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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BONITA SPRINGS THRIFT STORE TO OFFER FOOD PANTRY AND DIRECT ASSISTANCE BEGINNING THIS THURSDAY

The Thrift Store in Bonita Springs, also known as St. Matthew's House of Treasures, will offer a Food Pantry and Direct Assistance program on Thursdays from 10am – 2pm, starting this Thursday, May 21st. Lee County residents in need may come to the store located just 2 ½ miles north of Terry Street on Old US41 in the Signal Center to receive a shopping bag of groceries containing enough food to feed a family of four for two days and also may qualify to receive vouchers for Thrift Store items like clothing and household goods. This effort is part of the outreach already in place for Collier County residents at St. Matthew's House in Naples.

Thrift Stores Manager Jamie Shedden says, "Our stores give away thousands of dollars in clothing and furniture every month, but when I learned that thousands of children in Lee County go to bed hungry on Friday night, I knew we had to do more."

Volunteers are urgently needed to help maintain, stock and distribute groceries at this new Food Pantry location. For more information about the latest St. Matthew's House outreach project and to schedule an onsite interview, please contact Julie Clay at 239-774-0500. Please contact Kerri Plogher at 239-298-5033 if interested in volunteering, and visit www.stmatthewshouse.org for any additional information about the mission of St. Matthew's House. The Thrift Store address is 25091 Bernwood Drive, Bonita Springs, FL.

About St. Matthew's House

The mission of St. Matthew's House (SMH) is to provide housing for the homeless, food for the needy, and an opportunity to change lives in a spiritual environment that is both compassionate and disciplined. A 501(c)(3) non-profit entity, SMH has been serving the homeless, hungry and hopeless since 1988. SMH is the only emergency housing and recovery program in Collier County, offering 174 beds for men, women, women with children, and families both in Naples and at Immokalee Friendship House. Serving meals at the Old Firehouse, SMH is the only feeding ministry in Naples, as well as operating three thrift stores, Wolfe Apartments transitional affordable housing, and direct assistance to individuals and families in need. St. Matthew's House now operates three food pantries as well, giving out over 3,000 bags of groceries annually.

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