Dear Friends and Supporters of The Matthews House,

As we review all that has happened in 2018 at The Matthews House, my first thought is how so many volunteers, donors and business partners have joined in our mission. We certainly cannot do what we do without our dedicated supporters. This is the value of community!

From day one back in January of 2006, The Matthews House vision has been to come alongside anyone in our community to create space and opportunities to help them navigate through difficulties in their lives. Our first program, Empowering Youth, focused on the needs of underserved youth with little or no family support, especially those aging out of foster care.

Then, with our Strengthening Families program we have the privilege of helping parents build resiliency and navigate difficulties in the areas of parenting, money management, job readiness and healthy relationships. Unfortunately, in Fort Collins today, far too many children and families are vulnerable. They may not be involved in a system, but they do not have the opportunities many of us are able to enjoy.

So, in July of 2012 we opened our first Community Life Center, which serves as a consolidated location for vital services and specialized, enriching programs for families so that barriers are reduced and families can attain what they need to learn, improve and become stronger — and in turn, make our community stronger. As we experienced more and more people accessing our Community Life Center, we saw the need to provide these same services in another location. Our second Center opened in June of 2015. Our Community Life Centers are prevention at its best.

The Matthews House has had the amazing opportunity over the last thirteen years to annually enter into the lives of 283 youth and 327 families, and many more through our prevention program. Our vision has not changed. We continue to come alongside those in need, realizing the importance of prevention, and also being there as a safety net for those in the midst of crisis. Thanks to all our supporters for partnering with us in our mission. You have come alongside us, and our community is definitely Growing Stronger Together!

Sincerely,

Jenri 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 self-confidence through activities like backpacking trips, art groups, climbing, and much more.

[The Matthews House] helped me realize who I want to be.

-Youth Participant

- 83% identified at least 3 healthy, sustainable supports
- 68% enrolled in public school have attendance rates equal to or greater than the district average
- 98% remained in safe living situations
- 75% abstained from substance abuse
- 63% acquired a job within 6 months
- 89% increased knowledge of independent living and social skills

283 youth served
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.

**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.

"The Matthews House turned it around for me. It was so difficult [when I lost my daughter]. There were so many hoops to jump through. The Matthews House does a tremendous service. You guys are so important to the community."

- Parent Participant

327 families served

- 84% identified at least 3 healthy, sustainable supports
- 97% abstained from substance abuse
- 85% increased knowledge of independent living and social skills
- 70% acquired a job within 6 months
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.

**Family Services**
We help families needing support in housing, education, parenting and early childhood development, basic needs, and general assistance.

**Education & Career Development**
Through Front Range Community College we offer high school equivalency courses, English as a second language, and many other employment preparation courses.

**Parenting Support**
We help families needing support in housing, education, parenting and early childhood development, basic needs, and general assistance.

**Recreation & Community Events**
We provide activities including: basketball, Zumba, Latin dance, speed kickball, and community engagement activities.

"The Matthews House gave me hope again and [my Transition Facilitator] was a light in a dark tunnel. I honestly don’t think I would be where I am today without The Matthews House."

– Parent Participant

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**2,400 people served**

- **524** Families served
- **16** Parent Cafés including one for dads and Spanish speakers
- **44** Kids in Homework Helpers
- **636** Meals served at our two Thanksgiving dinners
- **14,960** Total visits for education and recreation programs
2018 was another year of impact at The Matthews House, advancing the mission of empowering youth and families. We touched the lives of 3,000+ people in our community by collaborating with school districts, government agencies, and many other nonprofits. We asked Mark Burke, one of our veteran Transition Facilitators to review The Matthews House’s work in 2018. “I work with at-risk youth and families to find what resources and supports they need to be successful.” As a Transition Facilitator he walks alongside people struggling with neglect and abuse, relationship issues, criminal involvement, substance abuse, foster care, and social and emotional needs. “The Matthews House really cares about the person and is willing to meet them wherever they are in their walk of life.”

In 2018, Mark saw amazing transformations, big and small. “One of my clients reunited with his mother after being removed from the home. They’re now maintaining a healthy relationship. Another one of my clients graduated from Restaurant Ready, which was a huge success. He has limitations that made his family doubt his ability to function as a ‘normal’ adult and hold a job. Now he’s participating in Restaurant Ready again, but as a junior assistant leading his peers. Restaurant Ready enabled him to earn a scholarship to further his education in culinary arts.”

Another success Mark witnessed involves a youth who participates in Experiential Education (EE) groups. “This particular youth is on the autism spectrum and when we first started working together he was so dysregulated he couldn’t be left unsupervised. Now he is attending without a problem. It seems like a small thing, but it is monumental for this kid!”

In 2018, EE empowered youth through Guy’s Group, Girl’s Group, Art, Life Skills, Open Gym, and a new addition, Dungeons and Dragons (D&D). Mark has been amazed at the success of D&D. He says, “D&D is awesome because to a kid it’s just a game, but staff are able to give real life lessons through interacting with each other.”
Last year, The Matthews House also hosted numerous events to help families build community and enjoy one another. Our first ever Community Baby Shower showered 30 new mamas with love, diapers, baby clothes, and other newborn necessities. Families enjoyed friendly competition at our summer kickball tournament, and both Community Life Centers hosted Thanksgiving dinners, serving 636 meals in total.

Many families who attend our community events are involved with the Building Community programs. These services continue to explode! In 2018 we had 5-7 different Parent Cafés each semester, including cafés specifically designed for dads, adoptive/foster parents, and parents of teens. We hosted English as a second language, through Front Range Community College, and high school equivalency classes, providing Children Activities for 317 kids, while their parents attended class. The programs at our Community Life Centers are filling the gap by providing supports and resources, setting families up for success. “All of my clients could have benefited from community supports before I started working with them,” Mark says, “It could have prevented system involvement.”

The Matthews House is empowering people to live self-sufficient lives. “The Matthews House really is a part of Northern Colorado, which has a certain attitude and joy for life. In general, as a community, we are full of love and support and this is exactly what The Matthews House is all about.” -Mark
Volunteer of the Year - Bonnie Haughey

Bonnie is a very special person who has changed the way our Experiential Education programming looks, as well as what youth experience when they drop by our Youth and Family Center. She fully adopted the title and responsibilities of “House Mom”. Walking into the Youth and Family Center on a given afternoon, a sparkling clean kitchen and an assortment of healthy snacks would greet you. If you don’t particularly like healthy snacks, or you’ve had a rough day, she’d wink and quietly point you to where the rice crispy treats were hidden. You’d be asked about your day, your hopes, your schooling. You’d be joked with and loved. Her honest, direct, and funny approach has lowered defenses and built comfort and rapport, and the genuine care shown makes all the difference to our clients and staff.

“I love to see young faces light up with possibility when given just a small amount of encouragement and support. At the same time, I get to learn about the strength of the heart when I spend time with my mentee. With more positivity, kindness, and love, we can help these young people reach for the stars and ignite change in this world!”

-Mentor and EE Group Volunteer
Major Supporters

**Contributors ($1000+)**

- Angela Mead
- Anonymous
- Arleen Brown
- Automation-X Corporation
- Ben and Lindsey Blonder
- Blue Bonnet Fund
- Bob and Lucille Steiner
- Cargill Incorporated
- Dan and Becky Arguello
- Dana and Staci Clark
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- Rose Brinks
- Ryan Ferguson
- Sandy Briggs
- Sertoma Club of Fort Collins
- Shirley Sikkin
- Steve Lauer

**Grants and Foundations ($5000+)**

- Anschutz Family Foundation
- Bohemian Foundation
- City of Fort Collins
- City of Loveland
- Colina Foundation
- Colorado Health Foundation
- Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
- First National Bank
- National Restaurant Education Foundation
- Nordson Foundation
- Raith Family Foundation
- Sam S Bloom Foundation
- Serimus Foundation
- Starbucks Foundation
- Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
- Tony Grampsas Youth Services
- United Way of Larimer County
- Woodward Charitable Trust

**Major Community Partners**

- Colorado Dept. of Human Services
- Early Childhood Council of Larimer County
- Food Bank for Larimer County
- Fort Collins Museum of Discovery
- Front Range Community College
- Homeward Alliance
- Larimer County Dept. of Human Services
- Larimer County Workforce Center
- Poudre River Public Library District
- Poudre School District
- Realities For Children
- State of CO Juvenile Justice, Probation, SB94
- The Genesis Project
- Thompson School District

![Chart showing income and expenses]

- **Total Income:** $2,374,353
- **Total Expenses:** $2,360,433
Contact Us

Mailing Address
415 Mason Ct. #1
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Administrative Offices
409 Mason Ct. Suite 123
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Youth and Family Center
415 Mason Ct. #1
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Community Life Center-
First Presbyterian Church
531 S. College Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Community Life Center-
Genesis Project
400 S. Link Ln.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

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