



Emma Norton's e-news

October 2025

Dear *{{Informal Name}}*,

As the weather crisps and the leaves change color, our community is showing up in big ways to help prepare for the changing seasons and upcoming holidays. From coat and winter gear donations to fun activities with residents and generous donation drives, all of your support is helping ease the transition into the colder months!

In the last month we've had a lot going on in our programs—the kids are all settled into school, the residents at Restoring Waters are decorating for Halloween, and we've started making Thanksgiving plans with various partners. We also celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Living Room grand opening! Thank you for all of your ongoing support as we continue to expand our programming and services!

With gratitude,

The Emma Norton Team

2025 Coat & Winter Gear Drive



**EMMA NORTON
COAT + WINTER
GEAR DRIVE**

DEADLINE: 10/20/25



It's finally feeling like fall, and we're gearing up for distributing cold weather gear to our clients! Thank you to those who have already brought in donations—it's helpful to get them to us early so we can sort donations as they come and take note of what we may need to make special donation requests or purchases for.

We are seeking donations of new and like-new winter coats in both men and women's styles in all adult and teen sizes, kids snowpants, as well as kids and adult sizes of warm

socks, gloves/mittens, and snow boots. **Please bring your donations to Restoring Waters, 2265 Hillcrest Ave, St Paul 55116, no later than October 20th, so that we have time to sort them by size before the giveaways!** To coordinate a donation drop-off time, please contact our Advancement Associate Victoria at vvirasy@emmanorton.org.

If you want to help keep our clients comfy and warm, but don't have any winter gear to donate, you can make a financial gift [here](#)—reference the coat drive in the comment box. We can use this support to purchase additional winter gear! Thank you, to both individuals and groups, for all of your ongoing support!

2025 Holiday Drives



The holidays may feel far away, but now is the perfect time to start planning your holiday charitable giving! We will have more specifics as we get closer to the holidays, but we are always seeking holiday donations of gift cards (*Target, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Aldi, Cub*) and kid's toys for the holidays. Organizing a holiday drive through your workplace, faith community, or social group is a great way to spread cheer, build community, and make an impact.

If you'd like to talk to us about organizing a donation drive, please reach out to Advancement Associate Victoria at vvirasy@emmanorton.org.

New Website Features



If you've been to our website recently you may have noticed a new look! In partnership with ArcStone and Design Ahead, we've been working on some major website updates, including new pages for the [Living Room](#), [Restoring Waters](#), and [In-Kind Donations](#), as

well as an integrated social media feed on the homepage, and a new tool to help us make the website more accessible.

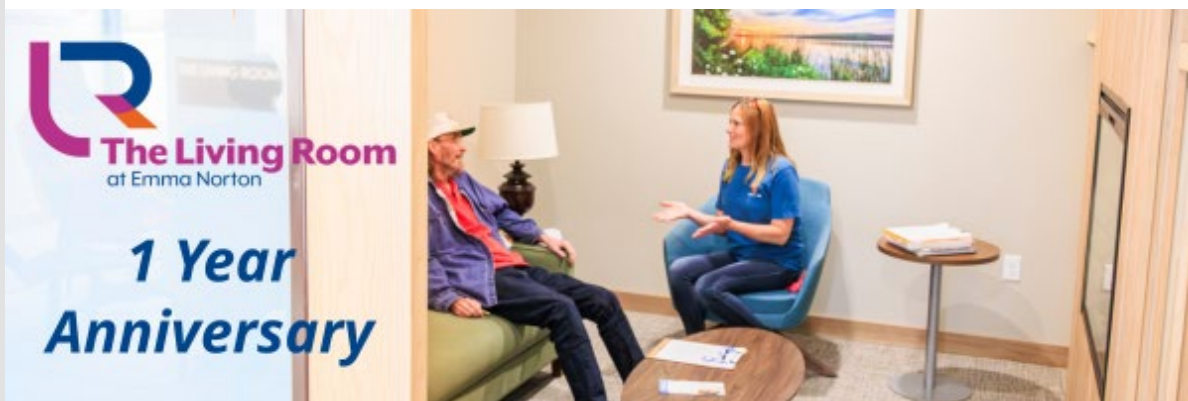
We invite you to check out the refreshed website, and give us feedback! Feedback or questions about the website can be sent to our Communications Specialist Alex Dalbey-Thomas at adalbey-thomas@emmanorton.org.

Indigenous People's Day

ENS Closed for Indigenous People's Day

All of our offices and services will be closed on **Monday, October 13**, in observance of Indigenous People's Day. This includes the Living Room, so that our Peer Supports can also observe the holiday. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, October 14.

The Living Room 1 Year Anniversary



It has been a year since the grand opening of the Living Room last October! Thank you to everyone who has supported this program with donations, or by helping us spread the word. To illustrate the impact of the Living Room, we'd like to share some data with you.

In just one year of operation, we've had nearly 550 visits, less than 10 of which required hospitalization or emergency services. 254 referrals to outside services were given, most often mental health services. The vast majority of visits were to receive support or help processing recent events—the second most common reason was substance abuse, and the third was interpersonal relationships. While most of the visitors are already Emma Norton clients, just under a third (32%) of visitors were from outside the agency—and we've seen those numbers continue to climb as word gets out!

Do you know someone who could use a resource like the Living Room? You can

now easily share this resource with the URL www.emmanorton.org/programs/the-living-room/. The Living Room is free for all Minnesotans ages 18 and up.

September Bingo with St. Peder's Lutheran Church



Thank you to **St. Peder's Lutheran Church** for hosting September Bingo for the residents at Restoring Waters! It was the last day of September, so in addition to the usual prizes of self-care items and treats, St. Peder's also brought Halloween-themed knick-knacks like décor and pumpkin shaped coffee mugs. The thoughtful curation was very appreciated, and got everyone excited for the fall season!

Interested in hosting bingo, or another fun activity for our clients? Please reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator Mo at mmayberry@emmanorton.org for more information.

MN Realtors Association Thank You



A huge thank you to the **Minnesota Realtors Association** for selecting Emma Norton as one of the organization's supported at this year's Minnesota Realtors Unite Conference! The realtors assembled 75 baskets full of housing essentials and kitchen basics for our clients, each with a kind and encouraging note!

The baskets have now all been distributed to clients, or set aside to give to new clients entering our programs. Those who have received them already were grateful and appreciated the sweet notes!

UW Faith Fall Meetings



As always, the **UW Faith community** is an essential support for us at Emma Norton. The annual fall meetings have been happening over the last month, including the MN UW Faith statewide gathering.

It's difficult to express how grateful we are for all the support shown in the donation drives at these meetings. In the last week we've received multiple large winter gear donation drop offs from our UW Faith partners, and it's extremely heartening to already have received so much when we're still 2 weeks out from the deadline.

Thank you to the MN UW Faith community for all your support!

Share the good E-News!

We love our many supporters and volunteers, but don't keep us to yourselves. Please share this E-news with your friends and family, like us on social media (see below), and let others know about the great work we are doing to help end homelessness and help women and families thrive!

Make a [donation today](#) to help us continue to provide safe, stable homes for women and families on their journey of recovery.



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}



Emma Norton

The Journey Home Begins Here