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About M25:

More than a shelter, Matthew 25 is a Nashville-based, residential facility that provides Housing, Help and Hope to veterans and homeless men in need. Our service-intensive transitional housing program offers a safe, sober and supportive living environment for men wanting to turn their lives around. Specifically, we provide men comprehensive supportive services that enable them to return to independent living and obtain employment. In addition to beds and meals, we bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing by providing case management, employment and housing placement assistance, substance abuse recovery support, as well as life and social skills development and training.

The Community Problem:

It's no secret that Nashville has been booming for the last 15 years. As Nashville continues to grow, the cost of living rises, making it difficult for many to attain permanent housing. This is especially true for veterans who struggle to maintain employment due to disabilities, chronic medical conditions, substance abuse or poor mental health. Studies show that veterans are more likely to become homeless than the general population, as the barriers they face can result in a vicious cycle that leaves them with nowhere to turn.

Our Mission:

We are determined to alleviate homelessness by providing the resources for men to build a foundation on which they can transition to self-sufficiency. We recognize that these men have a need for structure, accountability, and ultimately hope for a brighter future. Our goal is to provide men the chance to escape the vicious cycle that is homelessness and addiction, helping them to become fulfilled and productive members of society.

Our Inspiration and Vision:

Matthew 25 draws deeply from the life and teachings of Christ. Our work and mission are founded on His lessons of love, compassion and hospitality. It is out of a conviction in these teachings that we seek to offer Christ-centered care to our brothers facing the despair and hardships of homelessness, addiction and poverty. We believe that all men deserve a chance to recapture fulfillment, happiness and independence, and we envision a Matthew 25 campus that serves as an all-encompassing oasis for men in need of a fresh start on life.

Why Matthew 25?

There are countless organizations in the Nashville area that focus on supporting the homeless, many of which we directly work with. Most of these groups focus on emergency and/or rapid rehousing of individuals, which is needed and serves as a quick fix. The unfortunate reality is that these services rarely result in long term success and have high rates of recidivism, as they fail to address root causes. Our programs focus on the big picture and over the past 30+ years have proven to be successful in terms of men exiting with employment and permanent, sustainable housing.

2020 Success Rates:

76% Housing Rate 65% Employment Rate

Matthew 25: *"...I was a stranger, and you took me in..."*

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Matthew 25 Programs

Transitional Housing:

We operate this program with four key initiatives in mind for our men: Learn, Work, Save, and Progress. To be accepted into our program, men must be referred by a partner agency and show devotion to turning their lives around. Our men are assigned a case manager who will develop an individualized service plan, targeting goals that should be reached prior to and after leaving the program.

1. LEARN

In their first 30 days, residents focus on themselves. Men are required to attend five weekly meetings and demonstrate commitment to their individual recovery, as each man undergoes an assessment of his personal needs. Homelessness goes deeper than a lack of jobs and housing, as many need to relearn the way they think and behave about money, family, and home. Mandatory classes help them acquire positive work habits and critical life skills.

2. WORK

During the next 30 days, veterans in our program are required to find work if they are unemployed. Our staff works with residents to help them secure full-time employment or upgrade jobs that earn enough to sustain permanent housing. Homeless men must overcome employment obstacles that many don't think about: lack of a mailing address/phone number, lack of appropriate clothing, inability to create a resume, transportation issues, possible history of arrest and incarceration, and lack of job training, skills or professional references.

3. SAVE

After finding or upgrading employment, men focus on saving money for permanent housing. As the vast majority of our men have no banking account, we provide a secure, on-site safe for our men to use in lieu of their own personal banking. In addition to classes focused on financial literacy education, we implement a mandatory savings program for our men. As residents do not incur housing expenses while staying at our facility, we enable them to save up to 75% of what they earn to use for rent deposits and move-in expenses.

4. PROGRESS

As men move through each phase of our program, the primary objective is to help residents effectively and efficiently remove barriers on the path to recovery and independent living. Many of our men have grown accustomed to living from day to day. We help them look beyond tomorrow by setting goals in key life areas and requiring continuous progress towards those goals during each phase. As residents progress through the program, they are called on to give back by becoming a model and supportive resource for men that are still working through earlier phases.

Progressive Housing:

Our Progressive Housing Program is built for men who have completed a transitional housing program but may not be ready for completely independent living. This is an ideal program for men who (1) are doing well in recovery but feel they can still benefit from a small degree of structure and accountability, or (2) have a significant barrier to housing such as an eviction or felony and could benefit from case management to help work through these issues.

M25 progressive housing features 16 one-bedroom efficiency apartments located on the third floor of our residential facility, just one floor above our transitional housing program. These apartments come fully furnished, and residents in the program share community bathrooms and a kitchen. Each man signs a one-year lease with the possibility of up to two six-month extensions.