

Matthew House

"A Prison Family Ministry"

Providing **HELP** and **HOPE** to families of the incarcerated!

Our Christmas Party was a **GREAT** success!

Thank the Doctors and staff of Providence Medical Team for a wonderful Christmas Party! **YOUR AWESOME!**

Thank You To All Our Faithful Donors 2008!!

Wow! Here we are in 2009 already!

What a year we have had. There are not enough words to say thank you to all of you that were so faithful with your material and financial donations. Once again with your support we were able to provide thousands of services to families of the incarcerated within the prison system. I sincerely mean it when I say "**YOU ARE MATTHEW HOUSE.**"

Every penny you give goes out to our families. I am so grateful to everyone of you!

I was thinking back over the past winter how hard it was for us with all the snow, slush, floods and dense fog, and how families had to survive this harsh weather in December and January of 2008-2009. As a nation, we rose to the occasion, helping thousands of our own people through your loving care

and giving. I saw that same love and compassion extended to Matthew House, as once again you rose to the occasion with all your love and support for our children and families of prisoners. There are not enough words in the English language to express my heart felt thanks for every one of you. No gift has gone unnoticed or unappreciated by all of us.

Many larger agencies have the advantage of expensive advertising and mailings. However, we do not and do the advertising ourselves and I like it that way. I personally get to sign every letter, praying over your donation and asking God to bless you in all you do. I recognize many of your names now as monthly faithful donors and others who open their hearts specifically during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. *Every gift*



Matthew House Looks Back 2008

is so needed and so appreciated. As we go through this year I pray that God will continue to bless you and all of your families in the same way you have blessed Matthew House and our families here.

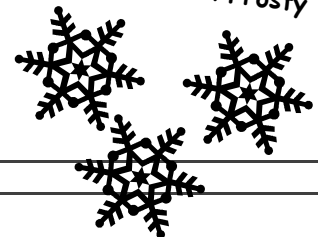
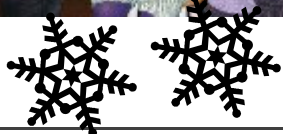
Thank you and God's very best to you and your families in 2009 and always.

With all my love and prayers,

Linda M. Paz
Executive Director



Linda M. Paz & Frosty



Winter at Matthew House 2008—2009



Matthew House is all about
KIDS and Families ... even in
snow, slush, flood and dense fog!!

Thanks for all you do!



From ALL of the
Board, Staff and
Families of Matthew
House,
Thank You
for all you do for us!



All pictures taken by Linda M. Paz, Executive Director

Ways to Give in 2009 ...

Monthly:

1. Your continued prayer's for our families and staff .
2. A monthly financial contribution every month makes all the difference in the world for us.
3. Donate by *credit card* one time or monthly. Call the office and we can set up an automatic credit card donation for your convenience.

4. Donated financially through your local job to Matthew House. If your job does not have a program see about setting one up.
5. Give through United Way and designate your giving to Matthew House.
6. Employee matching funds at your place of employment.
7. Check out **Albertsons Community Partnership Program** or call for information.

Volunteer:

We need a ...

Volunteer Coordinator

to set up churches, and groups to help out.

Van Coordinator

To work with drivers and coordinate van trips.

If your interested call:

360-794-8720

Matthew House got through Christmas because of donors & volunteers ...

Thank you to the **“UNSUNG HEROES”** that made Christmas possible for hundreds of children this year.

Everyone at Matthew House wanted to express their heart felt thanks to the hundreds of families, churches and organizations that made Christmas such a success this year. The families of Matthew House had one of the best Christmases ever!

With the incredible snow fall it looked for a while like we were never going to get any gifts out to families. Then a **“Christmas Miracle”** happened. Everyday different people volunteered to drive me to work and home again so Matthew House could stay open. We were able to get many families gifts delivered and then the snow got so deep we thought there would be no more deliveries. A wonderful couple from Monroe/Snohomish, who were out of work, came by and asked if I would let them, along with their children, deliver Christmas gifts to families. After pointing out how deep the snow was and nothing seemed to be moving ... and it was impossible to drive through, they assured me they could get through the snow and get the gifts to families. First, David and Elizabeth Wilson of Snohomish, WA brought their children (David 13, Andrew 10, Evan 5, and their foster children Dakota 11, and Steffen 6) to my house to shovel me out, while putting on snow chains for me. Then they followed me to Matthew House to where the gifts were and for 2 days delivered gifts so kids would have Christmas. The amazing thing was that because they were out of work they had decided to not have gifts for their own children but instead had them deliver gifts to children from Matthew House. I offered them gifts for their own children but Elizabeth said, “No thank you! We have decided this year since we are out of work it would be a good time to teach our children that **“Christmas is not about what you get ...but about what you give!”**

Through the worst part of the snow storm they drove from Seattle to Everett delivering gifts and food to families. The next day I had phone call after phones call from families calling to expressing how grateful they were to receive the gifts and food. One woman said, “I was out of food, left my four children home and tried to catch a bus to get to a grocery store for food. I waited 2 hours and a bus never came. I fell on the way home and hurt my leg and was laid up. The next day David, Elizabeth and the kids came with out gifts and food! You all will be so blessed for being such a blessing to all of us this year!”

What a miracle you all have been to us!

To every person who gave me rides, shoveled driveways, pushed me when I got stuck in the snow, braved the snow to deliver gifts, the prison who plowed the front of our building and plowed the parking lot, and the school staff for keeping the driveway plowed so we could get the gifts out and to everyone who in spite of a wicked snowstorm braved the elements so prison families would have an incredible Christmas here is a **“HUGH HUG AND HEART FELT THANK YOU MYSELF AND FROM HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES!”**

To ALL our Christmas Angels!!! God Bless you and thank you, again and again, from all of us!

Linda M. Paz

Executive Director



David putting chains on the Matthew House Van after shoveling my driveway so I could get out.

Matthew House

"A Prison Family Ministry"

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MONROE, WA

PERMIT #10

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

matthewhousemonroe.org

Providing Help and Hope to Families of the incarcerated

Your Donation Makes A Difference in their lives ...

YES! I want to keep up the support Matthew House and help "Keep The Miracle Alive" giving hope to children and families for 2009 with my gift of love. Enclosed is my "special donation" in the amount of

\$ _____
(Or donate by Credit Card)

Name:

Card #

Expiration Date: _____ / _____

Cardholder Signature:



These are just a few of our incredible children that had a wonderful Christmas holiday because you cared enough to give!

God Bless you for your continued faithful support of all we do for these families.

Thank You From All of us!

Members of the staff, Board and families of inmates are grateful for all contributions to this Prison Family

