

The History (Continued)

The center's lodging facilities are open to families who must travel great distances to visit their loved ones in prison in southeastern North Carolina. Since our inception in 2002, we have offered hospitality to individuals from 132 localities in North Carolina and from over 66 cities in 25 different states. We have also had guests from Canada, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Mexico.

The center's administrative wing includes an office complex which is used by various prison ministries assisting families in need or evangelizing Christ's message to residents of incarcerated facilities. This enables the Center to meet our second goal of outreach beyond our normal ministry of hospitality. These organizations include Kairos Inside (carrying the message of Christianity to inmates), Kairos Outside (working with women impacted by a loved one's incarceration), Forgiven Ministries, Rock of Ages Ministry, One Day with God Camps (specific to children of inmates), and Families-in-Crisis.

In 2007 the center's third planned service was realized. Associated with the North Carolina Mentoring Program, the center was used for mentors to meet with at-risk children for counseling sessions. Prior to the center's involvement, the meetings were being held at multiple locations; parks, McDonalds, and the library.

As a testament to how successful and needed this type of mission is to the families of the incarcerated in southeastern North Carolina, a new facility is currently being planned in response to the expansion of the Tabor Correctional Institution. This new facility appropriately will be called Matthew 25 Center at Tabor, Inc.

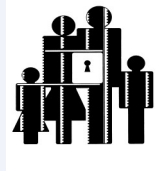
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The History of The Matthew 25 Center

The Matthew 25 Center is a non-profit Christian ministry located in Pender County serving the needs families of those incarcerated in southeastern North Carolina. Born from a vision and named after scripture, Matthew 25:40, the dream was brought to life over a period of years by volunteers and donors across all denominations.

Young and old, skilled and unskilled willing men and women, mission groups, and prayer warriors from several states worked together to complete the construction. Local businesses, offering free or low-cost building supplies, were among many who believed that attempting to meet the needs of families affected by incarceration represents a real and worthy mission. Area foundations also supported the building construction.

The 7,000 plus square foot center, completed late in 2002 with no debt obligations, began offering limited lodging services and officially opened in May 2004. We were, thus, able to meet our initial goal of our ministry to the incarcerated. Currently our support includes area churches and their organizations, bi-annual fundraising events, and individuals. Private grants are applied for, as applicable, and used for specific project needs such as the playground that was dedicated in 2009. The center is also listed with the North Carolina State Employees Combined Campaign and three regions of the Federal Campaign including Wilmington, Jacksonville, and Fayetteville .
(Continued)

Sugar Bowl Campaign 365

\$2.00

\$5.00

\$3.00

\$1.00

\$4.00

**Pledge
to put \$1,
\$2, \$3,
\$4, or \$5
a day in
our sugar
bowl for
365 Days**

**And help The Matthew 25 Center
reach our Fundraising Goal of**

Together We Can Accomplish Much!

We need your help! Time and wear and tear are beginning to take their toll on the facilities at The Matthew 25 Center. During the past few months, we have discovered we are in need of a new roof, the replacement of some of our heating and air conditioning system units, and repair of our irrigation system. The winters and recent hurricanes have taken their toll on our landscaping which is need of replacement or updating. To provide improved safety for our guests and their children, there is a need to transfer our current playroom to where our boardroom is currently located. This will make all children activities more accessible for the supervision of their parents, grandparents, or guardians. The current space used for conferences then will be transferred to where the present playroom is located.



Our goal is to raise \$116,500 to accomplish these many areas of needed improvement and at the same time continue meeting our annual budget of \$45,000 to cover our normal operating costs for staff, office supplies and equipment, utilities, guest relations, and normal day to day maintenance issues of equipment and property.

Your contributions will ensure that we maintain a “home away from home” for our guests who stay with us while visiting their loved ones incarcerated in correctional institutions in southeastern North Carolina. Many come long distances within the state of North Carolina while others come from out of state as far away as Florida and Oregon. The Matthew 25 Center helps defray the cost of travel and lodging. Otherwise, in many cases, families, particularly children, would never be able to visit their loved ones incarcerated in southeastern North Carolina.

So would you please pledge \$1 (365), \$2 (\$730), \$3 (\$1095), \$4 (\$1460), or \$5 (\$1825) a day for a year and help The Matthew 25 Center fill our sugar bowl so that we can meet our financial obligations for 2012. Simply fill out the form enclosed with this newsletter and return the form along with your check in the enclosed envelope. You can also visit our new website at www.matthew25center.org and make your donation on line through our PayPal services. In whatever amount you choose to pledge, please keep in mind that your donation can be made in monthly installments as well.

Should you not be able to make a pledge individually, please consider asking your faith community, church or civic organization to include The Matthew 25 Center in their mission or social outreach commitments for 2012 or perhaps your employer will consider making a matching contribution.

The Matthew 25 Center is a nonprofit 501 (C) (3) organization and, as such, all contributions are tax deductible in accordance with the current Internal Revenue Service code.

We thank you for your participation in this project.

Your prayers are always welcomed in our efforts to assist those who are impacted by incarceration. May God’s blessings be with you always.

Sam and Judi Hamilton, Directors, and The Board of Directors, The Matthew 25 Center