



# **MATTHEW'S HOUSE MINISTRY**

A Shield and Sword Against Homelessness

# MATTHEW

## 9:10-12

*While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*

*On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."*



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Someone is counted homeless if he or she “lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence,” according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

In January 2018, 552,830 people were counted as homeless in the United States. Of those, 194,467 (35 percent) were “unsheltered” – or living on the street – and 358,363 (65 percent) were sheltered in temporary housing. The overall homeless population on a single night represents 0.2 percent of the U.S. population, or 17 people per 10,000 in the population.

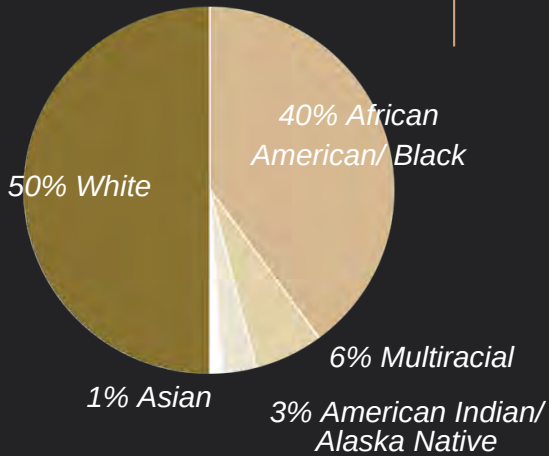
## THE PROBLEM

In Grand Rapids, Mel Trotter recorded 4,425 individuals seeking their shelters in 2020, with 8,495 homeless individuals across Kent County overall. 3,300 of the documented homeless are school aged kids in Ottawa and Kent County. By their estimates, there are 115 families on a waiting list to receive shelter and 200 youth aged 18-24 sleeping on the streets of Grand Rapids each night. This is in addition to a 40% increase of homeless single women driven by the COVID pandemic. According to Cheryl Schuch, executive director of Family Promise, the homeless epidemic has doubled since the COVID pandemic occurred.

# DEMOGRAPHICS



67% of homeless are individuals, while 33% are families



70%  
are men

30%  
are women

# OUR SOLUTION

Our Goal is to reduce homelessness in Grand Rapids by 35-50% over a five-year period.

Our Mission is to improve the lives of homeless families and individuals in the Grand Rapids area.

Our Vision is to build several Tiny Home Communities throughout Grand Rapids and Walker.



There is a 39% success rate in the cities that encompass Alameda County California: including Oakland, Sacramento, Berkeley, and Los Angeles. There is a 42% success rate in Seattle Washington compared to traditional shelters which only showed that 4% of sheltered residents found housing. The University of Berkeley released an evidence-based statement declaring that, "Tiny homes are changing people's lives for the better."

Statistics show that tiny home communities do not increase crime rates in the surrounding areas but can lower rates of crime city-wide (except for a Seattle tiny home village that allowed drug and alcohol use on the premises). In 5 of 11 villages surveyed, crime in a broad range of categories decreased in the surrounding neighborhood after they were established. In four cases, any change was small, within single digits.



# HOW IT WORKS



Clients are moved into an appropriate unit and pay between \$320 to \$520 dollars a month for rent, based on the number of family members. The client is provided a service plan that consists of direct and/or referral services to aid in learning social skills and hard skills: overcoming domestic violence, PTSD, anger issues, and drug and/or alcohol counseling.

The tenant in a **single-size tiny home** pays \$320. in rent, \$40 in electric and \$30 in heating and cooling cost. The annual cost for residency is estimated at approximately \$4,680.



The tenant in a **full-size tiny home** pays \$520. in rent, another estimated \$50. in electric per month with a cost of heating and cooling at approximately \$60. This average monthly cost equates to \$630. The tenant pays approximately \$7,560. annually for residency.

These figures clearly accommodate a family or individual who lives below the federal poverty level of 2021 which is \$26,500 annually as income.





A percentage of homes are allocated to various homeless subgroups i.e., low-income families, low-income individuals, families and individuals that have school aged children, veterans and military families, formerly incarcerated men and/or women, individuals that suffer from mental health issues, and seniors.

Some clients will fit into two or more of these categories.

# DONATIONS

Giving the gift of a home can be affordable to anyone with Matthew's House Ministry's "Tiny Homes Program." This program is not a handout, it's a way for a family or individual to become totally self-sufficient. Because of your good nature, children who live right outside your door, under bridges, or in a car, can finally be placed in a home where they can go to school, do their homework in their room and enjoy the holidays just like every other American Family

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE INFO





## CONGREGATIONS / SMALL BUSINESS

The sum of a Tiny Home is \$42,000 per completed unit. Matthew's House can arrange a partnership between a church and a business in order to split the cost of sponsoring a unit. Each congregation/group can sponsor a homeless family via sponsoring a tiny home. Donors receive quarterly updates on the progress of that family. There is no mandatory giving amount and any donation is welcomed.

## CORPORATIONS / FOUNDATIONS

Corporate entities and foundations are asked to pledge \$50-\$200 thousand dollars annually, over a four-year period for the development and continuing expansion of the Tiny Homes complex(s). Corporate giving can be enormously good for society & the corporation itself. Fiscal sponsorship aids in growing a business and its brand. Your business incurs a positive return that will benefit your company by giving your company:

- a tax deduction for your donation.
- It increases awareness and transforms your business into being a more attractive entity to do business with locally and globally.
- It signifies that your interests are in line with corporate social responsibility by the work your company is sponsoring in communities. That fact builds business relationships that are long lasting and loyal.
- It also makes your company relevant to the community it services.
- The diversity of the target demographic allows a corporation to support multiple groups, youth, families, veterans, and seniors.
- It identifies your company as a corporate leader amongst its competitors.



## THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The general public is encouraged to donate any amount they wish to contribute through our website, mailing a check or contributing cash.

## THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

The City of Grand Rapids and Walker are asked to donate land and forgo the cost of building permits. Utility Companies are asked for in kind services in undeveloped land areas by installing any plumbing, electric or gas lines / junction boxes / sewer and waste routes, etc.

The City of Grand Rapids and Utility Companies benefit via relocation of dozens of homeless people from prime real-estate locations in the downtown area, allowing for an increase in rental properties that have the potential to generate large sums of revenue for the city and supports an increase in utility usage in those newly utilized sites. These sites are both commercial and residential.

Businesses suffer from poor patronage due to a gathering of homeless individuals panhandling or intimidating potential customers. The presence of the homeless in these locations curb entrepreneurship in what should be a highly lucrative business corridor.

In addition to this benefit, moving people into homes where they must pay for utilities increases long term revenue for utility companies.



# ABOUT US

Matthew's House Ministry provides key resources on the Northwest Side of Grand Rapids. Our demographic of veterans, the elderly and the homeless receive multiple, essential services such as our food distribution mechanisms that include a monthly food box, a daily "Free market," and hot meals. Our food distribution programs positively impacts 214 families and individuals monthly and an estimated 2,568 annually.

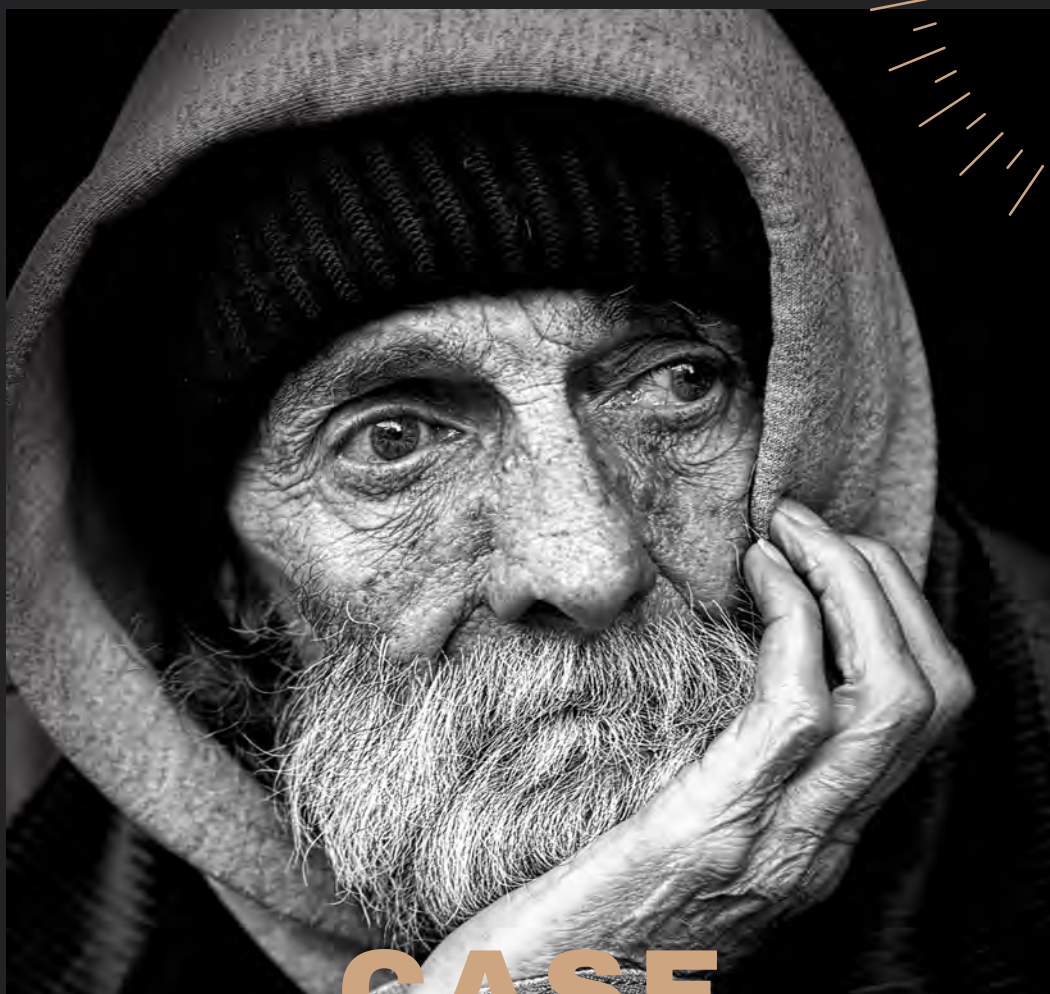
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Our transitional housing program currently aids 6 males and 6 females, in addition to two families, at multiple locations. Our program also houses four children which brings our total to 19 people that currently benefit from this program. Recently released felons on parole or probation, veterans and homeless individuals are our primary focus for this program. Our transitional house program has a 70% success rate. Our men's transitional house program was initiated 2012, our women's transitional house was launched in 2013 and our family transitional house was opened in 2019. We have provided housing for numerous individuals in that time period.

- Our largest serviced age groups are a tied between 20 to 30-year-old and 50 to 60-year-old single people, who live on the N.W. side of Grand Rapids. 44% of those individuals have a high school diploma or a GED. 33% identify themselves as having "No Education," meaning they have no higher than an 8th Grade education. 42.86% have high blood pressure, 19% have diabetes, 38.1% have other illnesses and 23.81% suffer from multiple illnesses.
- The income level of 80% of clients is less than \$20,000 per year. Roughly 10% of our clients have seven people in the household and 25% of the households have 4 people in the family unit.
- 90% of our clients are unemployed and 64% of them receive financial assistance.
- 80% of those individuals who receive financial assistance receive Social Security supplemental income and a food card, and the other 20% receive only a food card for monthly support.







# CASE STUDIES

Success stories from Matthews House Ministry





## **SHERRY W.**

Sherry W., a life-long Michigander, was battling alcoholism, was estranged from her 5 children and was facing homelessness. After enrollment in several mental health facilities and attending multiple alcoholics anonymous groups unsuccessfully, Sherry applied for and was accepted at Matthew's House Ministry's women transitional housing site called, "Lydia's House."

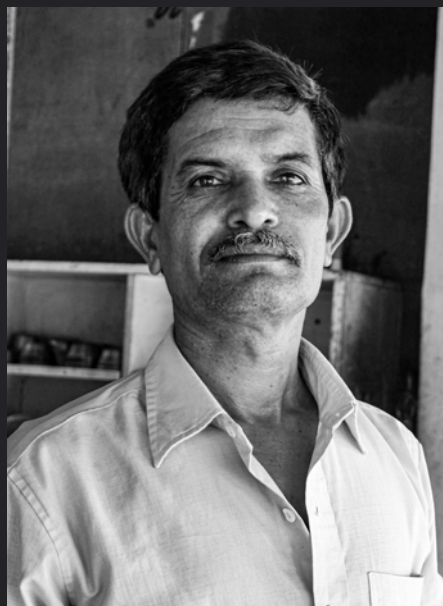
At Lydia's House, Sherry attends church services each Sunday and bible study on Wednesday nights. The ministry embraces her with the love of Christ and establishes a firm foundation for her to build on. Sherry maintains her sobriety; she acquires employment and reconciles with each of her children. Over time, Sherry's self-esteem increases, the struggle with her addiction has become much easier for her to overcome and she now works for the ministry that was instrumental in her recovery.



## **TROY K.**

Troy K. was a successful salesman, a consistory member at his church and a devoted family man. Troy's job required him to indulge prospective clients. This led to a pattern of "Wining and dining," customers on a nightly basis. This pattern devolved into Troy participating in excessive drinking, then drug use and soon after, infidelity. Troy subsequently lost his family, his home and eventually, his freedom.

Once he was released from jail, Troy made up his mind that he was through with drinking and drugs, but he had nothing and needed an opportunity. He heard about a Christ centered program and a clean and sober living environment called Matthew's House. Troy wanted to give it a try. Troy was welcomed into the transitional housing program. In no time he found a job laying concrete. Eventually, he saved about \$10,000 while in the program and found a small house for rent. He moved out on his own and continues to attend Richmond Reform Church as originally required by the program. Now Troy enjoys spending time with his two children and desires to give back to the community and the people that had faith in him.



### **LIFE A.**

Life A. was living in war torn Sudan attempting to avoiding the persecution that Christians were facing from the Muslim led government. One night Life decided this was the night he would escape to Egypt. He knew that if he were captured by a Sudanese patrol he would be executed immediately. As he made his way across the desert, he was stopped by an Islamic soldier and interrogated on the spot. He thought his life was over. He was amazed when the soldier allowed him to flee, continuing his journey to Egypt. Life again found himself captured by another patrol. He was relieved to find out that it was an Egyptian Patrolman, and he would be escorted to a refugee camp.

After living in Egypt for a few years, then moving to Israel and working as a truck driver, Life found himself facing deportation back to Sudan. He took a chance, a strong leap of faith, and traveled to America where he could have freedom to worship and live as he chose. He eventually settled at Matthew's House. At Matthew's House, he was able to grow spiritually. He gained a temporary work visa and employment. Eventually, Life saved enough money to move into his own apartment and became engaged to a woman, an evangelist, from his own country. Life now resides in Texas.

# THANK YOU

Your support is critical for making a change in the lives of  
homeless families and individuals.

# ACTS 16:13-15

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.