

Summer 2004

Rebuilding the lives of women and families



The Face of Homelessness: It can be anyone . . . and is the responsibility of everyone.



We were honored at our annual dinner on Tuesday, May 11 to hear the very moving stories of four of our residents. Their stories reminded us

that any of us can become homeless and that many of the causes for homelessness affect all of us at one time or another.

Poverty and the lack of affordable housing are two of the principal causes of homelessness but other factors also contribute to it. These can include low wages, loss of benefits, unstable employment, changes in welfare programs, limited subsidized housing, mental and physical health problems, domestic violence and/or chemical dependency. It's when these causes begin to pile on that some people or families are no longer able to cope and become homeless.

Teri, a married mother with five children was one of these families. She moved from shelter to shelter for three years before moving into Emma's Place last September. Her children were suffering from many of the problems common to children of homeless families, including learning difficulties and behavior problems.

Although Teri's story is still in progress, she is very grateful to Emma's Place for the distance she's traveled. She now has a

nursing assistant degree and plans to pursue a full nursing degree. Happily, her children participate in Emma's after school activities and are excelling in school.

Our other three speakers told similar stories of how far they've come. Steve, our first father at Emma's Place, talked about how Emma's has helped him gain custody and build a home for his three children who would otherwise have been placed in foster care.

Denise, a bright and happy woman, had suffered from years of chemical use, depression and anxiety disorders. Over a period of two years, she successfully completed the dual disorder and transitional housing programs at Emma Norton Residence and just graduated from college!

Julie moved into the Residence after losing her job and home because of mental and chemical health issues. She is focused on rebuilding relationships with her family and especially her son. She says, "Emma Norton came along at a time when I had no place else to go..."

Each of these stories is about someone like you or me; someone with the same kinds of problems, but possibly not the same resources to overcome them. We have made it our responsibility to help them—to invest in their future. Won't you help, too?

Founded in 1917, Emma Norton Services is a nonprofit organization providing affordable housing and comprehensive services for homeless women and families in Minnesota.

A message from the Board President

Dear Friends,

I ended my last letter in this column asking you to be sure to put our annual dinner and silent auction on your busy calendars. I'm happy to report we had a really great turnout, making over \$7,500 and surpassing last year's efforts by about a \$1,500!

Our theme was "Rebuilding the Lives of Women and Families" and we were very fortunate to have two residents from Emma's Place and two from Emma Norton Residence to share their stories with us. Those stories, which speak of the challenges anyone can face in life, are featured in the article on the first page.

We want to thank each of you who supported us that evening, whether it was a donation for the silent auction or joining us for the dinner, or both. We also want to say a special thanks to Bishop Hopkins and the Cabinet of the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church for attending. Their continuing support and encouragement has been a source of inspiration for the Board and staff at Emma Norton Services.

I also spoke in my last letter of how the Board is working hard to meet the challenge of funding cuts that have affected Emma Norton Services. We held a one-day workshop in April, with Ron Meshanko of the General Board of Global Ministries, focused on fundraising principles and Board responsibilities. Feedback has been extremely positive and our Board and staff are even more invested in the work of our wonderful organization.

Indeed, the word "investment" is a good description of what our donors do through every contribution, large or small. By investing in the lives of our women and families, by helping them to make positive changes and to move on, we are helping them to build a future. We are especially grateful for a recent unrestricted gift of \$22,000 by an anonymous donor. This has really helped energize our fundraising efforts.

You can help, too! Share the stories of Emma Norton Services with others; sponsor your own fundraising event (check out Bits & Pieces on the back page of this newsletter); or send a check in the enclosed envelope. We look forward to hearing from you!

In appreciation,

*Steve North,
Board President*

Emma Norton Services

Emma Norton Residence St. Paul, MN

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

Emma's Place Maplewood, MN

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

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Emma Norton Services

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**A National Mission Institution
Related to the General Board of
Global Ministries
of the United Methodist Church**

WISH LIST

Monthly Gift Ideas for Residents

We need 45 of each gift so each of our adult female residents gets the same gift. Whatever you can give helps meet our total need!

July	Plastic bottles of bubbles & stress balls
August	New plastic food containers (1 pint or larger—Ziploc or Glad)
September	Pretty patterned socks
October	Halloween candy, (individually wrapped) & Halloween memo pads and pencils
November	Twin size blankets
December	Christmas gifts (these must be NEW)

Christmas Gift Ideas

Twin sheet sets / 3-piece towel sets / Journals / Shower gel / Large, attractive spiral calendars & pocket-sized calendars / Slipper socks / Socks with Christmas or winter designs / McDonald's Gift Certificates (\$2-\$5) / Nail Polish / Gel pens, Post-it notes, & office supplies like pens, pencils, tape, scissors & rulers

Items We Can Always Use

All purpose cleaner / Dishwashing liquid / Sponges / Cleanser / Window cleaner / Toilet bowl cleaner / Rubber Gloves (L & XL) / Tampons & Maxi pads / Deodorant / Batteries (AA & 9V) / Paper towels / Toilet paper / Kleenex / Napkins

◆ Internship Opportunities ◆

Information Specialist

Conduct audit of information collection systems; create comprehensive database system; assess organization data needs and set up systems to meet those needs; conduct data entry as needed.

Grants Assistant

Research prospective foundation, corporate and government grant makers; collect data on board and supporter relationships with potential grant makers; assist with creation of development/public relations materials; assist with grant writing; assist with fundraising events.

Executive & Fundraising Assistant

Assist with general office management as assigned by Executive Director; organize records to track public speaking and public relations events for staff and volunteers; monitor and manage donor information; manage requests for ENS information; conduct audit of data; assist in preparing printed materials for distribution.

Volunteers Making a Difference . . .



**Wes Mellgren
and
Joyce
Schowalter**

**2004
Time & Talent
Recipients**

Wes Mellgren, accounting wizard, has been assisting us since late 2002 with monthly budgeting and cash flow and also with yearly audit preparations. In addition to being a truly kind and gentle person and a great guy to work with, Wes is an awesome spreadsheet creator who asks probing questions and provides very helpful analysis.

While most of his contributions are centered on things that only accountant-types can get very excited about, Wes has proven to be a big cost-saver for our organization with his excellent audit preparations, virtually eliminating the need for audit adjustments.

Wes is a trusted member of the finance committee and his excellent advice helps make the not-so-very-exciting, yet important, accounting information clear to all who need to understand it. Emma Norton Services is very lucky to benefit from Wes's many hours of volunteer help.

Joyce Schowalter contributed over 200 volunteer hours to Emma Norton Services in 2003. She served on the Board as well as on the Nominating Committee, the Development Committee, and the Executive Committee. Joyce also did some work for the Finance Committee and the Public Relations Committee. Joyce has very capably collected and reviewed current policies of Emma Norton Services for the various committees of the Board.

She also has been present at many of the functions of Emma Norton Residence and Emma's Place. Joyce's face is very familiar to the staff and supporters of both places. She is always ready to help whether that be serving dinner to residents, serving lunch to staff, playing games with children or filing information. We are grateful for her many hours of service and willingness to help in so many different ways!

Upcoming Events

Emma's Place National Night Out Party

August 3, 6-8 PM

Carnival & hot dog cookout
Fire Department & EMT's talk about safety

Emma's Place Back to School Party

August 26, 10 AM - 3 PM

Emma's Place families are invited for games & food.
Back-to-school back packs & supplies will be given out to all the children.

Walk for Justice - September 19

Join us to raise funds for Emma Norton Services.
Call Ellen at 651-251-2632 or register on the Walk for Justice web site: www.walkforjustice.org

Emma Norton Services Fundraiser The Old Log Theater - Sunday, October 24

Exclusive American Premier! A new British farce.

TOM, DICK & HARRY!

Don't wait—reserve now for an evening of hilarity!
Tickets - \$30 • Call Ellen at 651-251-2632
Curtain at 7:30 PM. Call Old Log Theater to make your own separate dinner plans (952-474-5951)

Bits & Pieces...

Anonymous Gifts - In 2005 we will begin publishing giving levels in our annual report. We want to respect your wishes if you want your gift to remain anonymous, so please let us know at the time of your donation.

Workplace Gifts to United Way - Thank you! Last year we mentioned that you could designate Emma Norton Services when you gave to United Way and donations have really increased! Please remember to designate Emma Norton Services when you give to the United Way through your workplace. Since we are not a United Way approved agency, you must actually write us in!

Fundraising Dinners - You don't have to live in the Twin Cities to attend an Emma Norton Services fundraising dinner or event. You can have your own! Are you in one of the four UMC outstate districts and looking for a unique way to contribute? Why not sponsor a small dinner party or fundraising event? We can even send you a "party pack" of materials all about Emma Norton Services! Call Ellen at 651-251-2632 for more information.

Dated Material

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