

# **SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER**

#### To our friends and supporters:

With summer coming to an end, we hope you are doing well! As we continue to navigate the shifting obstacles that we all face together, we want to provide you with some organizational updates. We have overcome plenty of challenges as an organization over the past 18 months, largely due to the support of folks like you! And while things may feel unstable at times, our work and mission remain steady as always. We are confident in our ability to persevere and provide Christ-centered care to homeless veterans and men in need.

We are excited to announce that we have added a new member, **Lisa Woodruff**, to our Board of Directors! As a Vice President with Turner & Townsend, she oversees their Central USA business and their Retail sector globally. Lisa is a University of Illinois graduate and a licensed Architect. She will help to strengthen and diversify our leadership team with her knowledge, passion and skillset. We know that she will be a fantastic addition to our organization as we look towards the future.

As you may know, we have benefitted from a wonderful **partnership with Zeal Church** over the past year. Recently they helped to improve our facility by continuing with their painting project. On an august Saturday, over 20 members of their congregation pitched in to repaint the main hallways and lobby bathroom of Matthew 25. Additionally, they provided us with new furniture to place in our main lobby! Our facility has been in dire need of enhancements for many years, and their team has vastly improved the aesthetics of our facility in a short period of time. It's amazing how much a facelift can improve the mood of both staff and residents! We are so thankful for Zeal Church and their commitment to supporting our men.

Recently we were contacted by a local **Boy Scout, Nathan Gafney**, who is a junior at Pope John Paul II. Nathan was researching organizations for his Eagle Scout project and chose Matthew 25. The purpose of an Eagle Scout project is to plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or the community. Nathan plans to pressure wash the patio, clean and scrub all handrails, and then build Adirondack chairs, picnic tables, planter boxes and cornhole boards to place in the patio area. We know that Nathan's work will make our patio more enjoyable and functional for years to come, providing a space where our men can relax and socialize with others progressing through our housing programs. We are so thankful for Nathan who has been so proactive in supporting our work! We can't wait to provide an update in the fall of his progress.

Lastly, we have begun an extremely fruitful partnership with **Musically Fed**. They are a non-profit organization that works to mobilize the music industry in the fight against hunger. Musically Fed works with artists, promoters, management, and venues nationwide to donate unused, backstage meals to community organizations comprised of at least 50% veterans and who focus on feeding the homeless, hungry and food insecure. Their wonderful team has already seamlessly provided us with countless meals, from lasagna and cannoli to pork loin and pasta. **Please check out the back page for more details on all of our new projects and partnerships!** 

Sincerely,

**Jim Ward** *Executive Director* 

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"...I was a stranger, and you invited me in..." Matthew 25:35

## MATTHEW 25 HAPPENINGS



New lobby furniture courtesy of Zeal Church! "At Zeal, one of our values is 'Generosity is our privelege!' It is our honor to come alongside organizations like Matthew 25 who carry out the mission of Christ in our city!"

Lori Ost, Director of Outreach, Zeal Church

## NEW BOARD MEMBER



"I was motivated to join Matthew 25 because I believe in their work and mission."

### Lisa Woodruff

BOARD

MEMBERS



Shown above is Matthew 25 Executive Director, Jim Ward, showing off some delicious chicken wings provided by **Musically Fed**! Their team identifies the opportunities, procures the resources, and coordinates all aspects of food handling, transport, and distribution.



"I chose Matthew 25 for my Eagle Scout Project because both of my parents and grandfathers are veterans and I really wanted to do something to support veterans in need. Veterans have done so much for us and our country so I think it's important to give back to those in our community that have made sacrifices."

#### **Nathan Gafney**



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