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Quality Celebrate Remembrance Faith Collaboration Independence Legacy

Annual Report 2017-2018



celebrating the legacy

Letter from

Cindy Clark, President & CEO

Dear Friends,

This year marks an extraordinary milestone for Emmaus Homes. For **125 years** our faith-based organization has been providing services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Since our humble beginnings in 1893 on a former seminary campus in Marthasville, Missouri, Emmaus has remained singularly focused on providing the best possible care for those we were entrusted to serve. Today we serve nearly 300 clients in 84 homes in St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren, Franklin and St. Louis counties.

We are truly, as our 125th anniversary campaign says, **“Celebrating the Legacy.”**

I have been blessed to be part of Emmaus Homes for nearly 10 years. And on this occasion, I couldn’t be prouder to celebrate the organization’s greatest achievements along with its greatest assets, each of you – **our clients, donors, employees and volunteers.**

In this very special year, there can be no more perfect connection between our legacy and the future than to acknowledge our incredible staff who’s work with our clients is what truly makes Emmaus extraordinary.

Recently, while reflecting on our history, I was reminded that our industry has long struggled with staffing issues. Determined to help solve this crisis, our Board of Directors made a bold decision to invest more than \$10 million over the next 3 years to help stabilize our workforce AND provide a living wage for our staff who care directly for our clients each and every day. We’ve crafted a **‘Grateful Family’** campaign to not only help us fund this initiative, but to also assist us as we work to advocate at the state and federal level for their loved ones.

Which brings us to my favorite part of our job: **What’s next?** Our team continues to focus on improving the lives of those we serve in many ways, including a recent redesign of our client services structure, which will provide much more personalized services for clients and their family members.

We’re also utilizing new technologies to help our clients live more independent lives. Our spiritual care services continue to evolve through community-based offerings including bible study, home visits and worship services. And lastly, generous donors have helped ensure that our archives will be preserved for many years to come.

We have some wonderful plans in store to celebrate our anniversary over the next year.

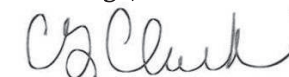
Here’s a sampling of some of the things you can look forward to:

5th Annual Duckfest – Saturday, October 6
Emmaus 125th Gala – Saturday, February 23

We are also working on details for a final worship service at the Marthasville Chapel later this year along with the opportunity for guests to view our archives and share their memories.

In closing, I’d like to thank you for the continued generosity we receive from our donors. I thank God that He has touched the hearts of so many of you who generously support our clients. We can only do this critical work because of you and your faithful support.

Blessings,



Cindy Clark
President & CEO



P.S. – Some stories in this report are written in the past. At the time they were written, what we consider people first language may not be included. They will be denoted with an *

Emmaus Homes Executive Team

Cindy Clark
President and CEO

Lisa Key
Chief Development Officer

Jon Holt
Chief Financial Officer

Michelle Peters
Vice President of Client Services

David Kramer
Chief Operating Officer

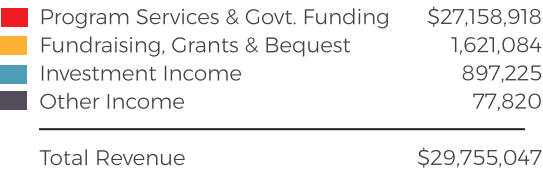
Stacy Kohr
Chief Human Resources Officer

Rev. Cindy Bumb
Vice President of Spiritual Care

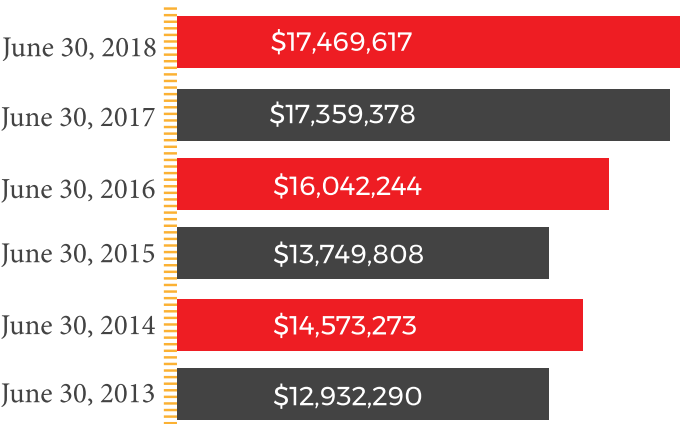
Dawn Edgington
Executive Assistant/Office Manager

Financials & Client Info

Revenue

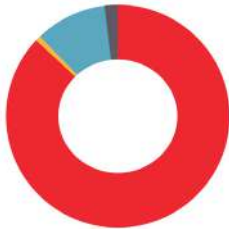


Investments



Statement of Net Assets

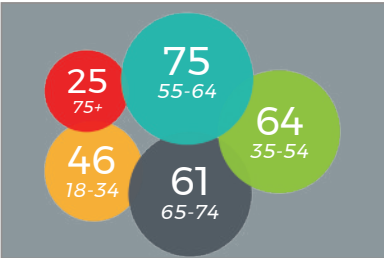
Unrestricted / Board Designated for:		
Operations	\$3,929,790	
Property & Equipment	\$5,511,007	
Endowment	9,887,327	
<hr/>		
Total Unrestricted	\$19,328,124	61.85%
Temporarily Restricted	\$3,495,245	11.19%
Permanently Restricted	\$8,424,438	26.96%
<hr/>		
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$31,247,807	100%



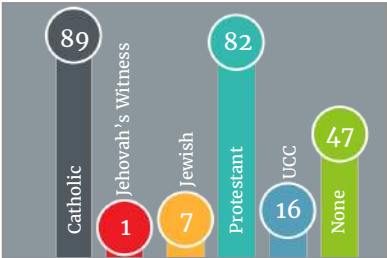
Expenses



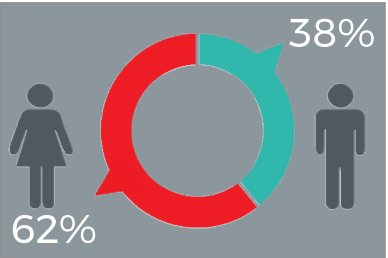
271 adults with cognitive or developmental disabilities are served by Emmaus.



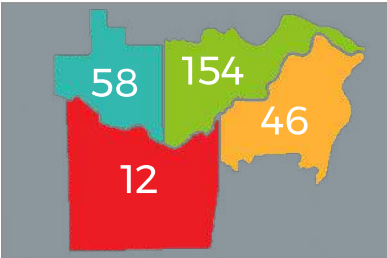
Age



Religion



Gender



Individuals Served

*1 Individual in Lincoln County



Homes Served

*1 Host Home in Lincoln County

Emmaus Homes Board of Directors*

Rev. Lev Reynolds, *Chair*
Emily Ingalls, *Vice Chair*
Nancy Droesch, *Treasurer*
Trudi Rychwalski, *Secretary*

Joyce Berkowitz
Chuck Gross
Barry Haith
Meredith Jones
Jason Koelling

Lois Kruse
Ann McKee
Kevin Moehring
Jack Moran
Rev. Rick Oberle

Shawn Saale
Sheila Schuette
Carolyn Skowyra
Stephanie Sliefert
Gael Wood

*as of June 30th, 2018

Celebrating Faith

On July 2, 1893, the first building of the Emmaus Home at Marthasville was ready for occupancy and later that year, we welcomed our first clients. Our roots connect to what is now Eden Theological Seminary. In 1850, the Kirchenverein des Westens (Synod of the West) of the German Evangelical church opened a seminary to train men as pastors for the many congregations organizing across the American frontier. The seminary opened on land outside of Marthasville, MO, however later moved to the St. Louis area in 1883, leaving the campus buildings unoccupied and unused. Two local Evangelical pastors had been thinking about opening a facility to serve people with epilepsy who could not be cared for in their homes. These leaders connected with another pastor who had experience in the care of people with epilepsy and who knew of similar work being done in Germany. These men formed a Board of Directors with others from the Evangelical Church. It was decided to take over what had been the seminary's buildings and land. Thus, the Emmaus Home to serve people with epilepsy and intellectual disabilities was born.

Many people with disabilities came to Emmaus to live, and within 5 years, it became clear that another facility was needed. A farm just outside St. Charles, MO was purchased, and a building to house 16-18 residents* was constructed. In the fall of 1901, the Emmaus Home at St. Charles opened and received its first resident. Since more women than men were applying to live at Emmaus, the St. Charles campus began by serving women.

The church supported Emmaus in many ways. Some members served on the Board of Directors, making the very first decisions about acquiring land, constructing buildings, hiring administrators, and serving residents. Some churches gave land and money so that the campuses could expand. And many more contributed food and material goods for campus operations.

While much has changed over 125 years, much more has remained the same – including the deep love that members of the United Church of Christ hold for the clients we serve. We give thanks to the United Church of Christ for their continued support of our mission and ministry. Thanks be to God!



Travelers of Jesus

David was adopted at 21 days old. Later he went to school for testing in Wichita, Kansas and after getting his results, he was placed in one of the first schools opened for people with disabilities. Due to his inability to speak, David received little attention.

David stayed at home until he decided to move to Missouri at age 49. He sought government services to get help with his next step and was pointed to Emmaus. He liked the thought of living on his own and staying close to his family, while being able to make his own decisions.

One of his first decisions, was to get involved with motorcycles. David had always loved bikes and so he joined a motorcycle group as an honorary member.



As time in the group passed, he started to realize this group wasn't the right fit.

"I could do nothing but wear their name and started feeling ignored. It wasn't good because I wanted to do something with them, and after 2 years I told my friend I was unhappy to just wear their name, so I left." David shares.

David's father went to a church close to where he was living. David started attending and learned it was also a biker church, home to the group Travelers of Jesus. David was at a meeting when Jim, the leader of Travelers, gave the non-members the membership paper. With David's experience, he thought long and hard about joining another group and when he asked if it was honorary or full membership, Jim responded with "Full."

When David told him that he didn't own a bike, Jim said, "Don't worry. Your chair is your bike!" David even adopted the nickname Wildman.

"David came to our church about 5 years ago. His smile can turn someone's day around, and he lights up our world as much as we do his. Wildman loves to be involved and has blessed us from the start." says Jim. Everyone treats David as an equal.

Now he gets to impact other people's lives. David rides for whatever God puts in his path. He's visited with Great Circle (Boy's Home) in St. James and serves as a mentor to the kids when the Travelers roll-in on their motorcycles. They share devotions, and he's witnessed people finding Jesus after an altar call.

It's a common practice that the Travelers of Jesus bless new bikes as they're bought, for protection and safety on the roads. David also participates in the Ride for Rocky, which is just one of the charity events that raises money for Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and other local groups. One of his fondest memories with the Travelers of Jesus is when a member bought a sidecar, made some adjustments, and took David for a ride around Westport.

Today, David serves as Sergeant of Arms for the Travelers of Jesus.

166

Bible Studies & Worship Services Offered

130

Clients Participated in Worship/Bible Study

734

Churches/Fellowships Support Emmaus Thru Gifts/Donations



- Pastor Andrea

"I am amazed by the assistance and support that I have been shown. Everyone has been very helpful in helping me to meet people, understand how things work, and get acquainted with the Emmaus Homes Community. Everyone is a joy to work with!"

Celebrating Team Members

Learn From Each Other

The saying, "I learn something new everyday," has certainly been true for me as I reflect on my summer here at St. Charles Emmaus. My job has been guiding and assisting residents* in the craft program. I really don't think of it as a task that is my duty to fulfill because the girls have given me more than I could ever give them.

For this reason I think of my work as a delightful challenge of living together in harmony. Naturally this means that we all must be willing to listen to the opinions and feelings of another person. I think this is the best way to learn something from each other.

In case the girls are unaware of how they have made my life happier and more complete, I would like to tell them. The most important things like love and understanding are very present in your lives. You showed this in many ways - sometimes a helping hand, sometimes just waiting patiently until I could start you on

a project. And then there were those sincere words of appreciation and liting laughter - such priceless gifts! I will fondly remember the "I love you"; who doesn't feel a need to be loved?!

Above all else, I will always cherish our informal talks about Jesus; and your eagerness to know more about Him and sing praises to His name. Such joys make me feel closer to Jesus also.

Even though I have spoken in particular of the girls who came down for crafts, I want to thank each and every one of you for giving yourselves to me. In this glorious, humble way, I know the sense of fulfillment that can be attained and it is my wish that attendants and residents will continually strive to benefit from learning from each other.

- Written by Pat Foltz in the Emmaus Messenger, 1970.



In this picture, Pat is seated in the upper center, at the end of the table - her usual smiling self.

*Handicapped*by cerebral palsy and getting about in a wheelchair, Pat has been an inspiration to all of us. When she returns as a Junior to Southern Illinois University for the fall term, we at Emmaus will certainly miss her.*

- Response written by Emmaus to Pat in the Emmaus Messenger, 1970



Family

For over a year, Emmaus team members were asked to describe Emmaus in three words. One word overwhelmingly rose to the top of the list. **Family.**

It's not that surprising that this word appeared again and again. Many team members don't expect the quick bond they develop when joining the Emmaus family. Everything that happens during the countless hours with clients becomes very personal and heartfelt. Everyone works diligently and brings their passion to life through the care they provide. There are many valuable experiences and a lifetime of memories that follow.

However, there is another reason why "family" describes Emmaus.



For 125 years, people have been encouraging their real-world family to consider joining our Emmaus family. Today, it's not a rare occasion that working at Emmaus is a shared experience between siblings, parents and children, husbands and wives, and even extended family members.

One team member introduced her career to her mom, and then her sister. "I don't really get to work with my mom much, since she works overnights in Marthasville, but it's nice to have someone to talk to who understands what you're talking about. Emmaus is such an important thing to me and I am thrilled that I get to share the fun times, sad times, stressful times...all of it with them!" Sabrina D.

Another team member recently celebrated



her 40th anniversary with Emmaus. Her mom made a surprise visit. "I used to bring Rhonda along with me when I worked. She became old enough to work, and then passed the tradition down to her son, Brian. One thing that hasn't changed over 40 years is the rewarding opportunities that come along with caring for individuals with developmental disabilities."

"Our family is blessed with spending more one-on-one time with clients," says Romana R. Working with her sister and daughter, Romana says their true passion and advocacy for people comes to life. Romana works with her sister Ronethia in the office and feels relieved knowing her daughter has a rewarding career working as a Home Manager. "We're happy to have our family part of the Emmaus family!"

729

All-Time High
Staff Headcount

284

Direct Support
Professionals
Hired in 2018

25,318

Hours of
Training



- Lisa R.

Celebrating Volunteers

The Heifer Project

Raking leaves, cleaning barns, and hauling manure are usually not highly anticipated activities for a group on vacation. However, those activities and many more like them were the daily routine for a group of individuals from Emmaus who volunteered at the Heifer Project International's Learning and Livestock Center in Perryville, Arkansas. The Heifer Project is a 1200-acre farm and a self-help ministry, providing animals for the needy around the world.

Emmaus residents* would journey with staff to this educational retreat and livestock holding center in central Arkansas. The 12-hour drive to Perryville begins at 6:30 a.m. and the group arrives later that evening in time to shop for the weeks' worth of breakfasts and dinners, and settle into the "Heifer Hilton," an open-air bunk barn which has canvas curtains for outside walls.

The next day, the group checks in to the Retreat Center, which offers modern accommodations in two lodges. According to staff in 1995, this move provided for better sleeping conditions which helped prepare the mind for their busy week

ahead. The week's work activities consisted of morning and evening meal preparation, mail assembly, folding souvenir t-shirts; cleaning sheep barns, organic gardening and yardwork.

Several leisurely activities were also a part of the week. These included buying souvenirs and hiking the Educational Trail, which features demonstrations of small-scale farming. Included along the trail is the Global Village, which is a unique environment that demonstrates the living conditions of many rural communities. worldwide Dinners out to a local restaurant were also worked into the week's evening activities.

"Before we even left, the guys were asking when they could return," noted a past Emmaus team member. "We're glad that their experiences were so positive."

Heifer Project participants were selected for the trip because of their previous experience with Heifer, while others were chosen because of their farming background. Some were selected because the exposure to these types of activities would be a beneficial experience to their lives. According to Emmaus team members, the trip was beneficial for ALL participants, "The guys

really felt that they had a sense of mission and were giving of themselves to help out with a worthy cause."

The Heifer Project has helped more than one million impoverished families around the world become more self-reliant through the gift of livestock and training in its care.

- Amended from the Emmaus Messenger, 1995





Mastercard

There is nothing that harvests more of a feeling of empowerment than being of service to those in need. For more than 3 years, Mastercard volunteers have taken a great weight off our staff's shoulders by doing just that.

Most know Mastercard as one of the world's largest payment processing networks, but did you know about their commitment to volunteerism? From local projects to global challenges, Mastercard has created an enduring impact on the communities where they live and do business. It's not surprising that for the 3rd year in a row, Mastercard was named one of 2018 World's Most Ethical Companies which recognizes organizations for their role in influencing positive change around the world.

Emmaus has seen Mastercard's devotion in action as their volunteers have accomplished a large variety of tasks at many of our community homes; from intensive yardwork to widening driveways and building walkways. This year alone, volunteers from Mastercard have already done LOTS of landscaping, power washing, interior and exterior painting, and office work for Emmaus.

At one of their most recent projects, Mastercard volunteers helped prepare a home for move-in day, which involved 8 hours of cleaning and packing. They also worked on another home in St. Charles to completely replace all the landscaping and rock work for a huge curb appeal upgrade. Soon they'll switch gears and work inside to assemble more than 600 gifts for Direct Support Professionals Week.

Helping with these work projects not only supports our clients and staff, it also provides an educational and uplifting experience for the volunteers. Many volunteers leave feeling like they have gained a better understanding about Emmaus' services along with new, valuable connections within their own communities.

Mastercard is one of *over 50 unique* corporations, organizations, churches and schools that provide volunteer service to Emmaus annually, whom we depend upon to help meet our mission. To date, **132** Mastercard volunteers have clocked in a total of **413** service hours at **16** different homes throughout St. Louis and St. Charles counties. It takes a village to move a mountain, or sometimes just a dedicated volunteer group!

3,210
Volunteer
Hours

823
Volunteer
Visits

45
Volunteer
Groups



-Mastercard Volunteers

"Mastercard volunteers come back energized about the work they do with Emmaus, whether raking leaves or building drains, their experiences are truly invaluable"
Deann Donohue, Director of Community Relations

Celebrating Family & Donors

1991 – Letter From Dr. Allrich

This letter is in response to your recent letter, informing me that the Board of Emmaus had voted to name the remodeled administrator's home "The Allrich House." This comes as a delightful surprise and I feel highly honored, not only for myself but on behalf of the whole Allrich family. I mention the family because many members of the Allrich family have been intimately related to the St. Charles home since its beginning.

My father, who was the pastor at St. John in St. Charles was president of the Board when the Emmaus property was purchased and the 1st building erected in 1901. My mother, a native of St. Charles was among the first workers at the time (as well as my sister) and my father married her after his first wife passed away. About 1907 he accepted a call to a church in Iowa. When he passed away in 1917, our mother with five children moved back to St. Charles and in the ensuing years we often visited the home.

Later, my sister Marie, worked at the house before she became an RN. My brother, Fred, worked at the Home when he was at Eden Seminary (also met his wife there) and later he was a member of the Board for many years.

When I was at Eden, I did some summer work at the Home and it was at Emmaus that I preached my first sermon – in the Merten Building Chapel.

My years as Superintendent/Chaplain began in 1964. At that time the home was still a rather isolated institution, depending largely on donations received from churches. Needless to say, we lived on a very limited budget but with the help of a dedicated staff and a supportive Board, we managed to survive. My indispensable coworkers were my wife, who became the unofficial interior decorator of the Home, and my sister Martha who was my registered nurse. When State licensing was required, it brought about many changes, but we also began getting some state and federal funds.

Over the years, we managed to do much renovation, build new buildings, institute rehab programs, increase staff, acquire United Way and county support etc.... Humorously, I must add that all these improvements were made on balanced annual budgets – thanks to the watchful and concerned eye of Ted Bruere.

In all honesty, I must say that it was quite a challenge to keep the good ship Emmaus on an even keel during those 16 years of many changes, and, whatever progress we made was due to a sympathetic family, a supportive board, and dedicated staff.

When I retired in 1980, I had the satisfaction of feeling that we had accomplished a great deal and that Emmaus was poised for an even greater future. During my 10 years of retirement I have rejoiced to

see signs of continuing improvement and the base of support growing wider and wider.

This letter is longer than I had intended, and I hope that I haven't bored you, but I thought you might appreciate knowing a segment of Emmaus' history and something about the Allrich relationship to the Home, especially since you are a newcomer. Thank you again for your kind letter and please convey to the Board the appreciation of my wife and I and the other Allriches.

May God continue to bless the compassionate work of Emmaus, the dedicated efforts of yourself and your coworkers, and the supportive service which the Board performs.

– Excerpted from a letter written to the Emmaus Board of Directors from retired Dr. Rudolph Allrich





Strong Supporters

Ashley Viehmann Milam grew up in Immanuel United Church of Christ, in Ferguson, Missouri. She frequently heard about the mission and ministry of Emmaus Homes though her church, which has been a strong supporter of Emmaus for many years. It was instilled in her from a young age that it was important to support those who have been marginalized by society.

Ashley always thought the mission was important, but about a decade ago, when her nephew, Anthony, was born with Down syndrome, it reinforced this idea. It was at this time, that Ashley and her husband James Milam, became consistent donors. It is especially important to Ashley to make sure that adults with developmental disabilities have a resource like Emmaus. "For some people, their parents and

guardians might not be able to provide the right care: financially, emotionally, or physically. Emmaus is ready and willing to step in and do whatever is necessary to meet those needs" Ashley says.

Ashley represents the next generation of donors who will keep Emmaus' mission moving forward. She is a millennial and a professional in the field of science. She and James also understand the importance of consistently supporting causes that mean the most to them. We were able to sit down and talk with Ashley to learn more about her "IAmEmmaus" story:

Emmaus: How would you describe the Emmaus mission to someone else? What does it mean to you?

Ashley: Bringing happiness, health, community, and joy to adults with developmental disabilities. Making sure they live the fullest, highest quality of life possible.

Emmaus: We know that your nephew is a big reason why you choose to support Emmaus. Are there other reasons why this cause is important to you right now?

Ashley: Sometimes people, like the clients Emmaus serves, and other members of society, might not have a lot of visibility. They may not have a big voice in how things are done or how policies are made. That does not mean they are not absolutely important. We should make sure that there is always someone there to advocate for them. I think that it is great that Emmaus keeps the needs of people with developmental disabilities front and center.

Emmaus: We hear that millennials are results-driven. As a younger supporter, what kind of results to you expect from an organization like Emmaus?

Ashley: Full living within the community. Especially now that we have moved away from the group living. I would hope to see clients feeling a quality of life out in the community and in their homes. But also, that members of the community would see them and how meaningful their lives are.

Emmaus: What has surprised you most about Emmaus?

Ashley: What has been possible with the community living model. Moving away from the well-known institutional setting was a big step. My eyes were opened when I realized how much work has been done to include everyone into the general population; how hard the caregivers and staff work to make that possible. When I heard this transition was coming down the turnpike, I wondered how it would go. But after taking some time to learn about the process and hearing some clients' personal stories relayed by an Emmaus staff member, it seems it is really working well.

Emmaus: Thank you so much for sharing your perspective with us. As we close, is there anything you wish other people knew about Emmaus?

Ashley: That anybody can be referred, irrespective of their financial situation or religion. Emmaus is open to everybody who needs their services. Though Emmaus is a faith-based organization, everyone is treated equally and served equally.

\$400
Dollars Given
per Donor on Average

\$9,292
Annual Charity Care
Provided Per Client
on Average

\$33.6K
Raised thru
Online Giving



- Rosetta Jackson

When James (my son) comes to visit with me, James has his own way of telling time. After a while he'll say 'Go to St. Charles...go to Emmaus...' which means 'I've had my visit with you mom, and I'm ready to go home.' He considers Emmaus home now and that's ok. "



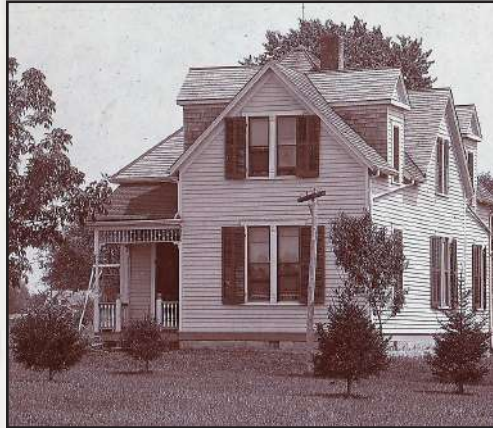
|Celebrating 125 Years Today

On July 2, Emmaus was founded in Marthasville, MO.

On July 5 the very first client moved in from New Orleans.

On July 11 the first female Emmaus client moved in.

70 clients are still served in the greater Marthasville area today.



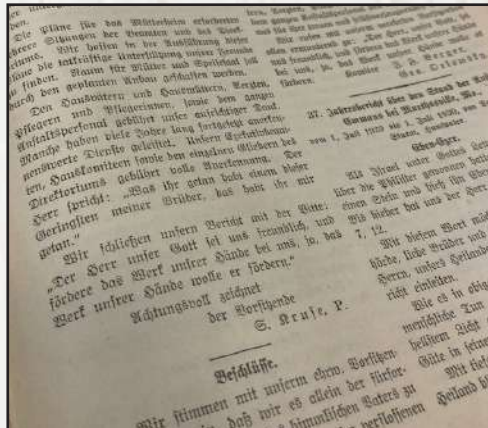
Emmaus expanded and opened its St. Charles campus to meet the vast need for services to people with developmental disabilities closer to St. Louis.

Today, 200 clients are still served in St. Charles and St. Louis area.

The Emmaus Messenger had been published in German until an English column was added in 1909.

Every issue of the Messenger since has been bound and preserved.

The Messenger continues to be delivered each Fall, Winter and Summer.



The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified in August, just in time for 11 Emmaus women to vote for their very first time at the general election in November.

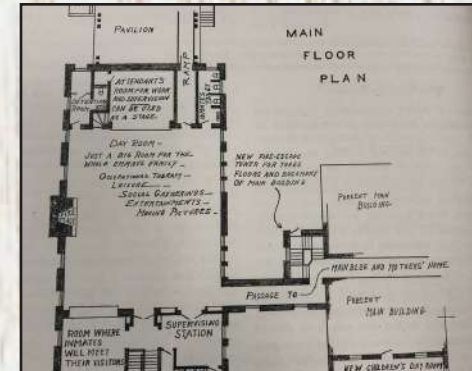
"Judging from the response heard after the votes were in, most were on the winning side."

Today, many clients vote and have been visited by local legislators.

By 1939, Emmaus had a 27% population increase over the previous decade.

Planning began for more construction, including a day-room and occupational therapy building with a laundry area.

Today Emmaus serves more than 80 community homes.



1893

1901

1909

1920

1939



Emmaus opened Russell House, the former St. Marcus UCC parsonage within St. Louis city.

This was the first time Emmaus provided services to residents off of either of their campuses and it served as home for six women.

Last year Emmaus opened 4 new homes.



Received the first 3-year CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation.

This indicates Emmaus's "dedication and commitment to improve the quality of lives of people with disabilities" every 3 years since 1992.

Founded EmmausLink (formerly known as LEADD).

The program offers continuing educational opportunities. Taught by experts, courses are designed to provide life-enhancing experiences in an educational and social environment, promote growth opportunities and challenge the abilities of individuals who desire to live and work as independently as possible.

EmmausLink expanded into Warren County last year.



As we continue to expand our the depth and reach of our services, our mission remains clear: to provide the highest quality supportive care with a continued focus on our faith based tradition.

We are committed to preserving our mission for many generations to come.

1968

1985

1992

2004



Celebrating Clients

Counting on Harold

Harold is not sure how many years he has covered the altar cloths, changed the hymn board, closed the church, and carried the offering to the office after services. For the past years, the Good Samaritans (Emmaus residents* who volunteer to help their community) have thoroughly cleaned the Chapel each week. Five or six persons usually spend Thursday mornings dusting, vacuuming, and straightening up.

Like many, Harold highly values his contacts with people outside of Emmaus. While he has few living relatives, there are some very special people who help brighten his life. He looks forward to visits, cards, letters and gifts from his sponsors – the Married Couples Group of St. Johns UCC, Brighton Illinois. This very personal contact fills a real need and tells Harold that someone really cares.

*Dependable, Warm,
Friendly, Willing*

–Words that give you a clue to how Harold is thought of by the Emmaus community and others.



– Amended from the Emmaus Messenger, 1983

A Place for Peter

For Linda Mueller, everything regarding the birth of her son, Peter, felt just like it did when she had her little girl. Her son was born within just a few hours at the hospital. Everything was perfect.

However, as he grew up, Peter began missing milestones, especially in speech. Around age 3, Linda consulted specialists regarding Peter's development, but found no clear diagnosis. Peter has been labeled many things during his life: Learning Impaired, Behavior Impaired, Developmentally Disabled, signs of Autism, Asperger's. At the end of the day, Linda came to terms with the fact that, with or without a definitive diagnosis or label, Peter was simply, Peter.

Fast forward to when Peter began his adult life. It became clear that society was not designed to fit some of Peter's characteristics. For example, Peter's employer, Steak & Shake wanted to give him more hours since he was a great dishwasher, but being the regimented person he is, he declined. Oprah aired at 3pm and he couldn't miss it. Peter pays close attention to time. If you say you'll be there at 4 and don't show until 4:02, Peter will call you late and will be upset that you are "late."

Peter was living at home, but Linda started exploring different living options that would support Peter to be successful in a more independent setting. She found the system intimidating and learned that she couldn't give up and had to continue to pursue all options. She kept getting told Peter was "high functioning" and required minimal hours.

During this time, Peter encountered a lot of trauma that affects who he is today. Tragically, Peter witnessed his father suffer a fatal heart attack. When he moved out for the first time into an apartment, there was

not adequate staff support and Peter's roommate threatened him with a knife.

The effects of these traumas caused Peter to feel angry and begin acting out. Peter was kicked out of a few apartments as a result. Linda's background was in correctional facilities and recognized that the path her son was on was a downward spiral. People even began noticing how stressed Linda had become at work. A coworker pointed her in the direction of Emmaus.

"Emmaus saved Peter's life," says Linda. "We looked at Marthasville and discovered that Emmaus had been operating for years and had a wonderful reputation. I was relieved after being diagnosed with breast cancer. It felt like time was running out for me to find a safe solution for Peter."

Living at Emmaus brought something different to the table. When something was supposed to work on paper, but in reality, did not, Emmaus made adjustments to fit Peter's needs. One Emmaus team member in particular worked one-on-one with Peter to highlight his strengths, and really express trust and love. Peter was gaining independence and his anger subsided. At Emmaus, Peter was safe, secure and blooming.

Peter spent 12 years in Marthasville. "Then one day I received a phone call that made me sick to my stomach," says Linda. "Emmaus started talking about transitioning away from campus [into community homes]. Every memory of being displaced from apartments, all the hurt, and all the anger, came rushing over me."

After the realization of the announcement set in, Linda decided to take a different approach. She wanted Peter to be one of the first people off the campus. Emmaus Client Services Director Laura Davis was put in charge of the transition. She knew Peter from years before as a



case worker. Linda had incredible trust in her. They came together as a group to begin discussing the process.

They found a home in Wright City and put a plan in effect. Before moving in, Peter visited the home many times. Sometimes he brought lunch with his housemates and they were able to pick out paint colors for their bedrooms. On move-in day, Laura coordinated people to hookup Peter's TV and have everything ready that day.

Linda wanted to know how she could help. "I bought a kitchen table and will never forget dropping it off. The neighbor across the street came over and asked who was moving in. Not wanting to 'hide' anything, I explained about my son, Emmaus and his roommates. The neighbor started hugging me and assured me that he would be fine.



She gave me information about the church she belonged to and told me she had been an aide for a special needs student at a local school. I was so overwhelmed by her reaction and kindness, that I started crying – so relieved that they would be accepted."

Peter's neighbors attended an open house and are very welcoming to Peter and his housemates. One neighbor even dropped off Christmas cookies and visits with her grandkids.

Peter is part of his community. He was ignored in big cities, but in this rural setting, people know him. He volunteers with Meals on Wheels, attends a local church (Sunrise), chats with folks over coffee, attends EmmausLink classes for continuing education, participates in Special Olympics, goes bowling, rides



at Exceptional Equestrians, reads the newspaper, plays golf, looks for different social activities and much more. He even traveled to Colorado this summer.

Linda believes his transition has been successful due to the support and care he and his housemates receive from staff.

"Peter has found a purpose. People have been trying to help him all his life, but now we found that Peter is the helper. He is a cheerleader for his housemates. It's really working out. I keep waiting for the honeymoon period to end, but since moving in two years ago, it hasn't. His medications have been lowered and he's matured because of the security, safety and love he continues to experience at Emmaus. Now at 45 years old, Peter's individuality continues to impress me."

49,214

Client Outings
for personal enjoyment or leisure

10

New Clients Welcomed

279

Participants in EmmausLink



– Jennifer, Cynthia, Kaja



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