-high turnover rates, and the economic implications of high traveling nurse costs. As a community, we are fortunate to have two top tier healthcare facilities operating in Charlottesville, but this capacity further heightens the challenge of recruiting and retaining our caregiving teams.

We know that childcare remains a critical challenge for many team members, especially those starting out in entry-level positions. These roles are an essential step on the ladder of opportunity in healthcare, and community scholarship support enables us to help people join and grow with our team. Removing the barrier posed by scarce and expensive childcare is vital in building our team.

By supporting our recruitment and retention goals, the Center helps to create a robust team of nurses, support staff, and clinical providers to meet the needs of our community and improve access to care.

The Center will offer extended hours to accommodate varying work schedules and

address the challenge of aligning affordable childcare with healthcare shifts. The YMCA sets rates on a sliding scale consistent with the Department of Social Services' market rates for our community. It also works with area agencies to provide income-based subsidies and scholarships.

**The Center directly benefits our team members, patients, and the community.**

Sentara is donating the land and providing a \$10 million gift for the Center's construction and the first two years of operational subsidy. **The Martha Jefferson Hospital Foundation is launching a \$5 million campaign to endow and sustain the Center's operation, ensuring affordable, high quality childhood education is accessible for our staff and the broader Charlottesville community.**

**For more information or to make a gift, contact the Martha Jefferson Hospital Foundation:**

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*Martha  
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