



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Paula Robertson
Paula Robertson & Associates
239-454-1454
Paula@prprUSA.com

**St. Matthew's House receives \$45,000 grant from the
Women's Foundation of Collier County to help homeless senior women**

Naples, FL – June 11, 2024 – St. Matthew's House is pleased to announce that it has received a \$45,000 grant from the Women's Foundation of Collier County (WFCC), a fund of the Collier Community Foundation. The grant funds will be used to support the growing number of senior women experiencing homelessness by providing them with shelter and wraparound support services.

St. Matthew's House operates the only homeless shelters in Collier County – the Campbell Lodge and Immokalee Friendship House – sheltering nearly 200 men, women and children every night. The not-for-profit organization has seen a rising number of seniors who are experiencing homelessness in recent years. Over the last 12 months, the St. Matthew's House shelter program has served 30 women, ages 65 and older.

St. Matthew's House helps those who come to them for assistance by providing for their basic needs and helping them to formulate a plan with strategies and resources needed to move from a position of crisis to one of stability. Case managers facilitate referrals and applications to affordable housing options in the community, including the Collier County Housing Authority, transitional and supportive housing programs in the area, and housing assistance through the Hunger and Homeless Coalition and NAMI.

(more)



ADD ONE

WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY GRANT

"St. Matthew's House is grateful to the Women's Foundation of Collier County and Collier Community Foundation for their generous support for our programs to help senior women placed at profound risk by homelessness," says St. Matthew's House CEO Steve Brooder. "The need for services for senior women experiencing homelessness has increased significantly with many experiencing first time homelessness. Rising inflation, shortage of low-income housing, and the financial and physical challenges of aging are just some of the factors creating new, life-impacting hardships for senior women in our community."

The Women's Foundation of Collier County awards annual grants through a competitive application and review process. Funding is made possible by donors who believe in the Women's Foundation and its ability to identify and grant to the most pressing needs of women and girls in Collier County.

--30--

PHOTO CAPTION:

St. Matthew's House CEO Steve Brooder (center) is presented with a check for \$45,000 from the Women's Foundation of Collier County to help the not-for-profit organization provide services and support to homeless senior women.

About the Women's Foundation of Collier County

The Women's Foundation of Collier County (WFCC), established in 1996, is a field-of-interest fund administered by the Collier Community Foundation. Its mission is to be a catalyst for change in the lives of women and girls in Collier County through grantmaking, advocacy, and education. WFCC has granted over \$900,000 to local women's programs and organizations. Learn more at wfccollier.org.

About St. Matthew's House

St. Matthew's House is a faith-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that, for 35 years, has provided innovative solutions to help those experiencing homelessness, hunger, substance abuse, and poverty in Southwest Florida. St. Matthew's House has developed a unique social enterprise model that helps cover administrative expenses so that donations go toward programs and services to help those in need to realize fuller and more

2601 AIRPORT ROAD SOUTH, NAPLES, FL 34112

PHONE (239) 774-0500 · WWW.STMATTHEWSHOUSE.ORG

Matthew 25:31-46



productive lives. The organization operates a Food Assistance Program; two homeless shelters; two temporary housing facilities; eight thrift stores; an award-winning commercial catering team, and LuLu's Kitchen, a full-service restaurant that is open to the public. For more information, visit online at www.stmatthewshouse.org, call 239-774-0500 or follow the organization's social media and YouTube pages.