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St. Matthew's House announces CEO transition
honoring Steve Brooder, welcoming Ben Bridges

Naples, FL — July 14, 2025 — St. Matthew's House, a leading faith-based nonprofit organization serving individuals experiencing hunger, homelessness, and addiction in Southwest Florida for over 37 years, announces the retirement of President and CEO Steve Brooder and the appointment of Ben Bridges as the organization's next chief executive officer.

"Steve's leadership has been nothing short of extraordinary," states Rick Fumo, chair of the board of directors. "Steve has served the mission for over a decade, leading St. Matthew's House through a period of remarkable growth and transformation. His vision and heart for the community leave a lasting legacy."

Incoming CEO Ben Bridges joined St. Matthew's House in 2023 as vice president of programs. "Ben has done an outstanding job leading our shelters, transitional housing, addiction recovery, outreach, jail ministry, and food assistance programs" Fumo adds. "We are confident in Ben's ability to make a seamless transition into leadership as St. Matthew's House continues to provide critical services in our Southwest Florida community"

Bridges brings two decades of nonprofit leadership, including a distinguished career with The Salvation Army, where he led the Naples location for five years while serving as its executive director. "I am honored to follow in Steve's footsteps and continue the mission of St. Matthew's House," says Bridges. "We face challenges in our community, but I believe we are uniquely positioned to meet them with compassion, innovation, and faith."

After years of succession planning, the leadership transition will take effect on October 1, 2025. However, Brooder will continue to serve in an advisory role through the end of this year.

About St. Matthew's House

St. Matthew's House is a faith-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that, for over 37 years, has provided innovative solutions to help those experiencing hunger, homelessness, and addiction in Southwest Florida. The work of St. Matthew's House includes the five pillars of food assistance, homeless shelters, addiction recovery, transitional housing and workforce development. St. Matthew's House has developed a unique social enterprise model as part of their job training and workforce development initiatives. For more information, visit online at www.stmatthewshouse.org, call 239-774-0500 or follow the organization's social media and YouTube pages.

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