



2024

# Summer Messenger

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



# A Letter from the CEO



Dear Friends,

**W**elcome to the summer edition of The Messenger! Summer has always been my favorite season and summers at Emmaus are also special. As we draw close to the end of our fiscal year, it is a chance to reflect on the many things we have accomplished throughout the last twelve months and **dream about our future**. Our clients and team members are busy enjoying the many things our community has to offer and some are even planning vacations.

## SUMMER UPDATES

Over the past several weeks I have had the opportunity to visit our newest clients and team members that joined us from Community Living. It has been wonderful to witness the strong bonds in these homes and to meet the many new team members who we have welcomed to stabilize the staffing. Hearing our clients share their stories about their families, roommates, jobs and activities reminds me of **the importance of our work**.

## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

That work can only be achieved with a strong and stable workforce. I'm happy to report that our advocacy efforts with the Missouri legislature resulted in a rate increase for our services. We were able to **reinvest this revenue to increase wages for our direct support professionals (DSPs)**. Our DSPs will now have an average wage of nearly \$21/hour. We hope that these efforts will continue to stabilize the workforce because these relationships are **so vital to the lives of our clients**. Emmaus continues to subsidize the wages of our DSPs by more than **\$3 million each year** so your advocacy is still needed.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

If you would like to learn more about our advocacy efforts, or are interested in becoming a volunteer or donor, please visit our website at **[www.emmaushomes.org/involved](http://www.emmaushomes.org/involved)**. Thank you for your continued support of our mission and the clients we serve.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Cindy Clark  
President and CEO



# Ryan's Journey to Independence

**R**yan's journey toward **independence** highlights the power of self-advocacy and the crucial role of support systems in empowering individuals with disabilities. At Emmaus, the dedication of our direct support professionals (DSPs) has been pivotal in helping individuals like Ryan achieve their goals for a more independent and fulfilling life.

For Ryan, achieving independence meant taking control of various aspects of his life, including his healthcare. His desire to lead an independent life pushed him to take significant steps. He began by advocating to attend doctor's appointments alone, then asking to manage his own pharmacy pickup, even scheduling his flu vaccination during those pickups, demonstrating a clear commitment to his personal growth. With each step, his support team ensured that he

experienced the independence he desired while maintaining the necessary level of care.

The next step for Ryan is to manage his own medications on a daily basis, but this has been difficult for Ryan in the past. To meet this challenge Ryan's team helped identify the Spencer Smarthub, a medication dispensing device. This innovative tool ensures that Ryan receives the correct dosages at the right times, enhancing his ability to manage his health independently.

Working together, Emmaus and Ryan's family have built a supportive framework that **respects his autonomy and encourages his self-advocacy**. This partnership has fostered Ryan's independence and provided peace of mind to his family, knowing that he is thriving in a supportive environment.



## STAFF SAYS:

"[with the Spencer] He has the confidence to grow and be independent but still with our support." - Amber Thompson, Client Services Manager



## RYAN SAYS:

"I want to do medicine by myself, I like to do medicine by myself, I'll be happy!"



# Kathleen & Rose: A Story



**FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES**, amidst the ebb and flow of life's complexities, the unbreakable bond between Kathleen, an Emmaus client, and Rose, a former Emmaus team member, stood as a testament to the enduring power of friendship.

Kathleen began her journey with Emmaus by living on the St. Charles campus. Rose worked as a secretary at Emmaus' St. Charles campus for 6 years, where their paths first crossed. This would be the start of a friendship that would span decades.

As the bond between Kathleen and Rose grew, Rose made the transition from secretary to direct

support professional, a role she would occupy for the next 4 years. During this time, Rose excelled in her role so much that she was lovingly referred to as the "mom" of the two homes she worked for. To this day, Kathleen fondly recalls the delicious home-cooked meals that Rose would prepare each night.

Eventually, Rose left her position at Emmaus to work for a local hospital. Luckily for Kathleen and Rose, their bond transcended their professional relationship, and they made a commitment to see each other as often as they could. Rose would come and support Kathleen as she acted in plays put on by her local church. Kathleen would even come and volunteer with Rose at



# of Lifelong Friendship



“ROSE USED TO TAKE CARE OF ME; NOW IT’S MY TURN TO TAKE CARE OF HER.”

*Kathleen,  
an Emmaus client*

the hospital from time to time. Fast forward three decades and Kathleen and Rose share a bond resembling that of sisters rather than mere friends. Kathleen even chooses to spend weekends at Rose’s house.

They spend their weekends together taking care of Rose’s dog Coco, working on needlepoints, playing card games and dominoes, and watching TV shows together. Their favorite TV shows to watch together are Walker Texas Ranger, Bones, and NCIS: New Orleans. Rose also makes sure to record the BeeGees for Kathleen so they can listen to them together. Rose has brought Kathleen to Branson to meet her family, and they even went on the Price is Right

together. They are also regulars at the local senior center’s weekly Bingo nights.

Rose mentioned that she really loves it when Kathleen is around. Not only does she have someone to keep her company, but they consider each other sisters. Kathleen encourages Rose to get out and do activities with her. Kathleen says that Rose supported her for so long, so now she wants to return the favor and make sure Rose is still getting out into the community.

Kathleen said, “ROSE USED TO TAKE CARE OF ME; NOW IT’S MY TURN TO TAKE CARE OF HER.”



# Dear Reader,



**AS A FORMER DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL AT EMMAUS HOMES**, and I am thrilled to share my journey with you. Having dedicated three years of my life to Emmaus, I recently took a significant step by committing to become a monthly donor.

My tenure at Emmaus was deeply impactful. Working overnight, I witnessed firsthand the importance of support for individuals with disabilities. From simple tasks like folding laundry to providing emotional reassurance during rough nights, my presence was invaluable. The essence of being there for them, especially during vulnerable moments, cannot be overstated.

At Emmaus, I learned profound lessons about service, continuity, and the beauty of embracing individual uniqueness. Inspired by these experiences, I decided to translate my gratitude into action. Thus, I chose to become a monthly donor.

Monthly donations are more than financial support; they represent **a commitment to safeguarding those whose voices are often the easiest to ignore**. By contributing regularly, I can make a sustained impact throughout the year, far beyond what a one-time donation could achieve.

My decision to support Emmaus reflects my desire to be a catalyst for positive change in our community. It's a way for me to express gratitude for the profound lessons and experiences I gained during my time at Emmaus.

**THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING JOINING ME ON THIS JOURNEY OF EMPOWERMENT AND COMPASSION.**

Warm regards,

Cathy



# 2024 Emmaus Annual Golf Tournament



Come rain or shine, our spirits soared at our 4th annual golf tournament held at the Bear Creek Golf Club in Wentzville on April 26. Despite the chilly weather, we were warmed by the incredible support of our amazing community!

More than 130 golfers braved the elements to raise funds for the clients we serve at Emmaus. This year's tournament included some exciting new features, including a thrilling golf ball launcher on hole #2 and the challenge of 'Beat the Pro' with an LPGA candidate on hole #6.

Our players savored mouthwatering barbecue lunch courtesy of Heavy Smoke and refreshing margaritas on the course.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering generosity of our sponsors, especially our presenting sponsor Lockton. We're endlessly thankful for the countless volunteers whose hard work made this event a resounding success!







## DONATE

GIFTS HELP WITH  
STAFFING &  
ENRICHING LIVES!



## VOLUNTEER

IMPACT SOMEONE'S  
LIFE THROUGH  
SERVICE!



## ADVOCATE

ASK YOUR ELECTED  
OFFICIALS TO FUND  
SERVICES!

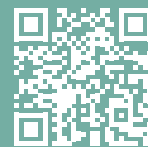
## Upcoming Events



**WAVES OF  
INSPIRATION**

October 2024

## Support Our Cause:



## Become an Advocate:

