

Spring 2003

Rebuilding the lives of women and families



Emma's Place After School Enrichment Program

Building Character . . . Imparting Values . . . Promoting Young Leaders

Children residing at Emma's Place are offered a variety of after-school enrichment activities that help to develop and nurture different areas of need in each of their lives.

Sharri Adams, Program Director at Emma's Place, designed the after school enrichment program to incorporate educational, recreational, and motivational components.

Five days a week, from 3:00 - 8:00 PM, children and youth meet in the community center at Emma's Place and are offered individual tutoring and help with homework from our Child Specialist and community volunteers. Children are also given access to educational aids such as computers, books, and writing material.

The program also sponsors parties, has a weekly movie night, and organizes age appropriate groups to participate in field trips and community activities.

During February, the children celebrated Black History Month by researching notable black people and writing essays about them. Target generously contributed certificates for \$15, \$10, and \$5 to be used as prizes.



In the 4th-8th grade group, Ryan won first place for writing about Harriet Tubman; the team of Jazzmin and Julia won second place for an essay on Granville Woods, a black inventor; and Aalyiah (Summer) won third place for her essay on Sojourner Truth.

Congratulations to

all who participated in the Black History essay contest!

Look for a new program for older teens coming soon—to help them focus their skills on summer jobs.

The mission of Emma Norton Services is to foster stability and personal growth for women and families who are homeless—or at risk of becoming homeless—by providing affordable, secure housing and supportive services in a Christian environment.

A message from the Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It's time for our Annual Dinner again! We're very excited to have Faith Sullivan, a well-known Minnesota author, as our program speaker. She's written six novels, all set in Minnesota, and is working on her next three. You won't want to miss this! Mark the date—May 8—on your calendar and send us the dinner reservation form in this issue no later than April 28.

Last year, we had a phenomenal response to the request for donated items for our Silent Auction. We're hoping for even more creative and fun things at this year's auction. Please fill out the donation form in this issue and return it with your donated item(s) no later than April 15. If you have questions or need something picked up, call Beda Lewis, our Committee Chair, at (651) 437-3948.

One of the reasons we hold our annual dinner is to raise the awareness of our supporters about homelessness. We hope you will read the article in this issue about Minnesota's homeless and the impact of recent and anticipated budget cuts. The Pawlenty Administration has recommended these cuts come from many different programs that serve vulnerable people. The overall result would be that many low-income families will be left to struggle with even fewer options than they now have.

If you want to learn more about Governor Pawlenty's recommendations, go to <http://www.finance.state.mn.us>.

There are many opportunities to voice your opinion. You can call or write your representative, or attend one of many community forums. Two other helpful web sites for up-to-the-minute information on how the budget will affect housing and about upcoming events are <http://www.housingminnesota.org> and <http://www.mhponline.org>.

In appreciation for all you do,

Sandra Craighhead
Sandra Craighhead
Board President

Nelda Rhoades Clarke
Nelda Rhoades Clarke
Executive Director

Emma Norton Services

Emma Norton Residence

42-bed residence, offering support and services for homeless women in transition

Jane Addams Transitional Housing Program

A long-term, structured support program for women whose goals are to become independent and self-sufficient

Dual Disorder Program

Support and services for homeless women with chemical dependency and mental health issues

Scattered Site Family Reunification Program

Resources and support to help homeless mothers find permanent housing and reunite with their children

Emma's Place

Permanent, affordable housing for homeless single parents with four or more children

Wesley Family Program

Rooms for family members who have relatives in Twin Cities hospitals

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Emma Norton Services

670 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101-2523
(651) 224-1329 Voice/TDD
(651) 224-6520 Fax
www.emmanorton.org

**A National Mission Institution
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of the United Methodist Church**

Minnesota's Homeless

Understanding the Impact of Budget Cuts

According to February 18, 2003 issue of "the homeless report" by the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, there are 21,000 Minnesotans who are experiencing homelessness or are precariously housed on any given night. Sheltering programs serve nearly 7,000 people each night and turn away over 1,000. Half of Minnesota's homeless are children and 41% of homeless adults are working.

Thirty-eight percent of homeless adults have serious mental illness. Nineteen percent of homeless youth left home because of abuse... and 35% of mothers report that they are homeless because of abuse by a partner.

As Minnesota policy makers respond to the \$4.5 million budget deficit for 2004-2005, many vital programs for vulnerable people are at risk of serious cutbacks. State funding has already been cut for many of these programs in 2003. After June 30, the state's commitment to sheltering programs will be reduced by 40%. Reducing funding to these programs will mean that hundreds of low-income families will not have access to the resources they need to prevent a crisis and stay in their homes.

Homelessness prevention can save money at the local and state levels. Permanent supportive and transitional housing programs focus on increasing employment, access to ongoing care and treatment, and self-sufficiency for people who are homeless or at-risk. These housing programs give stability to families and help them through crises that might otherwise put them on the street.

We also reduce crisis-driven institutional and emergency health care costs through homelessness prevention programs. We know that when assistance is available, people are less likely to use survival skills (e.g. prostitution, drugs) to secure housing or address health issues.

Producing more affordable housing also helps to stimulate the economy. In the metro area, it's estimated that for every dollar invested in housing, the state sees \$8 in additional economic activity. For more information visit the MN Coalition for the Homeless web site:

<http://www.mnhomelesscoalition.org>

The Pawlenty Administration and the House and Senate invite community input on how to keep essential services and still address the budget deficit.

Governor Tim Pawlenty	(651) 296-3391
House Speaker Rep. Sviggum	(651) 296-2273
House Majority Leader Rep. Paulsen	(651) 296-7449
House Minority Leader Rep. Entenza	(651) 296-8799
Senate Majority Leader Sen. Hottinger	(651) 296-6153
Senate Minority Leader Sen. Day	(651) 296-9457

Portions of this article were taken or rewritten from "Housing works—supporting Minnesota's continuum of housing and shelter," by Michael Dahl, Executive Director for the MN Coalition for the Homeless, and originally printed in "the homeless report," February 18, 2003.

◆ Volunteer Opportunities ◆

You receive this newsletter, so you're already a friend of Emma Norton Services. Are you looking for other ways to lend support? We have need of some special skills . . . maybe you or someone you know can help. Call Judy Conn at (651) 251-2629.

Gardening and Yard Work: *There's much to be done outside at both Emma's Place and Emma Norton Residence now that spring is almost here!*

Front desk receptionist (2-4 hour shifts): *This is a chance to meet and greet some really special people. Answer the phones and monitor the front door. Perfect for a senior citizen!*

In Minnesota, a person has to earn \$14.64 per hour to afford a two bedroom apartment.

A person earning minimum wage can afford to pay no more than \$268 a month toward rent and utilities—well below fair market rents in all parts of the state.

www.emmanorton.org

Emma Norton Services Has a New Web Site!



We are very grateful to Chris Gardner (son of Judy Conn, our Volunteer Coordinator) who donated **A LOT** of his time to design this site! Not only did he design it, but he incorporated feedback from staff in two additional redesign sessions at the end of 2002. You'll notice his logo in the lower left corner of the home page. Please click on this and give him feedback or contact him to design a web site for you!

Chris incorporated a "Donate Now" button on the home page and we've tested it. It works! So, if you've been meaning to send a donation but haven't gotten around to it, try doing it through this new secure link.

Please take a few moments and visit our new site. We welcome suggestions and if there's anyone who wants to volunteer to maintain and update the site on a regular basis, please call Judy Conn at 651-251-2629.

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PERMIT 8305
St. Paul, MN

Emma Norton Services
670 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55101-2523



Emma Norton Services Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

We need your help!

Every year we hold a silent auction to benefit the women and children who seek help from Emma Norton Services.

You can help us make this year even more successful than last!

Donate a gift to be auctioned at our Annual Dinner to be held on May 8.

Don't know what to donate? Here are some ideas!

Weekend Getaways	Gift Baskets	<i>Gift Certificates/Tickets to:</i>
Autographed Books	Candles	Day Spas
Autographed Memorabilia	Food Items	Restaurants
Electronic Equipment	Designer Jewelry	Hotels
Computer Software	Designer Accessories	Theaters
DVD's, CD's & Videos	Children's Toys & Books	Cultural Events
Cellular Phones/Service	Cooking & Golf Lessons	Sporting Events
Sporting Goods	Original Artwork	Hair Salons
Sports Memorabilia	Handmade Items	Amusement Parks

◆ PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU PLAN TO DONATE BY APRIL 15 ◆

Complete the form below for our records and return it with the item(s) to be donated (including gift certificates and tickets) to:

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

Perishable items should be delivered to Jimmy's Conference & Catering,
3565 Labore Road, Vadnais Heights, MN by 4:30 PM on May 8.

Questions? Do you need an item to be picked up? Please call Beda at 651/437-3948

Make as many copies of this form as you need!

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Description of donated item(s): _____

Suggested Retail Value: _____

Emma Norton Services is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Emma Norton Services Annual Dinner

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Reception and Silent Auction 5:30 P.M.
Buffet Dinner 6:30 P.M.



Program

Music by Emma's Singers



Resident Stories



Time and Talent Awards



Speaker - Faith Sullivan

Faith Sullivan, a well-known Minnesota author, has written six novels: "Repent, Lanny Merkel," "Watchdog," "Mrs. Demming and the Mythical Beast," "The Cape Ann," "The Empress of One," which won the Milkweed Edition National Fiction Prize, and "What a Woman Must Do." She is currently at work on her next three novels. All of her stories are set wholly or partially in Minnesota, mostly in small towns.

Faith has also published many personal essays in magazines and newspapers, been a visiting instructor of Creative Writing at Southwest State University, taught novel writing at Split Rock Arts Program, and conducted numerous writing workshops.

Tickets \$30 per person

(For federal income tax purposes, the value of your contribution is \$8.00)

Jimmy's Conference & Catering
3565 Labore Road
Vadnais Heights, Minnesota

Annual Dinner Committee Chair
Beda Lewis

Please fill in and return reservation form on back. • Reservations must be received by April 28, 2003

For more information, call 651/224-1329 Voice/TTY
Fax 651/224-6520
www.emmanorton.org

Emma Norton Services Annual Dinner

Please reproduce this form as needed

Reservations **MUST** be received by **April 28, 2003**

Please mail reservation form and check to:

Emma Norton Services
670 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101-2523

Emma Norton Services Annual Dinner 2003

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ dinner reservations.

(\$30 per person; \$8 is tax deductible)

(Please make check(s) payable to: **Emma Norton Services**)

Sorry, I am (we are) unable to attend.

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution in the amount of \$ _____

Please charge my credit card: _____ Visa _____ Mastercard

Amount: \$ _____ Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please print names of those attending:

Keep For Your Information

Emma Norton Services Annual Dinner

May 8, 2003

<i>Reception and Silent Auction</i>	<i>5:30 P.M.</i>
<i>Dinner</i>	<i>6:30 P.M.</i>
<i>Program</i>	<i>7:30 P.M.</i>

Directions

From the North: 35E South. Exit County Rd. E. Left on County Rd. E to Labore Rd. Right on Labore Rd.

From the South: 35E North. Exit County Rd. E. Right on County Rd. E to Labore Rd. Right on Labore Rd.

From the East: 694 West to 35E North. Exit County Rd. E. Right on Co. Rd. E to Labore Rd. Right on Labore.

From the West: 694 East to 35E North. Exit County Rd. E. Right on Co. Rd. E to Labore Rd. Right on Labore.