Dear Friends and Supporters of The Matthews House,

The Matthews House was founded to help youth who have no support system find a way out of the ‘raging river.’ As we grew, we focused on moving upstream by working with families. That wasn’t enough; we wanted to prevent people from ‘falling into the river’ in the first place. The Matthews House meets people where they are and uses a holistic approach to address their needs. We help youth and families acknowledge the possibilities in front of them. This is why we have placed such importance on our Building Community program. The Building Community program is our prevention arm, and is voluntary and open for people who are seeking support.

This past year was another season of growth for The Matthews House. We launched our Caregiver Support Program, providing support to foster parents caring for children who experienced trauma. In our Parent Cafe program, we are pleased to see an increase in the number of parents attending. This program helped 62 parents build support systems and improve their parenting skills. Homework Helpers and Kids Cafe expanded to include more kids than ever before. Each program at The Matthews House is thriving. We now have 47 full-time employees, which is a testament to the impact we continue to have in Northern Colorado. The more hands, the further our reach.

We don’t plan on slowing down! Looking forward, we have identified significant needs in our community. We will continue to make innovative decisions to better the lives of the youth and families we serve. One example of this is our new Restaurant Ready program. We are one of five organizations in the nation selected by the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation to pilot this program. Starting in summer of 2017, Restaurant Ready will equip youth with the technical and soft skills needed to thrive in the restaurant industry. We hope this program will be a stepping stone towards offering other industry-specific training in the future.

Thank you for partnering with us as we combat poverty and abuse in Northern Colorado. We truly are Growing Stronger Together!

Sincerely,

Jerri Schmitz
Executive Director
The Matthews House Empowering Youth Program serves youth aged 14-21 who lack a significant support network. Often they have not had a stable, caring adult in their lives, and many have been in foster care or the juvenile justice system. As these youth transition to adulthood, The Matthews House works to give them the tools, skills and support they need to live independently.

In addition to one-on-one case management, The Matthews House offers Experiential Education opportunities for youth. Experiential Education helps youth connect with others, discover passions and grow their self-confidence through activities like backpacking trips, dance classes, music lessons and much more.

2016 Empowering Youth Clients:

- 93% avoided gang involvement
- 73% of clients enrolled in public school have attendance rates equal or greater than the district average
- 83% remain in safe living situations

What’s next in 2017?

We are planning on building the Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The YAB motivates youth to take action to change their environment and lives through servicing their community. In 2017 we want to increase the number of community service projects and give opportunities to develop public speaking skills.
The Matthews House is focused on Strengthening Families, making it so children can remain safely in their homes.

Family Coaching
We help at-risk families achieve stability by addressing issues in parenting, money management, job readiness and healthy relationships. We develop one-on-one relationships with families and teach the value of a reliable support system.

Family Advocate Program
We work with families involved with the Department of Human Services, empowering them to actively engage in their cases.

Caregiver Support Program
This program provides foster parents and caregivers the support they need to keep children in their homes. We help create a positive, healthy home so children who have experienced trauma can heal from past experiences.

2016 Strengthening Families Clients:

- 90% maintained a healthy support system
- 91% remained free of illegal substances/drugs
- 96% had no case re-involvement

“Without The Matthews House I would probably be living in a car, addicted to drugs, without my children or a future to look forward to. Instead we live as a family in a loving home and have an amazing future ahead of us. I am a survivor.”

- Parent participant
The Matthews House Community Life Centers (CLCs) are consolidated service centers that are open to the community at-large. They are preventative and are designed to support families and individuals before they fall into crisis.

**Education & Employment Services**
We offer high school equivalency courses, English as a second language, and many other employment preparation courses.

**Family Services**
We help families needing support in housing, education, basic needs, and general support.

**Recreation & Community Events**
We provide activities including: basketball, zumba, cross-fit, speed kickball, and community meals.

**What’s next in 2017?**

The National Restaurant Association Education Foundation selected The Matthews House to be 1 of 5 organizations in the nation to pilot Restaurant Ready. Restaurant Ready is a program designed to prepare youth to succeed in a restaurant environment. The program equips the students with technical and soft skills to ensure dependability and quality in the workplace. This program will be a win-win for our participants and local restaurants. We launch our pilot in July, 2017.

The playground installed at our CLC at Genesis Project was open for play in October of 2016! Thanks to Nordson Corporation Foundation for this incredible contribution.

**2016 Building Community Participants:**

- 1,463 average number of monthly visits in education and recreation services
- 434 Families Served
- 409 meals served at Thanksgiving community dinner
2016 Volunteer Engagement

Volunteer of the Year- Eric Wilder

Eric Wilder is a successful businessman and licensed pastor who dedicated a lot of his time to The Matthews House. He has faithfully participated in multiple Experiential Education groups and the mentoring program, even going so far as to design curriculum for activities. Eric led groups on independent living skills, and has always cared for the youth he served, being a consistent role-model in their lives.

HOST Home Program

Our HOST Home Program provides temporary housing to people 18+ years in a time of transition. Volunteers open their hearts and homes to individuals in need for 2-6 months as they work on finding permanent housing, completing school, finding a job, and much more. HOST Homes are a vital resource supporting individuals on their way to self-sufficiency.

HOST Home of the Year- Dan Boland

Dan has taken multiple young men into his home. He has provided a safe place for them during their life transition. He has been a wonderful role model and continued support even after youth completed the HOST Home Program.

“If it were not for [my HOST family], my life would still be full of problems. [They] show me how to dream big without an excuse, to have more than one option, and to be prepared for anything that comes.”

- HOST Home Participant
**Donors & Finances**

**Contributors ($1000+)**
- Arleen Brown
- Advanced Energy
- American Family Insurance
- Bags by CMG
- Bank of America
- Bob & Lucille Steiner
- Carmel Reformed Church Mission
- Curt Bear
- Dazbog Coffee
- First National Bank
- Greg Anderson
- Hebert Inc
- Jim & Sharon Butler
- Jerri & Matt Schmitz
- John Caesar - Country Financial
- Julie Walsh
- Lisa Lindgren
- Loretta Hogg
- Mill City Church
- Richardson Foundation
- Odell Brewing Company, Inc
- Orthopaedic & Spine Center of the Rockies
- Otis, Bedingfield & Peters, LLC
- Peter & Dee Cacka
- Rachel & Steve Olsen
- Randall & Meredith Hooker
- Realities for Children
- SAGE Benefit Advisors
- Sandy Briggs
- Staci & Dana Clark
- Steve Lauer
- University of Colorado Health
- Urban Mattress - KZH LLC
- Vickie Mitchell

**Grants and Foundations ($5000+)**
- Anschutz Family Foundation
- Bohemian Foundation
- City of Fort Collins
- City of Loveland
- Colorado Health Foundation
- Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
- El Pomar Foundation
- Nordson Corp Foundation
- State Farm
- The TJX Foundation
- United Way
- Woodward Charitable Trust
- Tony Grampsas Youth Services

**Major Community Partners**
- Food Bank for Larimer County
- Early Childhood Council of Larimer County
- Front Range Community College
- Homeless Gear
- Larimer County Dept. of Human Services
- Larimer County Workforce Center
- National Furniture Rents and Sells
- Poudre River Public Library District
- Poudre School District
- State of CO Juvenile Justice, Probation, SB94
- The Genesis Project

**Revenue and Expenses**
- **Total Revenue:** $2,662,293
- **Total Expenses:** $2,656,741
- **M&A and Fundraising Expense as a percent of total expenses:** 16%
Contact Us

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