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The Journey *home*

EMMA NORTON SERVICES PROVIDES AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND LIFE-CHANGING SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN DEALING WITH THE ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY.

WINTER 2015

KENDRA—EMMA’S PLACE

“I got that call and it was the best day of my life. It changed everything. I didn’t get to see the place before, and I just walked in and said ‘This is amazing. This is home.’”

On a cold October morning three years ago, Kendra was dialing the phone, desperately hoping that the person on the other end would tell her there was shelter available for her and her five children. For weeks, Kendra made the same phone call, and for weeks she heard the same answer. There was no space for her family.

For four years, Kendra and her family had lived comfortably in an apartment of their own. But when the landlord raised their rent, it was impossible to find an affordable space that could accommodate a family of six. Long waiting lists for emergency shelter meant that she had no other option but to pile herself and her five children into their car each night. “Being told ‘no’ is a rude awakening,” she says, “and you have to keep your strength as



a mother to keep your kids going, so it was really difficult.”

After living in their car for nearly a month, Kendra and her kids moved into Emma’s Place on Halloween. It was the first time she had seen the townhome that she and her family would be living in. “I just walked in

and said ‘This is amazing. This is home.’”

Since that day, Kendra and her family have been thriving at Emma’s Place. She has completed her Associate’s Degree in Medical Assisting and plans to return to school to further her education.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This year the Board of Directors and staff at Emma Norton Services took on the task of creating a new strategic plan that sets the vision and path for the agency over the next three years and beyond.

An important part of the process was to create a vibrant mission statement that clearly defines who we are and our work. It is my honor to present you with the collective work of all those involved and reveal our new mission statement:

Transformational housing for women and families on their journey of recovery.

As you read Kendra's story, it becomes evident how this mission statement is alive for the women and families we serve. Her story is filled with examples of what we already know: that having a safe place to live is the FIRST step. It is the foundation and stability people need to start their journey toward a different existence from living in crisis. Kendra's story embodies how Emma's Place impacts and positively changes the lives of women, children, and our communities.

Our new strategic plan calls on us to push and stretch ourselves to be the best that we can for those we serve, but also for our staff, our stakeholders, and our communities. As an agency, we recognize that the values we uphold – encapsulated by our promise of

Boldly expanding, empowering and transforming – apply to us as an organization as well as the nearly 250 people served every year. As we strive to be bold in expanding our world, empowering ourselves to overcome challenges and obstacles, and transforming our agency into a stronger, healthier version of ourselves – we want the same for every woman and child who we partner with on their journey to boldly expand, empower and transform.

Our goals are growth oriented and ensure our continued vitality and strength as an agency. At the end of 2015, we know that we have secured some project specific funds that will help with the implementation of the strategic plan. Additionally, the Board has established a 2016 budget that sets aggressive targets to move the strategic plan forward.

As always, we could not exist without all of you that believe in and uphold our mission. We are grateful to you for donating, volunteering, and promoting us because you also believe that women and children should have safe, affordable housing. Thank you for all you have done this year, and will continue to do in the future as we move forward together!

For a complete version of Emma Norton Services' Strategic Plan, please visit our website at www.emmanorton.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tonya" followed by a stylized, cursive flourish.

Tonya Brownlow
Executive Director

THANK YOU!

As we reach the end of another amazing year, we want to thank you for your kindness, your generosity, and your unfailing support. It is because of you that nearly 250 women and children found a safe, affordable place to call home in 2015. We hope you will continue to join us on the journey of transforming so many lives!

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: BEV



Bev's United Methodist Women's group were long-time supporters of Emma Norton Services. But it wasn't until she found herself with some free time last year that she decided to get involved on a deeper level.

With a background in Occupational Therapy, she knew that teaching crafts would provide a great opportunity for relaxation and skill-building for the women at Emma Norton Residence.

Bev began by hosting an ongoing knitting class. Not only is knitting perfect for relaxation (one study showed that 81% of people with depression reported feeling happy after knitting), but it also offers other practical benefits. "What's nice about knitting is that it gives the women a chance to make something for someone else,"

Bev says. "Last year several of the women made scarves with the intention of giving them to their relatives as gifts."

In addition to knitting, Bev has also taught a beading and jewelry-making class, which was a favorite among many residents. "One of the women who made earrings was just radiant afterwards because she thought they were just so beautiful and she hadn't been able to afford to buy any jewelry in a long time."

Bev encourages anyone who is interested in volunteering to get involved. "To me this [organization] is such a good thing on so many levels. It's not only helping these women, but it's giving them a life, giving them a sense of feeling good about themselves. I just don't think you can beat that."

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

TUTOR

There are between 60-80 kids living at Emma's Place at any given time. You can change a child's life by joining us once a week to provide homework help and support!

ORGANIZE

We're always in need of organized people to help out with administrative tasks like filing and data entry. Come in once or schedule a regular time to help us .

CELEBRATE

Host our monthly birthday party and bingo at Emma Norton Residence, complete with treats and prizes.

FIX IT

Help us paint, repair, or clean, making our sites feel a little more like home for the women and families who live with us.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Visit volunteermatch.com for more volunteer opportunities, or contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Cari Tan, at (651) 251-2627 to get started.

URGENT NEEDS

In-kind donations help balance our budget and provide a fun way to get involved. Right now, we're in need of:

- Twin sheet sets
- Standard pillows
- New or gently used plates and drinking glasses
- New toys/games for teens
- Brooms and dust pans
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Bath products (including shampoo, conditioner, soap, loofas, deodorant, lotion and shower shoes)
- Cleaning supplies
- Bath and hand towels
- Coffee and tea
- Sturdy upright vacuum cleaners
- \$5 and \$10 gift cards to Target or other general purpose stores

Donations can be delivered to:

Emma Norton Residence
670 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

Staff is available to accept donations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



WE WANT TO TALK!

Throughout the year, we send our staff and volunteers to locations around Minnesota to talk about our programs and services, as well as some of the issues affecting the women and families we serve.

We would love to speak to your faith community, office, organization, or school.

Potential topics include:

- Homelessness and poverty in Minnesota.
- The role of mental illness and chemical dependency in homelessness.
- How poverty and homelessness affects youth and education.
- How Emma Norton Services meets the needs of our community by providing transformational housing for women and families.



Above: Executive Director Tonya Brownlow visits Grey Eagle United Methodist Church.

Contact our Development Department at (651) 251-2632 or ens@emmanorton.org to request a speaker.

IN MEMORY: ANTOINETTE BOXER

ENS resident Antoinette "Toni" Boxer tragically passed away on October 28. Below, her case manager, Rhonda Bell, shares a few words about Toni:

"Toni was a redeemed woman, a woman living in her change, a woman of new beginnings but not without struggles in her life; however Toni was viewing life through a different set of lens.

A quote from Toni, 'Don't be mad at me because of something that happened in the past, grow up and let it go. Don't be mad because of what your struggles are, handle it and keep it moving.'

Rest in Heaven!"



WELCOME NEW STAFF!



Jenna Moon:
Program Director

I began working in homeless services during my college internship at a family shelter in Minneapolis. I was introduced to an entirely new world and I was instantly captivated by the people I met and the stories I heard.

After graduating college I began doing outreach and case management in Ramsey County. Over the years, I have worked in Ramsey County, Hennepin County and Western Wisconsin, but I have always continued to work with those experiencing homelessness and a mental health and/or chemical dependency diagnosis. Most recently, I was overseeing a small family shelter located in Wisconsin.

I am very excited to be back in Ramsey County and working with Emma Norton Services.



Hareen Lankford:
Youth Supervisor

My name is Hareen Lankford and I am the Youth Program Supervisor at Emma's Place! I am a mother of 3 boys: 16 years, 2 years, and 7 months. They all keep me extremely busy

in their own way. I enjoy spending time with each of them, but when I get time I also enjoy watching movies and listening to music.

I am a graduate from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in Child Psychology. I enjoy working with children and watching them achieve goals and milestones as much as I enjoy working with their parents!

I am very happy to be here and I look forward to the opportunity to meet each of you!

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

More than

1/3

of our funding comes from private sources, like individuals.



50% of women who exited Emma Norton Residence last year moved directly into safe, permanent housing.

Last year, your in-kind donations saved us over

\$218k

55%

of K-5th grade kids living at Emma's Place last year improved their grades or performed at or above grade level.



100%

of the women and families we served last year were extremely low income.



Last year

20

donors joined our Daisy Erbes society by giving \$2,500 or more.



VOICES FOR VICTORY

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Voices for Victory fundraiser on September 17th. We hope to see you again next year!



KENDRA (CONTINUED)

She is especially thankful for the youth programming at Emma’s Place that has given her children an extra boost academically and socially. Her daughters have participated in on-site social activities like 4H and Girl Scouts, and have benefited from after-school homework help.

“I’m really excited to see what the future holds for my children.”

More recently, Kendra has taken advantage of our new early childhood programming. She attends regular parenting groups where she learns practical skills for maintaining a healthy home. Her kids also participate in classes that integrate many of the same skills, ensuring that parents, children, and staff at Emma’s Place are all on the same page. “The parenting program has helped me create a quieter home, a calmer home, more peaceful,” Kendra explains. “The techniques that [the Early Childhood Specialist] has taught us, like how to remain calm with your children, it’s created my kids being able to connect with each other a little more. It’s pretty awesome.”

Education has always been important for Kendra, and she’s proud to see what her children have accomplished

through their own hard work. “They have grown so much since we’ve been here, and this place has created stability for our family, it’s created a home atmosphere for us, and we’ve grown as a family since we’ve been here, especially with the programs that help the kids grow in school and education. That’s one thing I really value, education, and since we’ve been here my kids have been straight A students. I’m really, really excited to see what the future holds for my children.”



Above: Kendra’s children have fun in front of the Emma’s Place community Building.

LEGACY CORNER: STOCK GIFTS

Gifts of stock and other securities are a popular way to give to Emma Norton Services. Gifts of securities include publicly traded stocks, gifts of mutual funds, Treasury bills and notes, corporate and municipal bonds, and stock in non-publicly held companies.

It's easy to give stocks and other securities that are marketable, or are sold to the public on stock exchanges or over-the-counter markets. Your broker can assist you in making a gift of stock via a direct transfer to Emma Norton Services.

Upon receiving a stock or securities gift, Emma Norton Services' policy is to sell immediately. The value of your tax deduction is based on the sale price, and you can avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciated value of your stock!

If you would like to make a donation of stock to Emma Norton Services, please notify us immediately. You may need to provide your broker with the following information:

Emma Norton Services Tax ID: 410859485

Brokerage House: Raymond James

Account Name: Emma Norton Services

Account Number: 22385368

Reference: Your Name (this helps ensure that your gift is properly acknowledged.)

If you have questions about stock donations or any other planned gift, please contact our Development Department at (651) 251-2632.



LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

You don't need to be wealthy to leave a lasting legacy through Emma Norton Services. You can become a part of Emma's Legacy Society by making a planned gift in any amount. You'll join other generous, forward-thinking donors in supporting our long-term success, and you'll be remembered for generations to come. You can make a legacy gift through:

- Retirement Accounts
- Bequests through will or trust
- Appreciated stock
- Accounts with P.O.D provisions
- Gifts of life insurance
- Gift annuities
- Gifts of real estate

Contact your financial planner and/or attorney to get started. They may ask you for the following information:

Legal Name: Emma Norton Services

Tax ID Number: 410859485

Finally, don't forget to notify us of your legacy gift. Contact our Development Department at (651) 251-2632 or ens@emmanorton.org.



partners along the journey
of *change*

670 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101
www.emmanorton.org



Partners along the journey of change

Emma Norton Services' 2016 Annual Dinner and Silent Auction
Monday, April 18th • 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location

Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
7025 Northland Drive North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Tickets

Individual Tickets

Early Bird Registration (by March 28th)
\$35 per person

Registration (March 29 - April 8th)
\$50 per person

Table Sponsorship

\$500 for a table of 10

No registrations accepted after April 8th.
No walk-ins.

Join Emma Norton Services for a fantastic silent auction, dinner, entertainment, and more as we celebrate our lifelong partnership with the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women!

**New this year: Early Bird registration.
Register by March 28th for the best price. You
must register to attend.**

Watch emmanorton.org for more information and to register online.

