

MOVING



Forward

2022 - Volume 2

ORANGE COUNTY EDITION



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BY SPANCO SAFF

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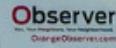


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STARTRANS

Christmas Carnival

December 17th, 11am-2pm

Matthew's Hope needs your help as we collect new unwrapped Toys and Gift Cards for this year's Community Carnival being held at Matthew's Hope Ministries in Winter Garden on Saturday, December 17th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will be helping provide Christmas for homeless and at-risk children. Can you help?



Matthew's Hope is excited to be bringing back this cherished community event again this year. When we pool resources together, not only do we save money, but we offer dignity to those less fortunate and help parents struggling to provide a meaningful Christmas to their children.

We are looking for community partners and individual supporters to help us make our annual Christmas Carnival with Santa a huge success!

Each community partner and supporter - it can be a local business, church, club, school, civic group or even a group of friends - will have a 10-foot by 10-foot booth consisting of a decorated pop-up tent or table with an old-time carnival game or activity geared to children 12 and younger with small prizes.

This event is geared towards the younger homeless and less-fortunate children in our community, but everyone is welcome to attend. While the children play games, they can window shop and visit with Santa while the

“elves” helps them prepare their Christmas Lists. Parents can then return a few days later and “shop” for their children at Santa’s Shop. “Our desire is to be able to build dignity for these parents by providing an opportunity for them to provide Christmas for their children themselves,” said Scott Billue, Matthew’s Hope Founder, President and CEO. “We will make everything available to them required to do that. All we need is your help to make it all happen.”

Assistance is also needed with providing food and music at our Christmas Carnival. To host a booth, help in some other way or donate toward the event, call (407) 905-9500 or email info@MatthewsHopeMinistries.org.





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Monday - Friday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Firm Foundation Preschool & Daycare

* DCF Lic. #C09OR1096

740 9th St,

Winter Garden, FL 34787

Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Outreach Center

611 Business Park Blvd, St. 101.

Winter Garden, FL 34787

Tuesdays & Thursday

7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Matthew's Hope Chest Store

1027 S Dillard St,

Winter Garden, FL 34787

Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Brevard Location

8825 Forrest Ave

Cocoa, FL 32922

Monday-Friday: 10 AM - 4 PM

FOUNDER'S FORUM

Pastor Scott

How many of you have encountered a homeless person in a parking lot?

Well on one sweltering summer day several years ago, I met a homeless man named Will that would forever be a life changing moment for me.

I was a man on a mission, in search of ice cream on a typical hot Florida summer day. So here I was, just pulled into a Publix grocery store parking lot with a hundred things on my mind, but the priority at that moment was getting some ice cream.

As I was walking into the store, I noticed this man who clearly appeared homeless. At first, I didn't think much of the man sitting outside the store. I went in bought the ice cream and quickly ran back out to my truck. But, when I got back out to my vehicle, God started to stir in my heart.

God kept nudging me to go back up to the man and ask him if he was hungry. After some internal debating, I finally got back out of my vehicle and went up to the homeless man and asked him how we was doing. As soon as the question came out of my mouth, I immediately thought how stupid it was to ask him that, given that he was clearly homeless.

I then asked him if he was hungry and that's when he informed me that he hadn't eaten anything in three days. So, I offered to go back into Publix and buy him a sandwich. I asked what kind of sandwich he would like, and he requested a simple ham and cheese sandwich. I wanted to get him a bag of chips and a drink too, he insisted that it was too much, but I kept persisting and finally got him to tell me he would like a bag of BBQ chips and a Pepsi to drink.

So, I ran back into the store, grabbed the sandwich, chips and drink, along with some other stuff I'd thought he would like. After checking out, I went back out and sat down with him and introduced myself as Pastor Scott. Which is when he then introduced himself as Will.

Talking to him, I was stunned and can still see in my mind his bright blue eyes against his dark sun-baked leather skin. After Will ate his sandwich, he looked at me and said, "I don't have anything to give to you." Which he dug around in his few belongings and tried to give me his alarm clock. I told him, he didn't need to give me anything and insisted he keep his alarm clock.

After some time, I got ready to leave and told him that I didn't know where he was going but prayed that God will go with you wherever you go. Will quickly responded back and told me that God is always with him. Will stood up and was towering over me with those piercing blue eyes and we embraced in a long and meaningful hug.

I remember going back to my truck with tears in my eyes, and a lump in my throat; wondering to myself when was the last time that this man had that kind of human contact, and asking myself... who ministered to who?

That simple yet meaningful hug was the beginning... That hug ignited the idea of Matthew's Hope Ministries those now many years ago and has led to what Matthew's Hope is today. With just over 40 staff members and over 600 volunteers, we have served thousands of homeless men, women, and children: doing so without receiving or taking any government funding.

As I see all the growth here at Matthew's Hope Ministries, I can't help but to reflect back to the beginning of it all. Who knew a simple embrace would lead to the impact of thousands of others in need. I haven't seen Will since that day, but my prayers are that he has received the help he's needed the same way we continue to help those we come into contact with every day.

Prayerfully In Christ,



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

HAROLD GATTEREAU

Marc Jablon

Matthew's Hope is proud to welcome Harold Gattereau as its newest Board Member. Before purchasing and opening the Orlando territory for the California based franchise Vitality Bowls in 2018, Harold served in the role of Vice President of Sales for Consortia Health Clinical Continence Services. Harold managed the sales and marketing teams providing leadership and coordination of company sales and field marketing functions to deliver continued profitable growth.

Under Harold's leadership, Vitality Bowls Orlando has been supporting Matthew's Hope for years. During the pandemic, Vitality Bowls wanted to make sure Matthew's Hope volunteers and staff had healthy meals and smoothies. Together with his wife Jackie, Harold put together a program to deliver smoothies to local first responders and healthcare professionals. Fellow Board member Dennis Fisher sponsored one of the many smoothie deliveries to Matthew's Hope.

"We are so proud to have Harold on our team. His love and support for our community will continue to make Harold a real asset to Matthew's Hope" Stated Scott Billue.

During his 16 year career at Teva Pharmaceuticals Women's Health Division, Harold served in many different sales leadership roles. As a member of the leadership development program, Harold mentored managers, served as a member on the Coaching Effectiveness Core Team, and was awarded multiple President's Club wins for himself and his sales team. By fostering a culture of accountability and respect, he has proven and sustained success in achieving business goals.

In addition to managing two local Vitality Bowls locations in Dr. Phillips and Ocoee, Harold currently serves as an Ambassador and Board Member for the West Orange Chamber of Commerce. Harold is an active member of Kingdom Culture Church in Winter Garden serving on the Men's Leadership team.



"I am honored to join the Matthew's Hope Board. I would like to thank my wife Jackie, and our two boys, Harold Hayden and Xavier for being my inspiration" stated Harold Gattereau.

About Vitality Bowls:

Vitality Bowls was created out of a strong commitment to bring health and wellness to every community across the country through fresh, high-quality superfoods. This philosophy has guided everything we do, and we hope to instill the same health-minded values to your community.



TEACHING AND ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY

Meagan Galamback, Preschool Director

Poverty is defined as a situation where a family doesn't have access to provide for their basic needs. The Florida minimum wage is currently \$11 per hour. This leads to multiple problems, but with inflation the way it is, millions of families are struggling to provide for their children.

Research over the past 40 to 50 years is that quality early childhood education, especially targeted in populations where there are high levels of poverty, can be part of the solution.

There is nothing better than consistency, especially if a child has not had that kind of stability at home. This doesn't mean that our classrooms lower our expectations for behavior or even achievement. However, at Firm Foundation Preschool, we do go out of our way to make our learning environment loving and a calm place to be.

Our classrooms bring multiple resources into the classroom that include no specific race, inclusion of children with different abilities and languages. We want every child to be represented.

We want to help children take pride in what their parents do and know that everyone in society can contribute in their own way. There is joy and beauty of seeing how much we rely on the many different types of occupations our families have. There are certain jobs that we take for granted that we just could not live without. It is important to model that kind of equity in the classroom by celebrating the many different jobs that our families have to provide for their family.

Be Mindful of Stereotyping Low-Income Families

We refrain from using the word "poor" in front of "people". We are all people first and poverty and being low-income is a situation. It is not a description of an entire group of people. One of the biggest stereotypes of low-income families is that these parents and families lack parenting skills. It is important that our teachers find

special ways to connect and communicate with our families. It is important that we evaluate the families funds. These funds consist of a families' unique strengths and hidden resources like family traditions, household talents, chores, and home language. The family tradition may be that they have game night regularly, or that they love to cook together and have a great sense of humor and can laugh together.

When we hear someone complain about another parents lack of skill, think to yourself, what strengths can I focus on so that I can better connect with this family and learn more about them to better help them.

Be An Advocate for Children

Matthew's Hope Ministries prayerfully de-



cided to make a second location for our Firm Foundation Preschool as part of our ministry in our newest Brevard location. We want to continue to work alongside our community families and our Matthew's Hope guests in creating a loving, Christ Centered/Montessori-based early learning environment.

Our teachers understand the importance of their role in these children's lives and we want to take it a step further and also be advocates for children and families.



There is so much research on how beneficial early childhood programs are. They help reduce poverty, incarceration, and special education services. Research shows that 81% of children who attend at least 2 years of preschool will not end up homeless.

We are so incredibly grateful and blessed to be able to continue the outstanding services that Matthew's Hope Ministries provides, including our Firm Foundation Preschool. We are committed to providing early childhood educators who share in a passion and commitment to working with children in a way that helps our children achieve their God-given potential.

I would like to end this with a quote by the great Fed Rogers. In 2003 he said, "When I was very young, most of my childhood heroes wore capes, flew through the air or picked up buildings with one arm. They were spectacular and got a lot of attention. But as I grew, my heroes changed, so that now I can honestly say that anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me." All of you who are out there helping

children every day, you are my heroes as you make your classrooms safe, loving, and help children build those connections to their brains.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this article and learn more about how we are supporting and helping families from all walks of life. May God continue to bless our entire Matthew's Hope Ministries.

Our preschool is open to our community, not just guests of Matthew's Hope. If you are interested in learning more about our preschool program, please feel free to contact me by email at Meagan@Matthews-HopeMinistries.org

Reference

Economic Mobility Project, 2019.

Cooper, K & Stewart, K. (2017). Does money affect children's outcomes? An update. London, U.K.: Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion London School of Economics.



THE CHALLENGES

HIDING IN

PLAIN SIGHT

Bobby McCulley

Beneath the shiny façade of office buildings and the booming residential construction that's occurring throughout Central Florida, there's a sub-community often overlooked and underrepresented. Since the beginnings of the Covid-19 pandemic, throughout Orange and Brevard Counties, the numbers of our neighbors that are experiencing the pains and difficulties of the unsheltered crisis has skyrocketed. Adding the rise of inflation, here at Matthew's Hope we continue to see the damaging impact that the dramatic costs of goods and services have on not only our guests, but on our outreach efforts as well.

When you think about those experiencing homelessness, you will often gravitate towards the difficulties in finding affordable housing for those who are unsheltered. But that is only part of the daily struggle for our guests here at Matthew's Hope. Many in our communities that find themselves unhoused are also facing a wide variety of other circumstances and challenges. Those difficulties range from addiction, mental health issues, physical trauma, psychological abuse, to simply losing their employment and unable to continue to pay their rent and mortgages.

Matthew's Hope has long believed in helping our guests help themselves by giving them the tools and resources to not only survive, but to rise out of homelessness and to get back onto their feet again. That's why it is so important to help our guests on their journeys to self-sustainability, by helping them to hide in plain sight.

Some may ask, "What does it mean to hide



in plain sight and how does Matthew's Hope help their guests achieve this?" The answers to those questions are complex but very important.

With commercial growth and residential development of what used to be less populated and underdeveloped areas throughout Winter Garden, Apopka, Pine Hills, Cocoa and other neighborhoods in West Orange and Brevard counties; those who are experiencing homelessness struggle to have a safe place to live and survive. That's why it's so important to Matthew's Hope that we provide tools and resources that helps our guests to be able to blend in and have a chance to better themselves without being strapped with the title, "homeless".

One of the ways that we continue to help our guests in their efforts to hide in plain sight is by ensuring that they don't appear "homeless". During our outreach service days, in addition to feeding our guests; we provide all our guests with access to showers, clean clothing and provide laundry services to ensure they have clean clothes throughout the week. We provide hygiene and wellness supplies that helps our guest in between our outreach services.

This is one of the struggles our guest face when trying to secure employment, is the lack of access to clean clothes, proper hygiene and showers. Which is why we strive to provide these services to all our guests here at Matthew's Hope.

Additionally, thanks to volunteers, we can provide our guests with access to barbers, stylists, nail technicians, and estheticians. The challenges of hiding in plain sight are difficult, but necessary for our guests to not only survive but to have a chance to rise out of homelessness.

As we continue to serve the growing number of guests, the needs here at Matthew's Hope also continues to rise. We continue to have needs for volunteer barbers and

stylist to provide haircuts for our guests.

As well as volunteers to serve during our outreach service days at our Winter Garden campus in Orange County, as well as our new Cocoa campus in Brevard County. If you have skills and availability to volunteer, we would love to speak to you about ways to help our guests here at Matthew's Hope.



PLANNED GIVING

Jennifer Englert

Planned giving is an amazing way to help Matthew's Hope and refers to the process of donors committing to a gift to the charity as part of their estate plan. While there are a few different ways to give via planned giving, bequests are by far the most popular and easy type of planned gift. Bequests are gifts that are left in a donor's trust, will, or estate plan, and given to a nonprofit upon the donor passing away.

Planned giving can have a major impact on how an organization like Matthew's Hope is able to plan for its future and sustain itself in the long run. This is also an excellent way for people to create a legacy and help others no matter what their resources are now.

Because planned gifts do not impact everyday cash flow, these types of gifts are accessible to everyone — from those whose incomes rarely permit them to give to major, loyal donors.

Contributions in estate planning can be a game changer to Matthew's Hope and its mission but they help the person donating also in a few ways.

First, these gifts help the donor leave a legacy. Making a bequest in a will is a powerful way to leave a lasting impact that supporting a favorite organization for years to come. Donors can allocate how or where they want that money to be spent. Because wills are fairly easy to update, donors can also keep their bequests up to date, checking in with Matthew's Hope personnel on where their donations will make the most impact. A donor can decide he or she

wants part of the gift to go to Matthew's Hope's housing, medical clinic, preschool or any combination of the services it provides. Contributions can also just go to the organization in general to use as it thinks best.

Further, depending on the type of planned gift a donor makes, there can be some tax benefits. Bequests can also reduce federal estate taxes for heirs. Some other planned gift types, such as charitable remainder trusts, are granted a tax-exempt status by the IRS.

Planned gifts can come in a variety of forms from simple bequests to complex trusts — all with different requirements and advantages depending on a donor's circumstances. There are a few common ways to give with the first being bequests which are a popular and fairly uncomplicated way to make a planned gift. These 'outright' gifts are charitable contributions left as a bequest in a legal will. They are usually given as a specific amount, a remainder of a donor's estate after other bequests have been paid, or a percentage of a donor's total wealth.

If the donor has investments he or she can use a charitable gift annuity which allows a donor to give a large amount of cash or securities in exchange for a fixed income payment for life. The nonprofit keeps any leftover funds as well as any income it makes from investing those funds.

There are also a couple types of charitable trusts, but in each, the remaining funds go to the nonprofit after the trust is ter-





minated. A charitable remainder annuity trust pays the donor a fixed amount based on a percentage of the initial assets used to fund the trust. A charitable remainder unitrust pays the donor a percentage of its principal and is revalued annually, so that payments increase over time. There are also charitable lead trusts which pay an 'income' to the nonprofit for a specified number of years or for the donor's lifetime. When that term is up, the assets are given back to the donor or their beneficiaries.

Other gift types are non-cash assets, such as stock or real estate, giving from IRAs (also known as Qualified Charitable Distributions), and Pooled Income Funds. Almost any asset can be left to the charity to sell or use as it sees fit. With the expansion of Matthew's Hope to Brevard County its needs are even greater and there are even more options for what they can utilize.

So, as you can see there are many ways to give to Matthew's Hope either while you are alive through trusts and investments or after you pass through gifts in your will or your trust. If giving a gift to help your legacy carry on through helping others is something that excites you, it is not difficult to begin. If you first want to talk to the people who are executing the mission of Matthew's Hope each day to see how your gift can best help, you can speak to Pastor Scott Billue.

After deciding exactly how you want to help Matthew's Hope, it is time to get assistance from the professionals on your team. If you have investments and may

want some of them or their proceeds to go to Matthew's Hope, you should consult your financial advisor. Your accountant can also help guide you on how to reduce the taxes you or your heirs must pay by using charitable gifts.

Finally, if you have a will or even if you do not, an estate planning attorney can help you add a gift to Matthew's Hope in your will or trust. If you do not have any estate planning documents, giving a gift to help the guests of Matthew's Hope is a great reason to start one. Having a will is especially important and it is easy to change as needed.

Jennifer Englert is the founder of The Orlando Law Group, a full-service law firm with offices throughout Orlando including one in Winter Garden near Matthew's Hope. She is also a Matthew's Hope Board Member who truly believes in its



THE IMPACTS OF INFLATION

Bobby McCulley



While everyone is feeling the financial pains of inflation, the recent increase in the cost of food is especially hurting those who already are dealing with food insecurities, while also driving up the costs of helping those in need.

Here at Matthew's Hope Ministries, we see hundreds of guests each week in our food pantries shopping for much needed food and supplies to survive. As inflation continues to rise, so does the number of guests who are seeking food as inflation skyrockets across Central Florida and throughout the country. As the numbers of those needing assistance with food continue to rise, so does the financial burden for Matthew's Hope Ministries to be able to provide for those most vulnerable in our communities.

Since the steady rise of inflation, Matthew's Hope has been adding roughly 35 new guests a week and is now feeding over 425 people every

week through our Food Pantry outreach. On top of the rise in the number of guests we are seeing, our food costs have also increased by over 35 percent in the last six months. Plus, our donations in food and supplies have steadily declined over the same period.

As the demands for services continue to grow, the expenditures also grow with the rising need for help. Thus far, Matthew's Hope has spent over \$760,000 on food, hygiene items, medical supplies, and clothing; all of which goes toward helping more than 1,500 guests a month.

As supplies continue to run low, the shelves grow bare and more often there isn't anything left to fill those empty shelves in the Food Pantry. As Scott Billue, President and CEO of Matthew's Hope Ministries has stated, "Because this is not just an empty shelf to me. The next time people walk in here, this was groceries they're not going to have now." Which is becoming more often a reality for our guests coming to Matthew's Hope for help.

Which is why it's so important to Matthew's Hope that we continue to spread the word of the dire need for donations of supplies and food so that we may continue to support the needs of our guests. Items that we need the most is single served food items, such as Vienna sausage, SPAM, canned vegetables, raviolis, Ramen noodles, soups, fruit cups, etc.

In addition to food donations, Matthew's Hope Ministries is also in need of travel size hygiene and wellness supplies for men and women. Some items that are currently a critical need is body wash, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs and brushes, wet wipes, deodorant, and Neosporin. Gently used clothing, socks, undergarments, and shoes of all sizes are also in desperate need.

For in-kind donations, financial contributions and/or to volunteer; please contact Matthew's Hope Ministries at (407) 905-9500, visit us onsite at our Orange County campus located at 611 Business Park Blvd #101 Winter Garden, FL 34787 or our Brevard County campus at 825 Forrest Ave Cocoa, FL 32922. For more information about Matthew's Hope Ministries, visit us online at matthewshopeministries.org.

TESTIMONIAL

MEET BARB

Bobby McCulley

I came to Matthew's Hope for transitional housing after spending 6 weeks in a shelter for women victims of domestic violence. My two young daughters and I had to leave home due to the situation. Since we didn't have family in this country and only a few friends that live in Massachusetts, we had nowhere to go.

Finally, after three weeks of searching and making calls to other places that offer transitional housing, I found information about Matthew's Hope. There were only a few days before we had to leave the shelter. I know that God heard my prayers, because at that point I was already desperate and having trouble finding a place that would help me. To my surprise, the person who answered my call at Matthew's Hope that day was very kind, she was interested in my situation and she explained a little about the services they offered. In the following week I had my interview with one of the advocates and was placed in the program.

I have been in the Matthew's Hope program for eleven months. Thanks to this program my daughters and I are living in the transitional house where we feel safe. My youngest daughter had the opportunity to attend Matthew's Hope daycare, Firm Foundation, while I worked for points at Matthew's Hope. With the points I accumulated in the program, I had the opportunity to get a car. I can now transport myself along with my daughters. I started out walking and then bicycling with a trailer stroller. The best news that Matthew's Hope gave me was the news of me having my own car. I am currently getting help processing my citizenship.

My daughters and I are very grateful to Matthew's Hope for all of the effort and dedication that they put into helping those that are homeless. It is also a satisfaction to be able to contribute with my work to serve other people in need.





THROUGH MY EYES

Shelley Bradford

There was a place I went to as a child for camp, Mt. Lebanon in Cedar Hill, TX. Mt Lebanon is 520 wooded, hilly acres. The very first sign you would see approaching the camp is “Where people meet Jesus”. This was the place where I can say so much of my spiritual molding and growth happened. I felt a calling into the ministry on these grounds. To me that place was “Holy Ground”, still is.

When I first walked onto the campus of First United Methodist Church of Cocoa in Brevard, the very first thing I saw was the sanctuary with the stained glass, it was magnificent. This was the moment; I had the same overwhelming feelings and emotions I hadn't had in 30+ years. I knew this was also “Holy Ground” and if it were God's will, this had to be the next location for Matthews Hope.

I was told this church property had been on the market for 2.5 years. Many people that looked at the property wanted to tear down the church wanting to build anything from an RV park to a shopping mall. I am so glad the church refused to sell to them. The history of this place had to be preserved. One thing I am so glad of, is that we are making sure we honor this history of these grounds as we move forward.

I went home and told Darren about this property we went to see. I think he was a little surprised by my excitement. He knew if this happened it was going to require a lot more of my time. He would have to bear more of the burden at home and he was willing to support me in this season. I have a good husband if I do say so myself. I started praying for this new season and growth. I knew if it were up to me (which it wasn't) for us to expand to Brevard County, I was “all in”.

Matthew's Hope was already serving the home-

less men, women, and children of Orange County, why not in Brevard? We had already been fostering the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the homeless men, women, and children of our community by meeting basic needs and developing skills for people to move forward. There was no reason why we couldn't do the same thing in Brevard as in Orange County. The approach that Matthews Hope takes as opposed to other homeless ministries is we work with people trying to get to the root of why they are in their current situation. If we can get to the root, we can work together with our guests to repair their situation.

In these last few months, since we have been serving the guests of Brevard County, I have heard so many of our guests say they are having one of the best experiences they've had in years. We truly are working towards restoring dignity, independence and treating people with respect.

It is so important to know that Matthews Hope wants people to see Jesus through us. Even when we must show tough love to help people move forward. We want our guests to always feel loved in everything we do. Ultimately, we want Matthews Hope to be a place, “Where people meet Jesus.”

“**Ultimately, we want Matthews Hope to be a place, “Where people meet Jesus.”**”

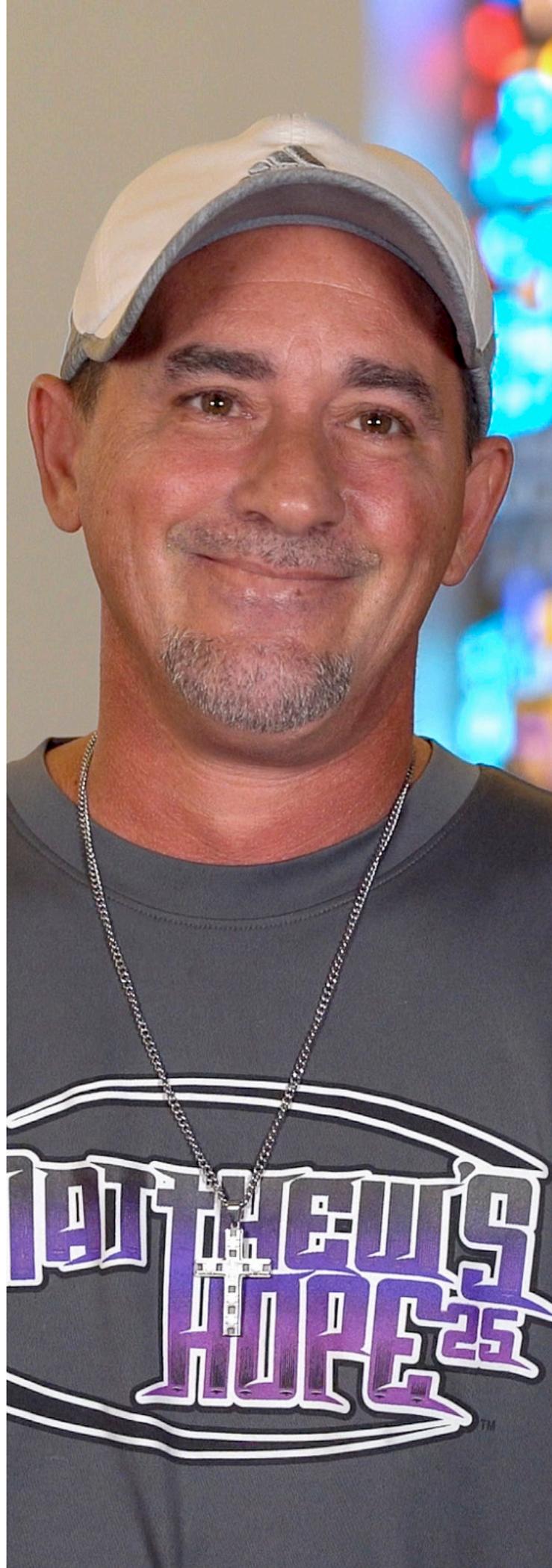
TESTIMONIAL

MEET BRIAN

Bobby McCulley

My name is Brian, and I came to Matthew's Hope to look for some help for my seven-year-old son along with myself. My wife and I are going through a bad divorce, and we've gone our separate ways. My wife made some bad decisions with our son, and I have had him in my care for a little over a year now. After we lost our place to live, we stayed at a hotel. Work for myself was good and then it dried up. I no longer could afford the hotel and I ended up at Matthew's Hope Ministries. I went to outreach and registered and spoke with an advocate. I was told to come back later in the day with my son after school so we can do out pantry shopping and shower. I came back with my son, and we had a meeting with Pastor Scott. Pastor talked with me about our situation. He decided to put us into the program that night and let us move into one of the properties. The next day our journey began with Matthew's Hope. I've worked my tail off every day since that day, doing whatever was needed and expected of me. I have been trained in different areas of outreach such as shopping, fulfillment, pantry, and have even gone out in our mobile pantry units. Now I've been given the opportunity to train in our workshop which is a carbide carving skill. We create beautiful carvings with acrylic and different types of wood by using the carbide cutting machine. I'm absolutely enjoying learning this skill.

Matthew's Hope and the amazing people that work there have been great with my son and I. They have helped me through this time with caring and loving open arms. I had never thought that I would be a part of something like Matthew's Hope, but I'm glad to be a part. A part of me is kind of happy in a way that my son and I went homeless, because I love what I'm doing every day at Matthew's Hope and I'm looking forward to making a career there.



WHY SO SPECIFIC?

Bobby McCulley

The needs here at Matthew's Hope Ministries continues to grow each and every day, especially as we begin our next chapter in Brevard County. One of those needs that continues to remain at the top of our priority list is pantry goods and hygiene supplies. As inflation continues to drive the costs of food to new heights, the needs of our guests for food continues to grow with it.

If you follow Matthew's Hope Ministries Facebook pages, which I strongly encourage you to do so to keep up with the rapid growth, you'll see regular posts from our Founder, President, and CEO Scott Billue expressing the needs of grocery goods for our ever-depleting food pantry. Within those social media posts, a common theme can be seen in those requests for donations; single served food items and travel size hygiene products.

So why are the needs of our guests so specific?

The simple answer is because we want

to be good stewards of the funds and resources we are provided. After more than a decade of service to the men, women, and children of Orange County; we have learned what gets used, what gets discarded, and what meets the physical and nutritional needs of the guests we serve.

Most of our guests are unsheltered, living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, or encampments. The entirety of their personal belongings must be transported in a backpack or duffel bag. Due to these challenges, our guests have limited abilities to store and cook food due to their restricted resources. So this naturally makes us picky about the items we are requesting for the benefit of our guests.

A good example of this is with hygiene products. Although it may seem fiscally responsible to get the large sizes of shampoo, body wash and conditioner; we ask for the travel size. The reason for travel size products is twofold. Travel size hygiene items have no true street value and can't be used to trade for alcohol or illegal drugs. Yet, equally important, is the practical aspect of travel sized items.

The next time you take a shower, take a look around. Imagine putting all those big bottles you use every day into a backpack. Now, add in a few days' supply of food, maybe a change of clothes or two, some bottles of water, a sleeping bag, and a flashlight. As you could imagine that backpack would be rather heavy. Our guests experience those same challenges every day. Because of these challenges, the first items our guests would throw out to lighten their load are the heavy bottles of hygiene items or extra-large cans or bulky boxes of food.

In a structured home, large sized pantry items are often more cost effective, but the reality is that anything that cannot be consumed in one sitting can easily spoil or

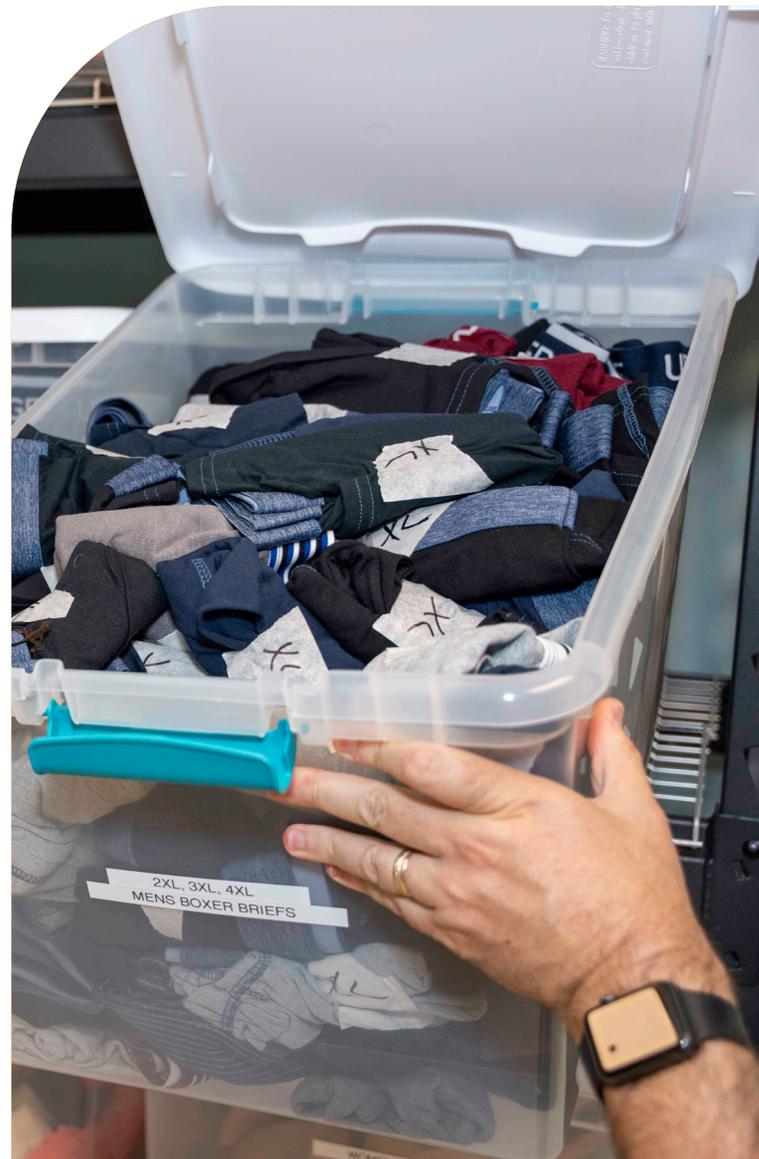


become a magnet for insects. Spoiled food is a major source of illness for those experiencing homelessness. On a practical level, many of our guests really have no place to prepare meals, nor do they have any way to store what they do not immediately eat. Which is why single serve food items are easier to prepare, is safer to consume and generate less waste for our guests. They fit easily into a backpack and can be eaten right from the container.

But more importantly, for us to achieve our mission of “Help Us, Help Them, Help Themselves”, we try to ensure that we have regular contact with our guests. By using smaller sizes in both hygiene and food items, we are ensuring that our guests will have enough supplies to last for a few days between our Outreach days. Small sized items also encourage guests to return and engage with us as we strive to build trust so that we might help them have the resources they need to continue Moving Forward.

So what items are we in most need of here at Matthew’s Hope Ministries? Single served food items such as SPAM packets, tuna and chicken packets, single serve soups and ravioli cups, Ramen noodle packets and cups, fruit and vegetable cups, and other small food items. Additionally, all travel size hygiene products like shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, dental floss, body wash, Neosporin 2 Go, brushes and combs, and other similar items.

We never want the specifics of our requests to be interpreted as ungrateful. We simply want to be good stewards of the resources we are provided and effectively support the community we serve. If you feel called to support Matthew’s Hope, visit us online at www.matthewshopeministries.org for more ways to do so.



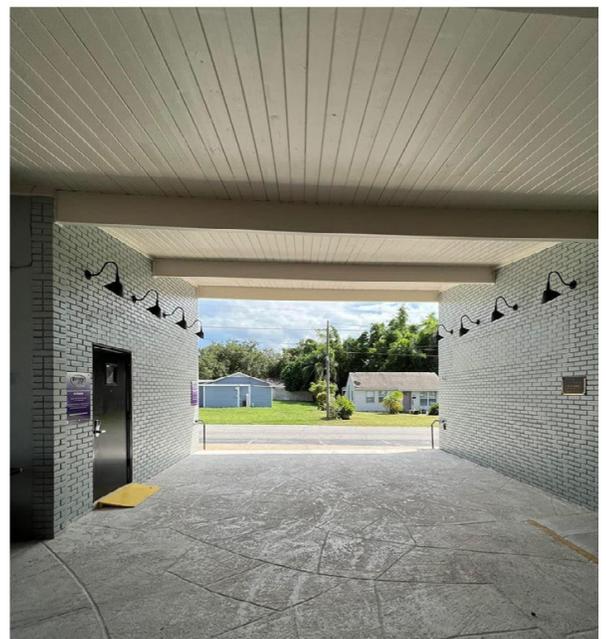
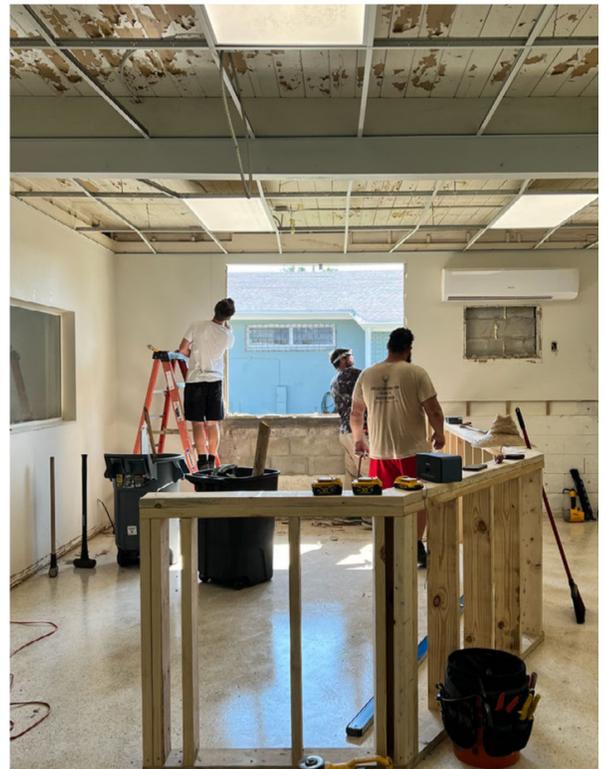
HERE WE GROW

Bobby McCulley

There isn't a detail that's being missed at our new campus in Brevard County. The sounds of construction are loud and continuous as we move ever closer towards completing the many renovation projects to better serve our guests in Cocoa and surrounding communities of Brevard County. From electricians, to plumbers, contractors, painters, concrete workers, and staff; everyone is working as hard as they can towards our goals of getting open as soon as possible.

The needs are great throughout Central Florida, especially in Brevard County. With over 200 guests already enrolled in our systems and serving over 45 guests' meals three times a week and we aren't even open yet. The need is strong, and our community is open to helping and assisting those in need wherever we can.

To learn more about ways to volunteer and support our campuses in Orange and Brevard counties, visit us online at www.matthewshopeministries.org.



VICE PRESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

SHELLEY BRADFORD

Bobby McCulley

Founder, President and CEO of Matthew's Hope Ministries Scott Billue is proud to announce that our Executive Director, Shelley Bradford has been named Vice President of Matthew's Hope Ministries.

Shelley Bradford, who originally joined Matthew's Hope Ministries in 2018, has made a lasting impact in her time here. Thanks to her steadfast commitment and dedicated leadership, the Board of Directors confirmed the appointment of Bradford as Vice President of Matthew's Hope Ministries, effective immediately.

"In naming Shelley Bradford our Vice President, in addition to Executive Director of our two campuses, is an affirmation of the role she truly plays in being not just my right hand at Matthew's Hope, but also my partner in creating and moving forward the vision God placed on my heart nearly 13 years ago." stated Scott Billue, President and CEO of Matthew's Hope. "I could not and would not attempt to build a second campus, now serving the Central Brevard County community without her. I can also say that it is very likely that much of what has taken place with our growth in these past three years would not have happened without her involvement."

"I love her, I respect her, and I admire the person she is. I am truly blessed that she walked through our doors when she did and that is a story within itself." added Scott Billue.

Trained as a crisis responder by the National Guard; Shelley is also a human behavior specialist, a certified master life coach with certifications in leadership, relationship, parenting, health and wellness. She also is a graduate of Light University and of Leadership West Orange.

"Shelley is such a competent, confident leader and steward of Matthew's Hope. She is the perfect



compliment to founder Scott Billue and her promotion to Vice President is well deserved." stated Lori

Gibson, Chairwoman of Matthew's Hope Ministries Board of Directors. Shelley is happily married to her husband Darren and has three children - Amanda, Thomas and Meyer. A proud supporter of the arts, she has been involved with local Orlando theaters in various acting roles; her entire family is active in Crossfit and powerlifting.

Matthew's Hope Ministries is a faith-based non-profit homeless outreach organization which fosters the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the homeless men, women, and children of our communities by meeting basic needs, developing skills, and restoring dignity and independence.



WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

Marc Jablon

Bobby McCulley has been working for Matthew's Hope Ministries for a little over two months and has quickly become a huge asset and valuable member of the team.

His value was clearly demonstrated the week of September 25th as Hurricane Ian was approaching the Florida peninsula.



9/25 – On Sunday, September 25th, Bobby came into the Matthew's Hope Brevard Campus to help the team take inventory of what they had on site knowing that there was a strong likelihood that the Brevard Campus would become an emergency shelter for the Homeless in the community. Bobby then contacted several local churches and businesses looking for towels and other donations.

9/26 – Bobby arrived at Matthew's Hope for an 8:30 am meeting with Scott, Sharlene, Bruce, and Valerie. This team of five put together a game plan for Hurricane Ian. In 24 hours, the campus would become an overnight shelter. The team was getting prepared to feed, shower, and clothe dozens of homeless guests that were going to arrive.

Monday afternoon Bobby went shopping for supplies at BJ's Wholesale Center. Upon his return to Matthew's Hope, he helped prepare the Hall and property for overnight guests. Monday night, Bobby attended a Zoom meeting to help Matthew's Hope apply for a large-scale grant.

At 8:30 pm Bobby returned to his home and began prepping his house for Hurricane Ian.

9/27 Bobby arrived at Matthew's Hope around 7:30 am. He immediately began preparing breakfast sandwiches and helped with prepping and organizing for the impending shelter with volunteers. On that Tuesday, Matthew's Hope was receiving donations throughout the day. As donations came

in, Bobby greeted several of the donors. Tuesday is community outreach at Matthew's Hope Brevard Campus. Bobby helped the team serve and helped inform the homeless guests that the facility would be open on Wednesday.

Bobby arrived home at 7:30 pm. He finished prep work for his house and packed his bags to stay at the Matthew's Hope Campus overnight on Wednesday.

9/28 – Bobby arrived at 8:00 am. It was the calm before the storm. Bobby finished processing last minute donations with his fellow staff members. Bobby helped with setting up the showers for the soon to be arriving guests. Around noon, the first-homeless guests started to arrive as Brevard was now getting its first rain bands off Hurricane Ian. Bobby had a conference call with local business leaders. Then he helped serve lunch and helped with getting the guests into the showers. By that evening, the Matthew's Hope Brevard campus had 56 guests staying overnight. Matthew's Hope Brevard Campus only has two showers currently, so it took well into the night to get each guest showered, fed, and clothed.

That evening everyone watched "Lord of the Rings" and settled down for the night by 10:30 pm. There were only 5 members of the team on site for the Hurricane. So, Bobby wasn't able to go to sleep until 1:00 am on Thursday morning.

9/29 – Bobby woke up from his “nap” at 3:30 am. Brevard was experiencing 80 to 90 mile per hour winds. Bobby stayed awake until he helped serve all the guests’ breakfast around 8:00 am. After breakfast, the team met again to determine if they should house the guests another night. The team ultimately decided that the tropical winds were still too high, and they elected to keep the guests on campus.

Bobby helped serve lunch and dinner before returning to his home to check on his fiancé and assess the damage to his house. Bobby returned to the Matthew’s Hope campus at 9:00 pm and stayed until 1:00 am Friday morning.

9/30 – Bobby arrived home at 1:00 am and returned back to work at 8:00 am to help serve the guests breakfast. The guests began to depart at 10:00 am - now the team had to clean up. Unfortunately, Bobby’s Day still wasn’t done just yet. Bobby had five different meetings to attend regarding the grants he’s applying for Matthew’s Hope.

Bobby finally returned home after a chaotic week around 7:30 pm that evening. I asked Bobby why would you work 12-to-20 plus hour days at Matthew’s Hope during a Hurricane? Bobby responded, “It’s needed. Working at Matthew’s Hope is the most important job I’ve ever had in my life. There are people counting on us every day”.



Working at Matthew’s Hope is the most important job I’ve ever had in my life. There are people counting on us every day”

Bobby was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder characterized by distinctive abnormalities of the head and face. Facial abnormalities tend to involve underdevelopment of the zygomatic complex, cheekbones, jaws, palate and mouth which can lead to breathing and feeding difficulties. Bobby underwent 28 facial reconstruction surgeries over the course of his life so far. He was born without his cheek bones, chin bone, left ear, and has no ear canals. Bobby was unable to hear until he was 18 when he received his first cochlear implant.

Bobby has overcome many of his difficulties. He graduated in the top 10 of his High School Class and became the first legally deaf commissioned firefighter in Tennessee. Bobby graduated Magna Cum Laude with an MBA from Bethel University in 2017 and worked in Tennessee until he moved to Florida in July of 2022.

“All you have to do is spend 5 minutes with Bobby and you’ll see why he’s such an integral part of the team” stated Scott Billue.

We all have many obstacles that we must overcome on a daily basis. After spending some time with Bobby, I’m left with one question... **What’s your excuse?**



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GIVING ON THE GREEN GOLF TOURNAMENT**

April 3rd, 2023 | West Orange Country Club

Scan the QR Code to secure
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For information on sponsorships please contact Bobby at bobby@matthewshopeministries.org

TESTIMONIAL

MEET JANINE

Bobby McCulley

My name is Janine and what brought me to Matthew's Hope was God. I remember praying for away out of my situation, which was me trying to be sober. While my daughter's father was still struggling in active addiction, I didn't want to relapse because I had already surrendered to God.

I so badly wanted to be a sober mom. I asked God for a way out, and I ended up here at Matthew's Hope. In the ten months that I've been here, they have helped me and my daughter significantly. For my daughter, they have provided stability, support, and security. They have also been teaching her how to serve others who may be dealing with similar or worse situations. She is very proud of her volunteer time and has made many friends here at the ministry with guests and staff.

For myself, they have helped me with my legal affairs. I was facing almost 15 years in jail and all charges were reduced to probation. Everyday they continue to guide me on the right track and help me learn the right way to do things. For the first time in a long time, I'm excited about our future!



ANDREA PUMAR

Bobby McCulley

When you think about CrossFit, the first thing that comes to mind is extreme fitness, sweat and adrenaline. You typically don't go to a CrossFit gym to find a receptionist, much less a future campus director for a homeless ministry. Yet, that's exactly what happened when a mutual CrossFit friend of Matthew's Hope Ministries Executive Director Shelley Bradford connected our now Orange County Campus Director Andrea Pumar together for a vacant position at Matthew's Hope.



"Shelley and I had a mutual friend at CrossFit at the time." stated Andrea Pumar, Matthew's Hope Orange County Campus Director. "She knew that I wasn't working at the time and knew that Shelley (Bradford) was looking for a receptionist in Winter Garden."

Andrea recalled, "We were in an in-house (CrossFit) competition when our friend Jackie introduced us and pretty much said to me, 'Andrea, this is Shelley and she's hiring; Shelley this is Andrea, she needs a job.' So, I sent my resume to Shelley, had an interview with Scott (Billue, Founder and CEO of Matthew's Hope Ministries), and was hired right away as a receptionist for Winter Garden in 2020."

Fast forward to February 2022, Andrea quickly rose through the ranks and was promoted to the position of Orange County Campus Director at Matthew's Hope, thanks to her numerous talents, personal, and professional experiences.

Born and raised in the Boston region, Andrea Pumar went to Kent State University in Ohio to play collegiate field hockey, where she earned her bachelor's degree in American Sign Language with a minor in English. Soon after graduating college, Andrea joined the United States Navy in 2009 where she served six-years as an Air Traffic Controller. While enlisted in the Navy, Andrea was deployed twice; once to the Isa Air Base in Bahrain and on the Wasp-Class amphibious assault ship - USS Iwo Jima.

Following her service in the United States Navy, Andrea has developed her professional experiences by serving in various rolls as an administrative, training, and legal assistant. In 2016, Andrea became a E-911 communications operator and public safety telecommunicator for Orange County Sheriff's Office. She also has experience as a para-educator working with students who have behavioral and emotional disorders.

Then comes her current chapter in life at Matthew's Hope Ministries. As previously mentioned, Andrea came to Matthew's Hope in 2020 and started her journey with the ministry as a receptionist. Later she would serve in the role of advocate and would continue to grow in her responsibilities until being promoted in February of this year as campus director for Matthew's Hope Orange County Campus.

"Tough shell. Goey middle." is how Matthew's Hope Founder, President, and CEO Scott Billue described Andrea. "As a former sailor, she can be blunt and to the point; while at the same time has a heart that bleeds for God's people."

With all new chapters in life, there can be challenges. When asked what was something that has been challenging since becoming the campus director, Andrea stated, "Something that was challenging was adapting to the significant responsibilities that were given to me (as campus director). I am very glad to take them on and push myself to show what I am truly capable of doing."

When asked about what excites her for the future, “Staff lunches.” Is how Andrea jokingly responded. “No seriously, what excites me most is that I never knew I’d be in this line of work. I didn’t understand homelessness or ministry. The longer I have been here, I have seen so many success stories.”

“That can be from someone graduating our Moving Forward Program to someone who has been trying to get food stamps. Our goal here is to help our guests help themselves. Something that can be so miniscule to some people, can be something amazing for our guests.” Andrea continued, “I love being able to see our guests on our outreach days take a shower, get their food and clothing needs met, among many other things. To know that we are giving them a hand up to what lies ahead for them and help them with their goals, by hopefully assist them to become independent and self-sustaining.”

Andrea has been married since 2016 to her husband Alberto Pumar Jr., who is a Journeyman Lineman. Together they have a 5-year-old son Arlo, who plays ice hockey and have a Dalmatian named Chowdah Bing. An avid Cross-Fitter, Andrea loves to bake, is obsessed with Game of Thrones and Harry Potter. A connoisseur of pizza, Andrea is a proud supporter of all the Boston sports teams, especially the Bruins.

“I love being able to see our guests on our outreach days take a shower, get their food and clothing needs met, among many other things. To know that we are giving them a hand up to what lies ahead for them and help them with their goals, by hopefully assist them to become independent and self-sustaining.”



HOPE IN ACTION





WHEN HELPING HURTS

When is a win-win scenarios actually a lose-lose? When a driver hands a beggar a dollar bill on the side of the road or while passing a beggar on the sidewalks in downtown.

Bobby McCulley

In that moment, certainly the driver/pedestrian feels charitable, and the panhandler pockets the bill with a smile. But this random act of intended kindness usually will not alleviate the problem of the panhandler; in fact, it often perpetuates it.

The vicious cycle of drug dependency, joblessness, and deprivation goes on. If there is money to be handed out, those living on the margins of society will endanger themselves and drivers by wading into traffic to solicit that money.

Most municipalities have ordinances and laws on the books that prohibit panhandling along the sides of roads, byways, and highways. This doesn't stop those who are homeless or desperate from panhandling. Because if they wait long enough, try hard enough and are persistent enough, they'll find those who are willing to lend a dollar or two or more.

But this doesn't solve the problem of homelessness, this only prolongs and aides in the problems that the homeless finds themselves in. Which is why we strongly encourage those wanting to help those

WWless fortunate financially, to give directly to nonprofit organizations and ministries that are designed and equipped to help the homeless.

When you give to organizations and ministries directly or make donations of supplies and clothing, people struggling with unemployment, homelessness, drug dependency, and mental health problems can get the support they need to start a new life off the streets. Organizations like Matthew's Hope Ministries is equipped to provide access to showers, meals, clothing, medical and mental healthcare, life skills, transitional housing, and other resources.

So next time you see a homeless person or a panhandler, I strongly encourage you to instead of giving them money from your wallet or purse, tell them about Matthew's Hope and where we are located. Make a donation online at www.matthewshopeministries.org and to learn more about our programs and outreach services. Stop by our Orange County and/or Brevard County campuses for more ways to help and volunteer for those who find themselves unhoused and structurally challenged.

SHELTERING THE UNSHELTERED

Bobby McCulley

For us who live in Florida, we have gotten use to the threats of tropical storms and hurricanes over the years. We all have our routines of preparedness when the National Hurricane Center begins to hint at a possible collision course between the coastlines of Florida and the devastating strengths of a hurricane. For those who find themselves unsheltered, the ability to shelter and protect themselves often times is impossible.

When local news stations in Central Florida and the National Weather Service Office in Melbourne began to warn of the potential dangers that would be barreling down upon are communities by Hurricane Ian; the leadership team at Matthew's Hope Ministries began to discuss necessary preparations that would need to be taken to protect the campuses in Orange and Brevard counties. But also, the team began to discuss what we could do for our guests who would have to face the elements alone.

It was decided that both campuses in Winter Garden and Cocoa would be open for any of our guests who would like to seek shelter from the impending devastations of Hurricane Ian. Our dedicated staff and amazing volunteers quickly jumped to the call of action to make the necessary preparations to house, feed, shower, and provide clothing for over 120 guests between the two campuses.

The impacts of Hurricane Ian were devastating to so many communities throughout Southwest and Central Florida. The amount of rain and wind that was experienced in our communities would have been disastrous and live threatening to our guests if they were forced to face those elements without the emergency shelters we provided in both Cocoa and Winter Garden.

These efforts wouldn't have been possible without our volunteers and guests. Our thoughts and prayers here at Matthew's Hope Ministries goes out to all of those impacted by Hurricane Ian.





TESTIMONIAL

MEET JOHN

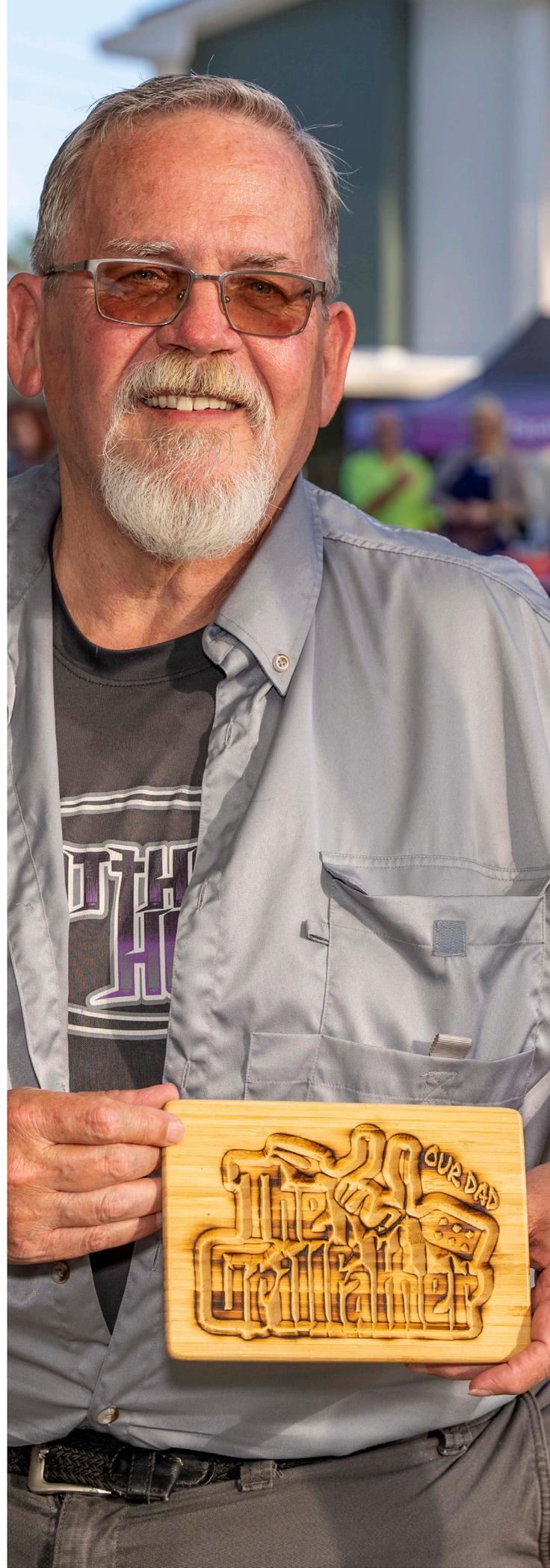
Bobby McCulley

It's mid-August of 2018. Affordable housing is non-existent. The 15-year-old vehicle I make a living with needs repairs. My fingers are slowly curling from Dupuytren's disease. My household belongings are stored in a pod at a cost of \$235 per month. My dishonest landlord has changed the locks on the 10'x10' room I was renting for \$600 per month. A police officer had just informed me that my drivers license is suspended for back child support. I would not wish this hopeless and depressing predicament on my worst enemy. It was time to wake up and accept that I'm homeless and unable to meet my financial obligations. I scheduled a meeting with Pastor Scott and asked for help. He allowed me to enter the Moving Forward Program and put me to work in the shop. Thank God for this program, because over the next four years it provided the resources and support necessary to resolve these issues and more. With a roof over my head, I reinstated my drivers license, repaired my car, underwent two hand surgeries, paid off 100% of my debts and built a savings account to help weather the next storm! In addition to that, it allowed my creativity to surface, and I learned to design, fabricate, restore, repair and finish everything from Wine Time Swings to LED acrylic signs. The CNC routers purchased to help me recover from hand surgery have equipped me with skills that I will carry for the rest of my life.

I would like to express my thanks to all volunteers, donors, fellow guests, and employees for helping me get back on my feet and for restoring my sense of purpose.

Love you all,

John E. Gero



IN LOVING MEMORY



MRS. SHERRY

THE MUSIC TEACHER AT THE FIRM FOUNDATION

Martha Sharolyn Randall Ball (Sherry) was born in Dallas, Texas on February 4th, 1948. She passed from this earth to the arms of her Lord Jesus Christ on March 19, 2022. She was 74.

She was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church in Dallas, TX. She spent many years singing faithfully in the alto section of the choir. Serving as the editor of The Sanctuary Choir Newsletter.

Mrs. Sherry was a proficient musician, perfecting the Piano, Harp, and Ukulele. Her Music Studio was called "Little Folks Music". She enjoyed teaching little children music, about different instruments, singing and dancing. Teaching the musical alphabet and seeing their faces light up the first time they understood it, brought her much joy.

Mrs. Sherry created characters such as Rocky the Raccoon and Army the Armadillo. She also had a character "The Smiling Dude from Texas" and when she started teaching children in Florida, she renamed him to "The Smiling Dude from Florida". She was a published author and recording artist. The album, "Little Folks Music with Mrs. B and Friends" is full of her original songs that she would pass out to all her students.

Ms. Sherry and her husband Dan and son Jacob moved to Winter Garden, FL in 2012 to be close to their children and grandchildren. They moved to what her family would lovingly call, "The Little White House". Dan and Sherry enjoyed their final years there surrounded by family and friends.

When Dan passed away in November of 2020,

Faith Family Community Church of Winter Garden, across the street from the little white house, embraced the family and this is where she spent her final years worshipping and building a group of friends.

To those who knew Sherry, loved her. She always left you feeling that what was important to you, was important to her. She was loved. but most importantly she loved others.

She is survived by her brother, Dr. Rob Randall of Allen, Texas. Her four children. Shelley Bradford, CMLC, TCR., Jacob Ball, Dr. Randall Ball, and James Ball and eight grandchildren whom she adored with all her heart.





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