



Matthew 25 Executive Summary

Executive Committee

President

Michael O'Neill

Vice President

Lisa Woodruff

Secretary

Steve Castle

Treasurer

Kristopher Miller

Board Members

Dick Fleming

Chad Jones

Hal Sauer

Jack Stringham

Past Presidents

Alex M. Kelso

Alan D. Mazer

Harold "Cotton" Clark

Fletch Coke

Ernest Moench, Jr.

Edward Graham, Jr.

William W. Earthman, Jr.

F. Bernard Evers, Jr.

Whit Clark

Frank H. Reeves

Donald F. Beisswenger

Hal Sauer

Steve Castle

Executive Director

Jim Ward

About Matthew 25

More than a shelter, Matthew 25 is a Nashville residential facility that provides Housing, Help and Hope to veterans and homeless men in need. Our service-intensive transitional housing program offers a safe, sober and supportive living environment for men wanting to turn their lives around. Specifically, we provide comprehensive supportive services that enable men to return to independent living and obtain employment.

Our Mission

We are determined to alleviate homelessness by providing the resources for men to build a foundation on which they can transition to self-sufficiency. We recognize that these men have a need for structure, accountability, and ultimately hope for a brighter future. Our goal is to provide men the chance to escape the vicious cycle that is homelessness, helping them to become fulfilled and productive members of society.

Our Inspiration and Vision

Matthew 25 draws deeply from the life and teachings of Christ. Our work and mission are founded on His lessons of love, compassion and hospitality. It is out of a conviction in these teachings that we seek to offer Christ-centered care to our brothers facing the despair and hardships of homelessness, addiction and poverty. We believe that all men deserve a chance to recapture fulfillment, happiness and independence. We see our facility as an all-encompassing oasis for men in need of a fresh start on life.

Why Matthew 25?

Many organizations in Nashville focus on homelessness, many of which we work directly with. Most concentrate on emergency shelter and/or rapid rehousing of individuals, which is a crucial temporary solution. However, these services are not designed to address root causes and provide the personalized support needed for long-term success. Our wraparound services can guide men, step by step, from the streets to a permanent and sustainable home, as we offer transitional housing, progressive housing and aftercare case management.

The Future of Matthew 25

The ongoing growth of Nashville, coupled with extreme housing costs, inflation, job insecurity, and mental health challenges, necessitates an expansion of our programs. Given these pressures, Nashville will require more beds in programs like ours for years to come. We aim to be a crucial part of addressing chronic homelessness in our community, providing men the resources needed to break the cycle, or better yet, avoid it altogether.

Our first step of growth takes shape in our new clinical treatment program. This will enhance our services by providing an in-house program for substance use and mental health. By implementing this program within our residential facility, we will provide better care and improve the accessibility of treatment, as we will hire a full-time, licensed clinician. To accommodate this expansion, we will also refurbish an existing facility room, including painting, flooring, and acquiring appropriate furniture and technology. Our goal is to have the new clinical treatment facility fully operational by March 2024.

Matthew 25: "...I was a stranger, and you took me in..."

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 158461
Nashville, TN 37215

Physical Address
625 Benton Avenue
Nashville, TN 37204

Contact Us
matthew25nashville.org
(615) 383-9577

Matthew 25 Programs

Transitional Housing:

Our service-intensive Transitional Housing Program offers men comprehensive supportive services that enable them to return to independent living and obtain employment. In addition to beds and meals, we bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing by providing case management, employment and housing placement assistance, substance abuse recovery support, as well as life and social skills development and training.

We operate with four key initiatives in mind for our men: Learn, Work, Save, and Progress. To be accepted into our program, men must be referred by a partner agency and show devotion to turning their lives around. Our men are assigned a case manager who will develop an individualized service plan, targeting goals that should be reached prior to and after leaving the program.

Progressive Housing:

Our Progressive Housing Program is designed for men who have completed a transitional program and want to continue building on their success. This is an ideal program for men who (1) are doing well in recovery but feel they can still benefit from a degree of structure and accountability, or (2) have a significant barrier to housing such as an eviction or felony and could benefit from case management to work through these issues. This setting offers a supportive community of peers where men are motivated and deliberately moving towards complete independence.

Our program features 17 one-bedroom efficiency apartments located on the third floor of our residential facility, just one floor above our transitional housing program. These apartments come fully furnished, and residents in the program share community bathrooms and a kitchen. Each man signs a one-year lease with the possibility of up to two six-month extensions. We believe this opportunity enables men to build stability and gradually take the reins of their lives, bolstering their confidence and self-worth.

Aftercare:

Our Aftercare Case Management Program is for veterans who were previously homeless and are transitioning into permanent housing from programs such as GPD or the VA's Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Contracted Residential Services Program. We also accept and assist veterans who are coming from non-VA transitional housing programs.

This program aims to improve retention of housing by providing veterans with individualized case management, providing knowledge, referrals and other components to help the veteran thrive once housing is secured. Men receive home visits at least once every month, as well as education in finance and budgeting, tenants right and lease agreements, and meal/food security planning.