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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON HONORS THOSE WHO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY**

Volunteers are an integral part to the 20-year old mission of St. Matthew's House (SMH), selflessly giving of their time and energy in all areas of the organization. SMH honors these caring individuals annually at their Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, held this year on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> in the SMH dining hall. In a pleasant turnaround, SMH employees served their guests a delicious sitdown meal in a beautifully decorated environment while volunteers were treated to a powerpoint presentation of themselves in action throughout the last year. Several volunteers were recognized as top honorees for their commitment in various areas of SMH, including Carol Hollander in the resident Program dept., Shirley Antonneau at the Thrift Store, Bob Elliott in the SMH kitchen, Kathy Macumber in the Development dept., Terry Buck in the Feeding Ministry and Todd Melkowits for his help with administrative duties. St. Matthew's House appreciates and thanks all its volunteers for their hard work and time throughout the year. Anyone interested in volunteering at St. Matthew's House or any of its upcoming events like Taste of Collier or Golfathon can contact [Kerri Plogher](mailto:Kerri.Plogher@stmatthewshouse.org) at 239-298-5033 for more information.

#### **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 Naples and, since merging with Immokalee Friendship House, now the only shelter in all of Collier County, offering 170 beds for men, women, women with children, and families, as well as a structured substance-abuse recovery program, feeding ministry, three thrift stores, transitional affordable apartment housing, plus food and financial assistance to individuals and families living at or below the poverty line.

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