



Emma Norton's e-news

September 2025

Dear *{{Informal Name}}*,

Autumn is upon us, and that means things are kicking into high gear again for Emma Norton Services! At Emma's Place, we sent our youth back to school with new backpacks and fun celebrations at the end of summer. At Restoring Waters, we had a Good in the Hood shoe distribution event and community-wide Music at the Bridge event on the same day. Some residents even came to the event in their new kicks! In the Scattered-Site Program, we recently added capacity for 10 more clients, increasing the max for that program to 60 people!

Keep reading this month's E-News to learn more about how you can support our clients as we shift into the colder months, as well as view program highlights from the last month. Don't miss the unique fundraiser for Emma Norton hosted by Centennial UMC coming up in early October!

And, as we approach the holidays, please consider making a special year-end donation to Emma Norton or including Emma Norton in your IRA distribution. As we face growing uncertainty around government funding, your support is more important than ever!

With gratitude and excitement,

The Emma Norton Team

2025 Coat & Winter Gear Drive Begins



**EMMA NORTON
COAT + WINTER
GEAR DRIVE**

DEADLINE: 10/20/25



We are now taking donations for our annual coat/winter gear drive! We know it's been an

unusually warm September, but you never know how quickly snow can start falling in Minnesota. We also want to give plenty of time to any community groups that want to organize donation drives themselves!

We are seeking donations of new and like-new winter coats in both men and women's styles in all adult 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 these gifts to purchase additional winter gear. Thank you for your ongoing support of our annual coat drive!

Back to School Events Help Emma's Place Youth Shine



The kids and youth are back in school, getting settled into the new academic year. This year they had a lot of help from staff, donors, and volunteers to get things started on the right foot!

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies or financial gifts in support of back-to-school efforts this year—your thoughtfulness and generosity made the school supply distribution an extra fun event. The joy kids have when they get a backpack with one of their favorite characters on it is infectious! Special thanks to the **Twin Cities United Way**, **Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul**, and the **Mx. Trish Takeover Sparkle Show** for your extra efforts for back-to-school supplies!

We also continued the tradition of sending the young learners off on their first day of school with snacks and polaroids of their First Day 'Fits! It was lots of fun, and we hope getting to strike a pose at the top of the day helps them start the new year with confidence!

We then had a fun back-to-school celebration with a grill-out, games, ice cream, and a photographer—which unfortunately had to be moved inside due to rain. The community had fun nonetheless, and it was a great endcap to summer and kick-off to the new school

year.

Shoe Away Hunger with Good in the Hood



Last week we worked with **Good in the Hood** to bring their **Shoe Away Hunger** program to both Emma's Place and Restoring Waters, giving all our clients the opportunity to get new or refurbished shoes! Everyone, adults and kids, got to pick up to two pairs of shoes—some folks got sneakers, some got dress shoes for interviews or work, and some even got snow boots for the upcoming winter months! In total, Good in the Hood helped us distribute nearly 200 pairs of shoes to clients across our programs. We are so grateful for this ongoing partnership—the impact of new shoes cannot be overstated!

Paper Shredding Fundraiser at Centennial UMC | Oct. 4!

Paper Shredding Fundraiser

Saturday, Oct 4
8:30-10:30 am

Hosted by
Centennial
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Authentic | Thinking | Active

Do you have old documents and papers piling up, but no shredder at home? Bring them to **Centennial United Methodist Church** on **Saturday, October 4 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.!** Just bring your papers in a paper bag or box—there are different suggested donations depending on how much you bring – and let the pros take care of it, while raising money for Emma Norton and other United Women in Faith missions. RSVP and share the event on [Facebook here](#)—thank you to Centennial UMC for hosting this unique fundraiser for Emma Norton!

Thank You Hamline Church Dining Hall & Volunteers



Thank you to everyone who came to the **Hamline Church Dining Hall** this year, and an extra special thank you to those who came as volunteers! We had nearly 30 volunteers connected to Emma Norton—staff, Board, friends & family—attend our “Emma Norton Day” on 8/22. We don’t have the final numbers yet for how much the Dining Hall raised, but we know they broke records on multiple days for the number of people served! We hope everyone had a chance to try the new Maple Shake-up or the Dan Patch Dip or enjoyed some of the classics like blueberry pancakes, hamloaf, or Swedish meatballs.

After the State Fair finished, Chef Alison from Al’s Breakfast and Hamline Dining Hall came to Restoring Waters with a car full of leftover groceries—potatoes, English muffins, milk cartons, coleslaw, tortilla chips, cheese slices, ham, and more. We don’t take perishable food donations regularly due to lack of cold storage space, but through smart staff coordination we were able to get all the food distributed to clients across our programs within hours.

Make the Holidays Bright with a Donation Drive



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.

UW Faith Response Magazine Features Restoring Waters



Back in June, renowned photojournalist Paul Jeffrey visited us at Restoring Waters, spending two full days interviewing clients, staff, and volunteers/advocates. We were delighted to have him visit again—longtime ENS supporters may remember the article he wrote about Emma’s Place over 10 years ago.

The new article, *Restoring Waters: Addition to Minnesota NMI Provides Homes and Health*, came out in the September/October issue of **Response Magazine**, and is an incredible deep dive into Restoring Waters and the Emma Norton community, including the United Women in Faith partners who make so much of our work possible. We are so grateful for this article and our national and local UW Faith partners! [View a copy of the full article on our website here](#). To order a hard copy of the magazine and/or sign up for a subscription, [click here](#) or call 1-888-409-8137.

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}}

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Emma Norton

The Journey Home Begins Here