Our Mission
To empower young adults who lack significant family support to transition successfully to adulthood.

Our Culture
Strength-based, Future-oriented, Relationship-focused, Youth-driven

Empowering Youth
Serving youth ages 16-21 who lack significant family support in their lives as they transition into adulthood. These youth frequently have not had the influence of a stable caring adult. Many are or have been part of the foster care system or have been involved in the juvenile justice system. The Matthews House provides the resources and support necessary to empower these youth to take control of their lives, shape positive futures for themselves and become successful contributors to their community.

Snapshot
Doors Opened: December 2005
Serving Youth and Families
Total Youth Served: 440
Total Families Served: 114
Youth Served in 2011: 140
Families Served in 2011: 43
Staff: 8 Full-time, 3 Part-time
Number of Active Volunteers: 295
Area Served: Larimer County, CO

Client Statistics
- Male: 34%
- Female: 66%
- Caucasian: 77%
- Hispanic: 14%
- African American: 7%
- Asian: 2%
- Fort Collins: 55%
- Loveland: 38%
- Surrounding Cities: 7%

Strengthening Families
Providing one-on-one facilitation to help at risk families build resiliency and navigate difficulties in the areas of parenting, money management, job readiness and healthy relationships. This short term service (typically 3 to 6 months) increases self-sufficiency of families, reduces the need for children to be removed to out-of-home placements such as foster care and breaks the very cycle that leads youth to need our youth transition services later in life.

2011 Youth Outcomes

Youth Ages 16-18:
- Gain and access support system: 85% 95%
- Obtain all vital documents: 90% 89%
- Be enrolled in age appropriate education program: 90% 89%
- Increase job readiness skills: 85% 89%
- Develop intrinsic motivation & positive mental health: 85% 91%
- Address health issues/enroll in public health insurance: 85% 90%
- Increase knowledge of independent living and social skills: 85% 95%
- Decrease risk taking behaviors: 85% 90%
- Remain in safe housing/living situation: 90% 92%

Youth Age 19+:
- Maintain healthy relationships/support system: 85% 92%
- Receive high school diploma or GED: 85% 79%
- Enroll in post secondary education/vocational program: 50% 46%
- Acquire job & maintain employment > 6 months: 85% 64%
- Participate in leadership/new behaviors training: 75% 66%
- Maintain private/public health insurance: 75% 79%
- Maintain positive physical, mental and social health: 75% 89%
- Have an absence of risk taking behaviors: 85% 91%
- Achieve basic standard of independent living: 50% 56%

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone...” - Mother Teresa
“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across waters to create many ripples.” Mother Teresa
“Have you ever wondered what it would be like to accomplish something so great that you couldn’t speak, your palms were clammy and your stomach was doing acrobatics? I remember the morning that all these feelings came rushing through me. It was May 1, 2010 and I was getting ready to walk across a stage in my cap and gown. I was graduating. The one thing I thought was impossible was actually happening.

My name is Terra and I am a former foster care youth. When I was in 6th grade and again when I was in 8th grade I turned my mom in for distribution of meth. The last time I was placed in foster care, I was 13. In five years I have been in 7 different homes and in 3 years I had been to 5 different schools. I was told by my family that I would never succeed in anything, that I would grow up to be just like my mom and my sister. I never realized that what they were saying was true. I was out partying with my friends all the time, ditching school and never doing what I was told. It’s surprising that I didn’t end up in jail or with a criminal record.

In December of 2009, I really started working closely with The Matthews House. My Transition Facilitator is Nicole and the biggest service that she helped me find was 2 Hearts Academy which is where I graduated. I was having such a hard time trying to figure out where I wanted to go to school and I knew I did not want to go to another public school. So Nicole and I started looking at other alternatives.

In January of 2010, I moved back in with foster parents that I had lived with before and told myself that the drinking and shenanigans had to stop and they did. Before I knew it I had stopped talking to everyone that I knew and was looking for friends that wouldn’t encourage me to go back to the lifestyle I was living.

The morning of my graduation all I could think about was what my uncle had said to me. “No matter what you do with your life, I will always expect you to screw it up.” Those words were glued in my head from the moment they came out of his mouth. But I stood up on stage and told my story of how I got to where I was. Tears were streaming down my face, butterflies were flying around in my stomach and the feeling of wanting to throw up was all so very overwhelming. I had gone through so much and had statistics and my own family going against me. But I saw the little bit of light in the dark and made it shine into something bigger and brighter than what it was.

Every staff member at The Matthews House is awesome. There is always someone to talk to whether your day is going horribly wrong or just want to have a good laugh. They have showed me that no matter how bad life can get there is always somewhere there for you.

I have gained more than just a graduation from The Matthews House. I am surrounded by people who care and support me. I have had many new opportunities from going to summer camp to volunteering. The one thing that The Matthews House has taught me is that I am a part of a bigger plan than just my own.”