

# Connections



**Matthew 25:35** "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

## President's Corner

Welcome to the first Matthew 25 newsletter.

As the director of the ministry, it is a pleasure to work alongside with our many volunteers. Matthew 25 is composed of people who have a heart first for the Lord, and then second for the people we serve.

In future newsletters, I will be providing a glimpse of what is happening at the ministry from the Board level. The Board at Matthew 25 is hard at work from one month to the next preparing for the different outreach opportunities. Frequently, those who only serve at one location are amazed when another of our venues, locations is discussed. I hope this newsletter will help keep you informed of the efforts at Matthew 25.

Thank you again for serving.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Norman

John 14:6





## Featured Shelter

### West Valley Women's Crisis Shelter

In September 2018, Matthew 25 expanded outreach services to a West Valley women's crisis shelter. The shelter is a 72-bed, 24-hour emergency shelter for women and children in crisis. At any one time, there are 28 children at the shelter with half of children under the age of three. The women and children can remain at the shelter for up to 120 days. There are 20 beds reserved for transitional housing of up to 12 months. Women have access to counseling, childcare and other comprehensive services.

Our Matthew 25 team is led by Steve and Lisa Sluyk with support by Dave and Willie Pearson and Sylvia Adelman. Steve is a semi-retired endodontist who also volunteers doing dentistry at the Neighborhood Christian Clinic and teaches dentistry to residents at St. Vincent de Paul. Lisa volunteers at the Phoenix Children's Hospital. Both have been volunteering for years at church, school, sports teams and in the community. Serving at Matthew 25 has given Steve and Lisa the perfect opportunity to make a difference together.

Steve and Lisa have three married children and six grandchildren. Lisa likes to play tennis, read and entertain guests and family. Steve is an avid runner participating in international marathons, enjoys biking, hiking and recently has taken up golfing.



(Lisa and Steve Sluyk)



(Dave, Willie, Lisa, Sylvia, Steve)





## Monthly Outreach

### *Halle Women's Center*

Opened in June 2017, the Halle Center replaced the emergency housing on Watkins and 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. Some women from Watkins transitioned to Halle Center where they receive assistance in gaining skills, finding jobs and permanent housing. The shelter houses about 130 women at any one time.

Matthew 25 transitioned to the new location and began serving there in August 2017. Each month, we serve 75 to 80 women with meals, Bibles, reading glasses, toiletries, socks, underwear and seasonal necessities. We have prayer warriors who will pray with the ladies or take their prayer requests. Each month we need approximately 32 volunteers to serve at Halle Center. The most important attributes of our volunteers are warm smiles and flexibility. Volunteers are involved as greeters, food preps, servers, clean-up crew or helping at the toiletry table. The ladies at Halle Center are most appreciative of Matthew 25 volunteers.

### *UMOM New Day Centers*

A shelter providing emergency and extended housing to families, youth, and single women experiencing homelessness. Residents have resources to training, onsite childcare, and a computer lab to help them find a job.

Each month, Matthew 25 needs about 15 volunteers to serve approximately 140 women and families at this shelter. We gift Bibles and reading glasses to the residents. The children enjoy the games and crafts we provide each month.

### *East Valley Men's Center*

EVMC is a men's only transitional shelter. The men are helped in their efforts to find work and are given clothing and transportation (bicycles) to commute to their place of employment. A portion of their wages are retained by EVMC in order to help them set money aside for a deposit for an apartment.

Matthew 25 began serving at this housing in 2016 led by Ryan Babcock with about 10 volunteers. Bibles and reading glasses are given to the men each month.

### *MANA House*

Catholic Charities MANA (Marines, Army, Navy, Airforce) House is a temporary, transitional shelter for veterans. Their mission is to offer personal, individualized basic resources, community and advocacy for all veterans.

Matthew 25 began serving at MANA around 2008, being one of the first ministries to serve there. Each month we serve approximately 35 men. Ages have varied from the 20's to 80 years old. Jim Kelly leads a team of volunteers including Glenn and Debbie who have been dedicated and regularly serves at MANA.

### *Bridge to Hope*

A transformational housing ministry that offers housing to homeless single mothers and their children. B2H provides emergency services, crisis intervention, counseling, food, clothing and training in skills necessary for full-time employment and financial independence.

Matthew 25 started serving at B2H in 2000 led by Dennis and Eliza Schmidt, and recently by Keith Wollaver. We serve meals on the first Thursday of each month.

# Board of Directors

## President

Ralph E. Norman

## Vice-President

Dennis Schmidt

"My family started volunteering to feed the homeless in 1997. In 2000, we were invited to help at the Bridge to Hope. My wife, Eliza and I have been serving at the B2H until recently. I currently help with dinner at Halle Women's Center."

## Treasurer

Ryan Babcock

"I started serving with Matthew 25 in 2002 and joined the Board of Directors in 2005. I have a ministerial license, and on the Saturdays when we're not serving with Matthew 25, I am a part of a prison ministry team."

## Board Member

Jim Kelly

"I have been serving with Matthew 25 since 2004. I served alongside with Ryan at one of the previous shelters, Victory Place and joined the Board around 2005. I am a retired Phoenix Police officer and enjoy serving at my church as the lead in their security and safety team, shooting sporting clays and watching Major League Baseball."

## Board Member

Bob Wilson

"At the end of the evening, after all volunteers leave and head home, our hope is to leave the sweet savor/aroma of Jesus behind, 2 Corinthians 2:15, hoping thoughts of 'Why did those nice people, in their nice clothes, driving their nice cars come down here, serve us that nice hot meal, giving us those Bibles, reading glasses, toiletries, etc., why'd they do that?' My hope is that they can answer their own question with, 'Jesus.' That is the mission, the goal of Matthew 25, to share the love of Jesus."

## Board Member

Lisa Smith

"I started volunteering at Watkins in 2007. I loved meeting the women and found such joy giving out the toiletries and meeting some of those needs. I joined the Board in 2010 and have a permanent job as 'bargain shopper.' I organize and manage those supplies. I am a nurse and went on a medical mission trip to Lima Peru in 2010. I love what I do and am thankful that I can share my gifts with people in the community here in Phoenix. There are so many needs right in front of us. I love being with family and enjoy traveling."

## Board Member

Elizabeth Yanik

"I've always had a heart for the homeless and served at a homeless shelter in Chicago in 2005. I began serving at Matthew 25 in 2007 at Watkins and UMOM and joined the Board in 2009. Shortly afterwards I focused on UMOM and enjoy interacting with the families and children."

## Board Member

Leslie Powell

"My daughter and I started volunteering at one of the shelters in 2013 when my daughter was 12 years old. Matthew 25 gave us the opportunity to serve Christ together. In 2015, we became one of the two cooking teams as we continued to serve at the shelters. I joined the board in 2016 and have been overseeing the food management part of the ministry and stepping in where needed. I have been on a mission trip to Mexico with my daughter to build a home. I enjoy serving at my church and spending time with my family and doing all types of outdoor activities including camping."