Celebrating 125 Years of Service
(1893 – 2018)

Emmaus Homes was founded in 1893 in Marthasville, Mo., when a group of pastors and lay people from the surrounding churches of the Evangelical Synod of the West decided to use their vacated seminary building to serve individuals with epilepsy and developmental disabilities. As a reflection of their Christian faith, the founders attempted to care for those in need, while recognizing each person’s worth and unique qualities.

In 1901, Emmaus expanded and opened a campus in St. Charles to meet the vast need for services to people with developmental disabilities closer to St. Louis.

In 1985, Emmaus opened its first group home in the community for six women. The home was to be in the parsonage of the St. Marcus UCC in St. Louis. This was the first-time Emmaus provided services to clients off either campus.

Over the years, Emmaus continued to open more homes in the community and began using the Individualized Supported Living (ISL) model for their community homes. The ISL model is a coordinated system of supports designed around the person rather than trying to fit the person into an existing facility. Additionally, Emmaus began transforming the way they provided service on their campuses. All homes now had kitchen facilities and staff and clients were encouraged to prepare their own meals. Additionally, Emmaus changed their recreation department and clients began attending activities and classes in the community.
In 2011, Emmaus began the process of transitioning clients off the St. Charles campus and into homes in the community of their choice. By 2014 the transition was completed and more than 70 clients were successfully transitioned into their new homes. The administrative offices were moved off campus and into a separate location/facility and the 90-acre campus was sold to Payne Family Homes. The money from the sale of the property provided an increase in our wage structure for our frontline staff who work with our clients daily, allowed them to pay the remaining balance on the new corporate office, and finally, added to investments.

In 2014, the Emmaus Board of Directors along with the State of Missouri, made the decision to transition clients off the Marthasville campus and into homes in the community of their choice. This decision was based on 3 tenets of our strategic plan; best practice, good stewardship and financial stability. This transition will be complete by 2020.

Today, Emmaus serves more than 275 adults with developmental disabilities in more than 80 homes throughout the St. Charles, St. Louis, Warren, Lincoln and Franklin counties. Emmaus works with each client to help them live as independently as possible.

For nearly 125 years, Emmaus has been providing high-quality services to adults with developmental disabilities. As we continue to expand our services into the community, our mission remains clear; to provide the highest quality services with a continued focus on our faith-based tradition. We are committed to preserving our mission for many generations to come.