



Emma Norton's e-news

January 2026

Dear *{{Informal Name}}*,

Minnesota, and especially Minneapolis and St. Paul, have been experiencing truly unprecedented times since our last e-news was sent. Like most people, we at Emma Norton have been horrified by the violence we're seeing, and at the same time we're inspired by the deep kindness and care being shown. As we lean into our organizational values to get us through these difficult times, we're seeing those same values reflected in the actions of tens of thousands of Minnesotans, and supporters across the country.

One of the most challenging things about times like these is that the need for social services and community care doesn't stop—it gets bigger. But we keep seeing our immediate community and the wider community rising up to meet those needs. In this month's e-news we have a variety of ways you can get involved in our organization to help support these community needs. Thank you for continuing to foster community, humanity, and healing in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, and beyond.

Save the Date for 2026 Opening Doors Gala | Thursday, April 23



The 2026 Opening Doors Gala will be held on Thursday, April 23, at the InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront! The Gala is our annual celebration and general operating fundraiser, and each year is getting bigger and better! Registration for individuals and tables will open in early March. The Gala is a great event to introduce new friends to the transformative work of Emma Norton, so start spreading the word now.

Do you want to support the Opening Doors Gala as more than an attendee? There are a

variety of options to do so! To become a sponsor or a table sponsor, please reach out to Shawna Nelsen-Wills, Advancement Director, at snelsen@emmanorton.org. To arrange a silent auction item donation, contact Victoria Virasy-Ertelt, Advancement Associate, at vvirasy@emmanorton.org. To learn more about volunteer opportunities related to the Gala, contact Mo Mayberry, Volunteer Coordinator, at mmayberry@emmanorton.org.

The Living Room is Free for all Minnesotans 18 and Older



With ongoing uncertainty and fear in Minnesota, we want to remind folks that our free mental health service, the Living Room, is available to anyone in Minnesota ages 18 and older. Telehealth visits are available by appointment, and in-person visits are available on walk-in. *To visit, call 651-251-2629 or come to 2265 Hillcrest Ave, St. Paul, MN 55116.* We also want to remind folks that you do not have to provide identification to visit the Living Room—the only information we collect is contact info for staff to follow up with visitors.

Volunteer with Emma Norton in 2026!



Do you have volunteerism and/or community care on your 2026 goal list? There are lots of opportunities to get involved at Emma Norton Services, even in the cold months! We're seeking hosts for the next few months for bingo parties at Restoring Waters and community dinners at Emma's Place. If you are interested in hosting one of these events, especially for January or February, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Mo Mayberry at mmayberry@emmanorton.org.

Looking for other opportunities to get involved? Make sure you're signed up with us on [Bloomerang Volunteer](#) so that you get alerts to new volunteer opportunities as soon as they're available!

2025 Tax Letters



Thank you to everyone who made a charitable contribution in 2025. We are in the process of closing out our year-end gifts. Tax letters will be mailed and emailed to all donors who made a charitable contribution in 2025 by the end of the month. If you have any questions about your 2025 giving, please contact Victoria Virasy-Ertelt at vvirasy@emmanorton.org.

Holiday Gratitude



We have so much gratitude for the support we received for gifts, celebrations, and activities in December, making the holidays bright for people throughout our programs!

We first want to thank everyone—individuals and groups—that supported the holiday gifts and gift cards this year with donations, especially **Hamline Church**, **Edina Realty**, and **Lakeside HR** who collected toys for our youth and teens. With economic uncertainty, everyone is stretched, meaning we were far from the only ones needing extra support this year. Even so, we were able to provide a variety of gift options to the families. Thank you also to **Toys for Tots**, **the nurses of the trauma/surgical/neuro ICU at Regions Hospital**, and other individuals and groups for making this possible, along with **Dual Citizen Brewing Company** and **Eastside Ministry** for providing holiday meal kits for the families!

Thank you to **our neighbors at Marvella** for participating in a holiday cookie exchange with us on December 15, and to **Pastor Bryan Odeen from St. Peder's Lutheran Church** for providing live music. The sweet treats and holiday songs helped get that week off to a great start!

Thank you also to **SPAAR** for being willing to come in as a last-minute host for holiday bingo at Restoring Waters! For the first time since before the COVID pandemic, we were able to have a joint celebration with our Scattered-Site clients, which made things extra special as several of them are also Restoring Waters alumni.

A final thank you to everyone who donated gift cards, toys, money, or time as a volunteer to us over the holidays. You helped make it a special and heart-warming time of year for not just clients, but also staff!

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