



EMMAUS
INTERNATIONAL

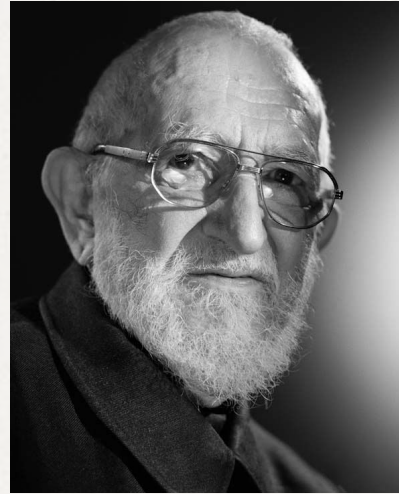
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Emmaus is an international solidarity movement founded in Paris in 1949 by a Catholic priest friar Abbé Pierre to combat poverty and homelessness.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Since 1971 regional and national initiatives have been grouped under a parent organization, Emmaus International, now run by Jean Rousseau, representing 350 groups in 37 countries, offering a range of charitable services.

Emmaus is a secular organisation, but communities around the world have kept the name because of its symbolism. The biblical story describes how two men saw the resurrected Jesus on the road to the town of Emmaus, and so regained hope. Emmaus is thus a symbol of hope for men living in poverty.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Emmaus fights all forms of precariousness and is actively engaged in favour of social justice. Emmaus works in the fields of social action, insertion and housing.



HISTORY AND FOUNDATION

During the Second World War, Abbé Pierre worked in the Resistance. After the war, he was MP and bought a big house near Paris to offer shelter to persons living in the streets.

One night, a man named Georges was brought to Abbé Pierre after a failed suicide attempt. Georges had been released after 20 years in prison and had nowhere to go.

He turned to the Abbé for help, but instead Abbé Pierre asked Georges to help him, building houses for the homeless mothers. Georges became the first Emmaus companion, living with Abbé Pierre and helping him to build temporary homes for those in need.

The first Emmaus community was thus born in 1949.

HISTORY AND FOUNDATION

In 1951, Abbé Pierre resigned from the government and devoted himself only to fighting homelessness and poverty. Until then, he had used his salary to provide housing for poor people. But after, he needed donations to further his actions and sometimes he had to “beg” to obtain some funds.



HISTORY AND FOUNDATION

In 1954, after a very cold winter and the death of many homeless people found completely frozen, he made a serious appeal on the radio and addressed himself to the nation:

"MY FRIENDS, COME HELP... EACH NIGHT, MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND ENDURE THE COLD, WITHOUT FOOD, WITHOUT BREAD, MORE THAN ONE ALMOST NAKED. TO FACE THIS HORROR, EMERGENCY LODGINGS ARE NOT ENOUGH... EVERYONE CAN HELP THOSE WHO ARE HOMELESS. WE NEED, TONIGHT, AND AT THE LATEST TOMORROW, FIVE THOUSAND BLANKETS, THREE HUNDRED BIG AMERICAN TENTS, AND TWO HUNDRED CATALYTIC STOVES.... THANKS TO YOU, NO MAN, NO CHILD, WILL SLEEP ON THE ASPHALT OR ON THE WATERFRONTS OF PARIS TONIGHT."

HISTORY AND FOUNDATION

The French people responded and Emmaus grew from a national charity into an international one. Emmaus Communities now began to appear across Europe, French West Africa, the Far East and South America.

Abbé Pierre became an international figure and travelled the world spreading the word about Emmaus, leading to new communities being set up on four continents. Abbé Pierre continued to campaign until his death.



CURRENT ACTIONS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL

- ▶ This organization basically maintains order in itself by recycling various things that people donate from furniture to clothes, electronic item to household goods at a small price in Emmaus Stores. Big sales are also held several times a year.
 - Emmaus relies on donations of good quality furniture, clothes, electrical items and household goods from the public, which are sold in Emmaus shops.
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRncdvHAgpg>

CURRENT ACTIONS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL

Besides, this organization helps people to find shelter, and have proper education in order to meet their life expectancy. Until today, according its data, more than 376.000 people had the opportunity to have education and shelter services.



CURRENT ACTIONS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL

- ▶ Donations of money can also be done to the foundation by its website.
- ▶ Taking donations of money, Emmaus International spends it according to its priority such as people who lack of water supply and educative initiatives.
- ▶ Also, people who donates money are able to track their donation in which area it is spent.

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MAKE A DONATION

Emmaus International, Abbé Pierre's sole legatee, mainly relies on contributions from its member organisations for its activities.

Donations are another vital source of support for Emmaus International's six priority areas in four regions of the world – **access to water for 70,000 people in Benin**, **mutual healthcare schemes** in Asia and Africa, **developing social finance**, **defending migrants' rights**, **education initiatives** in Latin America, **protecting victims of human trafficking** in Eastern Europe...

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CURRENT ACTIONS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL

- Emmaus supports people who have experienced homelessness and social exclusion by providing them with a home and a meaningful work in a social enterprise in an Emmaus community for as long as it is needed. They work in the shops, plants and fields of the community.
- Emmaus helps people to regain a sense of control and stability in their lives, gain dignity and to have respectful relationships again with others.
- Emmaus welcomes people from every origin and from every political thought.

SUCCESS STORIES

Kayla is a hard-working, motivated single mother who has been able to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency with a little help from Emmaus. Short term housing and classes have been key in helping her to achieve her goals. She chased her goals and had an education thanks to Emmaus. During her struggle, she dropped out of school and she broke up with her boyfriend. While Kayla is struggling with her life, she is introduced with Emmaus Family, and she has started taking GED classes at Emmaus Bethel Business Center right away. Today Kayla is enrolled in iHealth program at Northern Essex Community College.



SUCCESS STORIES

- ▶ Ivonne has worked hard to overcome adversity and make a successful life for herself and her young daughter. When she was a young teen, both of Ivonne's parents disappeared from her life. With nowhere else to turn, Ivonne sought help from Emmaus and was able to move into the family shelter in Haverhill. She got a job cleaning the school building every afternoon from 3:00-6:00 pm. Today the future looks bright for this mother/daughter team. They moved into their own apartment next door to the shelter and visit Emmaus staff often.



A COMPANION'S TESTIMONY

JONATHAN LOUBET :

My name is Jonathan L (Alias "John"). I've been a companion at Emmaus since 2011. I live and work in the community of Neuilly (France) and I try to help every person in need who knocks our door. Through the heritage of fraternity and solidarity Abbé Pierre left us, we do our best to welcome and integrate homeless and workless persons. I currently work at the book shop of Neuilly. Emmaus has given me hope and stability and has allowed me to have new relationships.

Thanks to Emmaus and a deep gratitude to Abbé Pierre.

STRUGGLES AND FAILURE

Emmaus International has been working for structural change in our society for decades now, in order to help in the fight "*until the cause of each ill is eliminated*" and defend the idea of which "*access to fundamental rights for all.*" However it faces some challenges such as;

- ▶ Lack of awareness: Raising awareness is a key element for an international NGO to build up its efforts to meet the expectations.
- ▶ Number of volunteers: Another key factor is that the number of volunteers to reach out the people who are in need of taking the action.



- ▶ **To summarize**, Emmaüs is an organization that provides shelter, food and work opportunities to people in need, while at the same time ensuring that donated products reach their new owners.



SIMILAR NGO'S

- ▶ Back on My Feet : an organization based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, overcoming homelessness though running.
- ▶ Carrfour Supportive Housing : established in 1993 to end homelessness in Miami, Florida.
- ▶ National Alliance to End Homelessness : a non-profit organization that promotes measures to end homelessness in US.

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