

Update from Emmaus Homes (as of 9/22/20 so COVID facts could change):

Despite these enormous and unprecedented challenges, even a global pandemic could not stop Emmaus' mission of serving more than 250 adults with developmental disabilities in the St. Louis area. Because of the work of our heroes – our courageous and dedicated staff – we have remained singularly focused on protecting the health and safety of the clients we serve. Sadly, Emmaus has not been immune to COVID-19 and have experienced positive cases with both our team members and clients. Thankfully, today our clients are free from the virus and our team members are recovering and hope to return to work soon.

When COVID first impacted Emmaus, our team members quickly pivoted and developed a plan for office staff to work remotely. We also formed a COVID response team that met virtually every day to assess critical needs and communicate decisions to our more than 700 team members. For more than 4 months, we also asked our clients to shelter in place to ensure their continued safety.

Like many others, Emmaus found ourselves in need of critical supplies including personal protective equipment like masks, gowns, gloves, hand sanitizer and much more. When we asked for help, our loyal donors delivered. Many of you sewed masks and gowns for our team members. Others donated household supplies like antibacterial soap, disinfectant spray and yes, even toilet paper. We are grateful for the support from our donors who funded iPads that allow our clients to communicate with their loved ones. A community of volunteers helped us keep our clients entertained by 62 Facebook Live events that included art and cooking classes, live concerts, bingo and more. Our Pastoral Care team also provided Zoom worship services and Bible study classes. Although our offices and client homes currently remain closed to visitors, our hearts continue to be wide open for our community.

Videos:

These Emmaus videos might be of interest to conference attendees.

View the Emmaus worship service from Sept 20 to see how some of our clients worship these days:

https://youtu.be/dvD8yl-RR-A?list=PLrLnw3n_vyf7AYyzOLC9cu72sfSiocz1E

A 50 sec. *thank you* video showing some of the PPE being used at Emmaus and dropping in on our clients at home: <https://youtu.be/HsjeG4CfNIs>

Ways you or your churches can help:

- Begin a Neighbor to Neighbor relationship with a group of people we support. This is a long-term connection of friendship and support. Write letters, send small gifts to brighten someone's day, or have a video chat.
- Donate by check or online for purchase of critical supplies and PPE.
- Advocate for more funding for long-term-supports and service for people with developmental disabilities. This can be in your own state. A high tide raises all ships!
- To get involved with any of these opportunities, go to EmmausHomes.org/donate, email panhorstashley@emmaushomes.org, or find us at facebook.com/EmmausHomes