



Celebrating 100 Years of Emma Norton

1917 to 2017



Methodist Home for Girls Founded

Founded through a gift from Mrs. Emma Norton to the United Methodist Women (UMW), the home became a National Mission and provided safe and affordable housing for women coming from rural Minnesota to the Twin Cities for work or school.

1917

Emma Norton Residence Opens

In 1967, the organization relocated to its current location on Robert Street North in Saint Paul, with dormitory-style housing for 50 women in either double or single rooms.

1967



Program Changes Begin

In the 1970s to '80s, the Residence continued to support women in need, including deaf students and families with loved ones in long-term care at Regions Hospital.

1970s to '80s



Added the SOAR Program

We added the SOAR Program, which we provide to women in our housing as well as outside clients (including men) to facilitate greater self-sufficiency through additional income and support.

2015

Housing First and Harm Reduction

Emma Norton embraced the above evidenced-based practices—recognizing the critical importance of a stable place to live, eliminating restrictions on length of stay, and meeting clients where they are at on their own journey of recovery.

2014



Emma's Place Opened in Maplewood

A second location opened in Maplewood to provide affordable, supportive housing for single-parent families with three or more children who were homeless. Emma Norton Residence officially becomes Emma Norton Services.

2002

1990s

Homelessness on the Rise for Women

In the early 1990s, our focus changed to serving homeless women. Identified by Ramsey County originally as a shelter, we added case management services to specialize in women who experienced mental health or chemical dependency challenges.



2017

New Scattered-Site Housing Program

Launched this new program for women and families who feel ready to move to a higher level of independence in the community. This also helps open up space at one of our residences to meet the increasing need for affordable housing.



TODAY

Emma Norton Today

Emma Norton has grown from a safe place to sleep to a supportive sanctuary for healing and personal growth, with mental health services and supports integrated throughout all programs and activities.



BY 2025

Our Vision

Emma Norton Services will be operating at a scale that brings a full array of resources to the homeless women and families we serve. Housing and services will be exemplary, offered in partnership with key community institutions and will extend beyond our campuses.