

*"Where there is no vision; the people perish! They become a people without Hope, full of despair"
(proverbs 29:18)*

Matthew House was established in July 1992, by three African-American men who had a vision and compassion. They understood that rebuilding the community could only be done by salvaging its most important resources-people

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Partnerships Affiliations

Partnership to End Homelessness
Chicago Continuum of Care (HUD/Housing)
Chicago Housing & Health Partnership (CHIP)
"Getting House, Staying Healthy"

*I was a stranger and you took me in....
Matthew 25-31-41*



MATTHEW HOUSE
SUPPORTIVE
SERVICE CENTER
3722-28 South Indiana Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60653
Administration: (773) 536-6628
Program Service (773) 536-2528
FAX: (773) 536-3668
www.matthewhousechicago.org

"Hidden Jewel in Community" Award Winner
2002

Mission Statement

Matthew House is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit community based organization which Provides food, shelter, clothing, and supportive services to men, women, and children who are in need. We strive to promote the continuous building and strengthening of people and communities by enabling individuals to reclaim and maintain control over their lives.

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The Illinois Department of Human Services
The Chicago Department of Human Services
HUD/Continuum of Care
Black United Fund
Polk Bros. Foundation

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What is Matthew House?

Matthew House is a daytime Supportive Service Center serving the Douglass, Grand Boulevard, and Bronzeville neighborhoods on Chicago's South side. As a Supportive Service Center, we work with individuals who are homeless or on the brink of becoming homeless, as they work toward taking control of their lives. While we are located on the South side, we accept and serve clients, citywide.

Our first step is to address the trauma of being homeless (without food, shelter, or physical safety). This is done by our **Homeless Emergency Services** which provide two meals a day, shower facilities, clothes, and warm, safe place to be during the daytime hours. The second step is **Supportive Services**. We provide case managers who work with our guests to assist them with their housing, job assistance, health, and other social needs. We are currently working on the third step, the provision of **Job preparation/placement assistance and the development of the Herman Jenkins permanent housing residence**, two new initiatives which we are adding to our services.

Although some agencies only focus on providing meals, clothing, or a place to sleep overnight, Matthew House seeks to move clients beyond **survival** to **progress** and does so by assisting individuals with personal advisement through case managers. Our case managers link clients to services provided by Matthew House or one of its community partners who specialize in substance abuse, healthcare, job assistance, or housing.

While it is not always good to only give people fish, there are times when people need to come in from the coldness of life, to eat, fellowship, and regain their strength. Once rested and renews, they need to know that someone is there to accept, encourage, and assist them as they learn to fish again.

It takes patience, persistence and support. That is why 33% of our current staff have either been homeless, or are on the brink of becoming homeless. We strive not only to make a different, but to make a positive impact on each individual we are blessed to serve. We also seek to enrich the community in which we live and to influence the conscience of the nation in ways that will encourage individuals and institutions to fight against the social injustices which contribute to homelessness.

Matthew House Programs

HOMELESS EMERGENCY SERVICES

These Services are provided to individuals who are homeless or on the brink of becoming homeless. The services include:

Shower facilities

Two balanced meals

Laundry facilities

A warm, safe environment

Homeless letters

Group sessions

Health exams

Clothes

Mailing address

ID replacement

Case Management Services - Services are provided to individuals with a variety of social service needs. Case Managers help clients find affordable housing, obtain government benefits, and social services for which they qualify. Other services include: replacing lost identification, domestic violence counseling, general counseling, health services, HIV/AIDS testing, crisis intervention services, and transportation assistance. Limited rental/utilities assistance is available through the FEMA program which Matthew House administers for individuals facing emergency situations

Social Security Payee Program – Matthew House serves as the payee representative for social security recipients. We also assist these clients with substance abuse treatment, affordable housing referrals, and counseling services which they may need.

Computer Learning Center – Providing educational and computer literacy training to our guests is an important part of our supportive services. Clients have the opportunity to work with computers to learn basic literacy and computer skills. Software training includes Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and Desktop Publishing programs.

Substance Abuse – Substance Abuse is one the leading causes of homelessness. Matthew House provides treatment counseling and referrals to various off-site treatment facilities.

Family Reunification Services - Matthew House understands that counseling assistance may be needed for individuals who are attempting to reconnect with family members. Family reunification assistance is a service that is available through our Case Management Department.

Counseling Services – Matthew House Counseling services include, but are not limited to, counseling for various emotional concerns, domestic violence, and spiritual counseling.

Health Services - Matthew House provides on-site health services through collaborative efforts with Chicago Health Outreach and the Christian Community Health Center. Health professionals come to Matthew House and provide on-site health examinations, HIV/AIDS testing, and care for clients. These services are provided weekly.

Housing – The Herman Jenkins Residence building is being renovated to create a safe, affordable, and stable source of housing for persons moving from homelessness to apartment living. This residence provides increased privacy, while still providing the ongoing supportive services that clients need to successfully transition from homelessness to permanent housing.

JOB READINESS TRAINING AND PLACEMENT

Job Readiness Skills – Matthew House offers job preparation training to clients who are ready to enter the workforce. Training includes techniques in interviewing, resume preparation, job search skills, and tips on successful completion of employment applications.

Earnfare – Matthew House works with the Illinois Department of Human Services and employers to place earnfare participants into short-term jobs. Employers participating in the program receive workers for six months. During this time, IDHS pays their salary so there is no cost to the employer. These programs help clients ease into the workforce, while also giving employers a chance to train and evaluate clients for possible full-time or long-term employment.

Job Placement and Development – Our job developer works with companies to match clients skills with employer needs.

**TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CALL
(773) 536-6628**



BEFORE



AFTER