

2026 Spring Messenger



Emmaus

emmaushomes.org



Looking Back with Gratitude, Looking Ahead with Purpose

A Message from Cindy Clark, President & CEO of Emmaus

As I prepare to retire from my role as President and CEO of Emmaus, I find myself reflecting on the extraordinary privilege it has been to serve this community. For nearly twenty years, Emmaus has been my home, a place where compassion is lived out daily, where dignity is honored, and where every person is valued for who they are. The individuals we support, their families, and the resolute staff who walk beside them have shaped my life in ways I will forever cherish.

This transition brings a mix of emotions, but above all, it brings hope. Emmaus is strong. Our mission is unwavering. Our values are deeply rooted. And our future is bright because of the people who carry this important work forward. Emmaus is not simply a service provider; we are a community built on belonging, respect, and love.

As I step into retirement, I want to share one message that sits closest to my heart: our advocacy work must continue. The people we are entrusted to serve deserve a world that sees their strengths, honors their choices, and invests in their futures. And the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who support them deserve recognition, fair compensation, and a system that values their essential role.

Advocacy is not a task for one leader or one moment. It is a responsibility we all share. Whether it is speaking up for funding that sustains quality services, championing policies that protect individual rights, or elevating the voices of DSPs who make independence possible, this work must remain at the center of Emmaus' mission.



I have every confidence that Emmaus is ready for this next chapter. Our leadership team is strong, our staff is compassionate and skilled, and our supporters continue to show up in remarkable ways. The next CEO will inherit an organization rooted in purpose and poised for innovation. Emmaus will continue to grow, to evolve, and to lead with heart.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving this incredible community. Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in the Emmaus mission. Though I am retiring, my commitment to Emmaus, and to the people we serve, remains steadfast. I look forward to watching the extraordinary things still to come.



Cindy Clark
President and CEO



Leadership Transition

After more than 15 years of dedicated leadership, Cindy Clark, President and CEO of Emmaus Homes, will retire on June 30, 2026.

Cindy joined Emmaus in 2009 as Chief Financial Officer and was appointed CEO in January 2010. Throughout her tenure, she has led with deep commitment to our faith-based mission and a heartfelt connection to the individuals and families we serve.

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Her visionary leadership has not only shaped the future of Emmaus but has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

“Under Cindy’s guidance, Emmaus has undergone a remarkable transformation—from serving individuals on campuses to fully integrating more than two hundred clients into homes within the local community. During her tenure, Cindy was a tireless advocate who championed rate reform for our clients. This work not only improved wages for our direct support professionals but also helped to stabilize our workforce. Her visionary leadership has not only shaped the future of Emmaus but has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

— **Ann Ficken, Board Chair**, Emmaus Homes

Emmaus Giving Tree

A Season of Generosity

Every year, the Emmaus Giving Tree stands as a symbol of hope and community. It is a simple idea with a profound impact: meet the personal needs of the people we support by giving them the chance to choose something meaningful, just for them.

This year, that tradition was shining even brighter thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Emmaus' friend and donor, Peter.

Peter stepped forward to fully fund the 2025 Giving Tree, ensuring that every person served by Emmaus received a gift tailored to their interests, preferences, and personalities. His support did not just cover the basics; it opened the door for joy and the kind of individualized care that defines the Emmaus mission.

"Choice is powerful," Peter shared when asked why he wanted to support the Giving

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Choice is powerful. Everyone deserves the chance to pick something that brings them happiness. I am grateful to play a small part in making that possible."

Tree. "Everyone deserves the chance to pick something that brings them happiness. I am grateful to play a small part in making that possible."

His "small part" made a significant difference. Thanks to Peter, Emmaus team members were able to work directly with the clients we serve to select gifts that truly reflected who they are, from art supplies and cozy blankets to sensory items, sports gear, and favorite snacks. For many, the Giving Tree is more than a holiday tradition; it is a moment of being seen and valued.



Lisa Key, Chief Development Officer at Emmaus, expressed deep gratitude for Peter's generosity, saying, "Peter's support embodies the heart of Emmaus. His gift ensured that every person we serve feels celebrated, respected, and remembered during the holiday season."

Peter's generosity reflects something deeper, a belief in the Emmaus community, and the people who make it special. His support helps ensure that the individuals we serve continue to experience not only care, but connection, celebration, and belonging.

As we look back on another successful Giving Tree season, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Peter. His kindness reminds us that one person's generosity can spark joy for hundreds, and that the Emmaus mission thrives when compassionate people step forward.

Thank you, Peter, for helping make this season bright for every person we support.



CEO Search Update

Emmaus is currently engaged in the search process for our next President and CEO.

The Board of Directors is leading this important work in partnership with Occhio Search and Recruitment, to ensure a thoughtful, inclusive, and mission-driven approach.

Our goal is to identify a leader who embodies Emmaus' faith-based mission, champions person-centered support, and brings strategic vision to guide the organization into its next chapter.

Cindy will continue leading Emmaus through June 2026 to ensure a smooth transition once the next CEO is selected.

We invite you to join us in expressing gratitude for Cindy's years of service, leadership, and support for the Emmaus community.



Ryan and Special Olympics

It Takes a Team: MO Magic's Road to the USA Games

On Sunday mornings in Wentzville, the MO Magic flag football team gathers at Holt High School to practice, prepare, and chase a goal bigger than a single season.

This year, their journey is more significant. Usually, individual athletes and coaches are selected to represent Missouri at the Special Olympics USA Games. This time, an entire team, including the coaching staff, has been chosen. MO Magic is the first team from Wentzville to earn that honor.

They are now preparing to compete on the national stage in pursuit of gold at the 2026 USA Games.

Ryan, an Emmaus client, is part of that team. His dad, Gene, serves as head coach, guiding the athletes through disciplined preparation. Tyson, a Direct Support Professional at Emmaus, began by supporting Ryan, attending practices and team meetings. Over time, he built strong connections with the entire team, and when more coaching support was needed, stepping in as an assistant coach came naturally.

His involvement reflects how Emmaus supports individuals, strengthens families, and shows up in the community in meaningful ways.

We will be sharing more of MO Magic's journey in the weeks and months ahead. Follow Emmaus on social media as we share more of their story, as they prepare for the USA Games.





Bible Study with Emmaus

A place for friendship, respect and genuine belonging.

The combined Bible study with Emmaus clients and St. John's UCC in Weldon Spring has been a beautiful success. What began as a simple gathering has become a joyful community where people know one another by name, pray for one another sincerely, hold space for one another's needs, and celebrate every joy, big or small. Laughter comes easily, prayers are heartfelt, and friendships are taking root. There is something especially holy about watching the faces of the participants light up when someone notices their new shoes, a fresh haircut, or asks

how their week has been. Being seen matters, and it deepens everyone's faith.

This experience reminds us that inclusion is not complicated. We can all become more welcoming and inclusive of others by slowing down, paying attention, and treating others with dignity and respect, celebrating that all people are worthy of friendship, respect, and genuine belonging.



Emmaus

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EMMAUS CLASSIC

Benefitting the Men and Women of Emmaus

Golf Tournament 2026

emmaushomes.org/golf

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Upcoming Events

GiveSTL Day
May 7, 2026

**Emmaus Homes Raffle
and Auction**
Raffle: May 26-June 19, 2026
Auction: June 8-19, 2026