

**SPRING  
2023**



**Emmaus  
MESSENGER**

# A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Cindy Clark

Dear Friends,

At Emmaus Homes, our team members take tremendous pride in their work with our clients and family members. As you may know, initiative is one of our core values at Emmaus. We define initiative as going beyond what is asked of us. Completing tasks with high standards. When faced with obstacles, we persist. We value continuous learning, seek feedback from others, and act on the information we receive.



This issue of The Messenger focuses on initiative and includes stories of how our team members and clients implement this value daily. We have included stories about David, an Emmaus client who took the initiative to work out with his staff. We share an inspirational story about the bond between a client and her host home provider. And finally, we highlight a corporation who 'adopted' a group of clients for the holidays.

As we continue to provide high-quality services for our clients, your help remains critical to our mission. Recently, Governor Parson gave his State of the State address and announced his budget recommendations for the coming year. Unfortunately, his recommendation does not include an increase in funding for services for people with developmental disabilities.

Please consider joining our initiative by advocating on behalf of the hundreds of people we are entrusted to serve. Your voice – as a donor, family member or loved one – will make a difference! Please visit our website at [emmaushomes.org](http://emmaushomes.org) to learn more about our advocacy efforts.

As always, please know that your continued generosity makes a real and lasting difference in the lives of our clients.

Thank you and God Bless.  
Sincerely,

Cindy Clark

CEO Emmaus Homes





# BREAKING BARRIERS

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**If I can do it, what's  
stopping you?  
-David**

”

David doesn't let anything stop him. In December of 2022, he made a goal for himself to establish a weekly workout routine. Going to the gym three times a week would be significant in getting him to his ultimate goal-getting out of his wheelchair. From modified kickboxing to pulling a weighted rope, *David doesn't let his disability get in his way.*

His motivation comes from inspiring others and seeing just how independent he can be. Emmaus team member, Thomas, has been working with David since September. He knew from the first time he met David that this is where he was meant to be.

“David expressed interest in working out, so I started taking David to the gym with me. Instead of spending his money, he gets to come with me for free. It works out great for both of us and gets us out of the house,” Thomas continued. “David wants to be an inspiration to others. He hopes to encourage others through his story of consistency.”

“I hope other people at Emmaus go to the gym if they can. It will help their staff and themselves to do things on their own,” David said.

Seeing growth within our clients and the *initiative* within our team members is a great reminder of just how valuable our services can be. Having a front row seat to David's growth and watching him break through barriers speaks to our Emmaus mission.

At Emmaus, we know that the people we support want to be independent. In order to do that, they need a community that embraces their unique abilities. For more than 125 years, as a faith-based organization, we have provided quality services, caring for the whole person for their whole life.





## HOST HOMES AT EMMAUS

In 2013, Loretta and her two housemates met Rachel, a new part-time direct support professional with Emmaus. Neither Loretta nor Rachel knew this was the start of a companionship that would grow to the depths of family over the coming years.

Rachel joined Emmaus with the intention of it being a temporary job to get her through the season of life she was in.

"I wasn't planning on staying, but I loved it... It was a home away from home, in somebody else's home." What started as a short-term job became a lifetime journey for Rachel and Loretta.

Rachel worked as a part-time direct support professional in an Emmaus home that Loretta lived in. During this time, Rachel would take Loretta on "outings". Rachel got to know Loretta's likes—ice cream, tea, and lemonade to name a few. These are now items Rachel keeps available for Loretta in their home.

“

*"It takes a lot of love and heart to be able to open yourself to inviting someone into your home and into your lives... You have to have the commitment. You have to have the compassion"*

”

In 2021, Rachel received an email from Emmaus introducing the expansion of the Host Homes program. In this model, a person with a developmental disability moves in with a family or individual. They become an integral part of the household and receive consistent support from the same individual. Rachel shared that she immediately started doing research. “I’m going to make that a goal,” she thought.

When asked what made her take the *initiative* to become a Host Home provider, Rachel said it was the idea of providing a level of independence, companionship, and individualized attention to a person. It also fills the soul, making you “a part of somebody, providing care and giving attention to someone else,” said Rachel.

Loretta, the woman Rachel supports, has become part of the family. They like to dance, play games, and enjoy watching *The Price is Right* and *Family Feud* together. Loretta loves to go to church with Rachel and enjoys outings with Rachel and her family. Loretta enjoys being part of a Host Home because of the independence it provides. When she wants personal time, she can go to her room and watch her favorite movies. She loves Westerns and anything with Madea. Loretta has also learned to help care for the family dogs – Hurricane Junior, Mr. Brownie, and Hero.

This spring, Loretta is going on her first cruise! What is an annual tradition for Rachel’s family has provided new experiences for Loretta. The preparation for this vacation required *initiative*, with Rachel and Loretta spending a day getting Loretta’s social security card, birth certificate, and ID to ensure Loretta had what she needed for the flight and cruise. They treated themselves to lunch at Red Lobster after- a much needed reward for anyone that has braved the DMV.

When asked what she’d tell someone who is interested in becoming a Host Home Provider, Rachel said, “It takes a lot of love and heart to be able to open yourself to inviting someone into your home and into your lives... You have to have the commitment. You have to have the compassion.”



**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A HOST HOME?**

Contact Joyce Brown at 314-369-2947 or [mcclendonj@emmaushomes.org](mailto:mcclendonj@emmaushomes.org)





## A GIFT FROM PAYCOM

Members from Paycom adopted an Emmaus home this Christmas! Last December, Paycom employees visited a client home, bringing presents for everyone to open on Christmas morning. In place of exchanging gifts within their work group this year, these Paycom employees bought gifts for four women that Emmaus supports.

“We felt like we could make a bigger impact and support those that support our community,” said Alex Henricks, Paycom employee. “It started with one person and by the end of the day, we were all on board and excited to do this.”

Interested in adopting a home for a special occasion or holiday?

Contact

[panhorstashley@emmaushomes.org](mailto:panhorstashley@emmaushomes.org)

We are touched to see individuals in our community express gratitude and give back. We hope this gift can inspire others who consider giving back to take *initiative*.



# GIVING TREE

The Emmaus Giving Tree is one of the many ways local churches, businesses, and individuals show their *initiative* to help make lives of the women and men we serve that much more fulfilling.

This Christmas we had more than 150 gift wishes to fill. Our supportive community didn't hesitate to take action to purchase, package, and deliver each and every gift.

Because of you, Michael woke up Christmas morning and opened a bag with his favorite character coffee cup inside. Karen opened a box with beautiful bedding inside, that had her favorite flowers printed on it, and Tina was surprised with an art supply set that would let her creative freedom soar.

Thank you to the fantastic businesses, churches, and individuals that contributed to this year's Giving Tree—making every gift possible and making this holiday season exceptional for each Emmaus client.



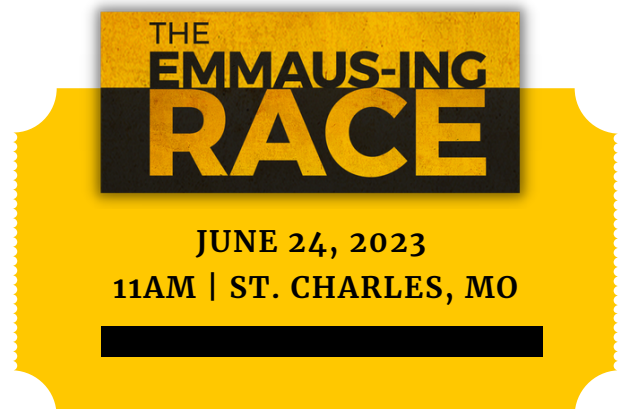
[www.emmaushomes.org](http://www.emmaushomes.org)



[panhorstshley@emmaushomes.org](mailto:panhorstshley@emmaushomes.org)



## SAVE THE DATE



## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



### **Become a Host Home**

Get paid to work from home



### **Attend an Event**

Attending an event helps us get the word out



### **Volunteer**

Impact someone's life through service



### **Advocate**

Ask your elected officials to fund services



### **Join our Team**

60-65 open PT & FT positions



### **Donations**

Gifts help with staffing and enriching lives

How will you show your *initiative* today?