



[St. Matthew's House](#)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BONITA SPRINGS FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
EMPTIES THE SHELVES**

Ever since St. Matthew's House Bonita Springs Thrift Store began operating a food pantry in late May, thankful Lee County residents (including many families with small children) have been coming in droves to pick up shopping bags packed full of nonperishable items. In just five weeks of operating just on Thursdays from 10am – 2pm, the food pantry has distributed 305 bags of food to those in need. This is an average of 61 bags per week, with a single day distribution record of 70 bags set on June 4th. This past week, the food pantry was forced to shut down early as shelves ran bare. Shelves will be restocked, and the food pantry will be operating once again this Thursday. The Food Pantry at St. Matthew's House is also running low and welcomes all nonperishable food donations. Needed the most are: mac 'n cheese, canned tuna and chicken, peanut butter & jelly, and powdered milk plus toiletry items like washcloths, disposable razors and bars of soap. For more information about the St. Matthew's House Bonita Springs Food Pantry program please contact Kerri Plogher at 239-298-5033, or go online to www.stmatthewshouse.org to see a complete list of needs.

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 both at St. Matthew's House and at the Bonita Springs Thrift Store.

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