



2001 Airport Rd. South
Naples, FL 34112
239-774-0500

Media Contact: Julie Clay Tel: 239 298-5026
E-mail: julie@stmatthewhouse.org
www.stmatthewshouse.org

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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. MATTHEW'S HOUSE BONITA SPRINGS THRIFT STORE HELPS FLOOD VICTIMS

The St. Matthew's House of Treasures Thrift Store in Bonita Springs is reaching out to the victims of Tropical Storm Fay by replacing household contents and belongings lost due to flooding in East Bonita Springs. The idea was first brought up by Tish Tucker and Janet Foster, who are residents of Hunters Ridge Golf and Country Club, where 15 of the victims are employees. The Club asked their members to help and they responded, gathering a substantial collection of donated clothing as well as \$16,000 which has been enough to cover security deposits on new rentals for all their employees affected by the flooding. Then three more Hunters Ridge residents, Edith Paetow, Jan Barmore and Jean Barkow, who are also St. Matthew's House volunteers, contacted the Thrift Store about Hunters Ridge donating some of the money to buy household goods and clothing for these employees, many of whom have families. Thrift Store manager Jamie Shedden responded by deciding to simply donate to the victims whatever was needed. Hunters Ridge Golf and Country Club Membership and Communications Director Chris Durfey said, "Thankfully, all of our employees affected by the flooding have been able to find a new place to live."

To date, The Thrift Store has helped 13 Hunters Ridge employees with over \$7,600 worth of merchandise, from couches, dinette sets, beds and clothing to pots, pans, lamps, dishes, silverware, and more; and expects to help them all rebuild their lives in their new homes. Please call The Thrift Store in Bonita Springs at 239-495-0159 for fast, free pickup if you would like to donate any household goods. You can also visit The Thrift Store online at stmatthewshouse.org/prog_thrift.html for a complete list of goods they accept.



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About St. Matthew's House

The mission of St. Matthew's House 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, St. Matthew's House (SMH) has been serving the homeless, hungry and hopeless since 1988. SMH is the only emergency housing and recovery program in Naples and along with Immokalee Friendship House, one of only two in all of Collier County. St. Matthew's House offers 164 beds for men, women, women with children, and families, as well as a structured substance-abuse recovery program, soup kitchen, transitional affordable apartment housing, and food and financial assistance to all qualifying individuals and families.

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