

## Marie Ekpema, PharmD

**Summerwood Pharmacy and Compounding  
Owner and Pharmacist in Charge**

Growing up, independent pharmacy owner Dr. Marie Ekpema often observed her grandfather healing people with herbs. This prompted her to be more conscious about what she put into her body and sparked her desire to help others find natural solutions for their health challenges as an integrative, holistic and clinical pharmacist. Feeling limited by the chain retail setting, she decided to open Summerwood Pharmacy and Compounding, which offers quality products and services at affordable prices and prioritizes exceptional customer service. Dr. Ekpema and her team provide personalized attention to every individual who walks through the door, keeping compassion, integrity, respect and transparency at the core of every interaction. Rather than focus on selling products, Summerwood Pharmacy and Compounding is committed to empowering patients through education, and it's this genuine authenticity that sets it apart from the rest. "The best part of my job is when patients arrive to my pharmacy anxious but leave smiling and relieved because we helped them with a problem that they haven't been able to resolve anywhere else," says Dr. Ekpema, who also founded the Women's Collaborative Program, through which she partners with physicians to provide bio-identical hormone replacement therapy. "We are popularly known as the 'problem-solving pharmacy' in our community."

This summer, Dr. Ekpema will launch the Summerwood Children's Apothecary, a free minicamp that will inspire the next generation to explore STEM fields. The program will teach children the art and science behind compounding personalized medicine, as well as tips on medication safety, and even allow them to compound a few non-medicinal items themselves.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AL TORRES

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