



Matthew 25  
201 3rd Ave SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Growing Strong  
Neighborhoods

## Transform a Home, Transform a Life

Many homeowners face challenges that prevent them from being able to complete basic home maintenance or repairs. Matthew 25's Transform program matches homeowners with volunteers who can help complete these home repair or landscaping projects, thus making both homes and neighborhoods safer, healthier, and more uplifted. This work is done at no cost to homeowners, thanks to the generous support of donors and sponsors.

In June, we held our 7th Annual Transform Week. This year, we mobilized 260+ volunteers to help 26 households with a huge variety of meaningful projects, including plumbing repair, roof replacement, new flooring, window and door replacement, siding repair/replacement, painting, yard clean-up and much more.

All of the homeowners have insurance and care about their homes, however many are reliant on social security or disability payments and don't have a buffer when repairs are needed. Many have health challenges, such as lupus, cancer and blindness, that prevent them from being able to do the work themselves.



All of the homeowners have insurance and care about their homes, however many are reliant on social security or disability payments and don't have a buffer when repairs are needed. Many have health challenges, such as lupus, cancer and blindness, that prevent them from being able to do the work themselves.

The homeowners and their families were incredibly grateful for all of the help provided by our volunteers and the donors and sponsors who helped make it possible. One woman made a thank you sign for her window and called the volunteers her "angels." Another homeowner offered to lend his skills to our effort by helping to repair some of our small engines on our lawnmowers and automated tools.



All in all, it was a wonderful week that connected volunteers from across eastern Iowa and beyond, and made a huge difference in the lives of Cedar Rapids neighbors. To learn more about one of the homeowners impacted this year, visit: [www.hub25.org/TerriStory](http://www.hub25.org/TerriStory)



Stay up to date by following us on social media!



@Matthew25MinistryHub  
@CRgroundswell

@CultivateHopeCornerStore  
@CRToolLibrary



Matthew25Hub  
CRgroundswell

Matthew 25 | 201 3rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 | 319-362-2214 | [www.hub25.org](http://www.hub25.org) | [info@hub25.org](mailto:info@hub25.org)



# A Sharing Economy

Autumn 2022

*A note from Clint Twedt-Ball, Founder & Executive Director*

I love the smells that hit me when I walk into work on Monday mornings. Even though Groundswell Cafe is closed on Mondays, I can smell fresh-baked cinnamon and pecan rolls, kolaches, cookies and more. A team of life-long bakers is here every Monday morning, volunteering to make baked goods for the cafe.



Board was very intentional in adding the *sharing economies* phrase. So, what is a sharing economy?

We often hear the phrase in relation to shared houses through AirBnB or ride sharing through companies like Uber and Lyft. All kinds of goods are now being shared with ease through technology. Some people even have incomes that are totally



money is being used to feed people who are hungry. It's nice to know I can downsize my tools, give them to the tool library, and have them be used by someone who can't afford to purchase their own. Or to know I can share my building skills to help someone else have a livable house.

Virtually every day at Matthew 25, people are bringing what they have to share with others. At the Cultivate Hope Corner Store, there are donations of eggs from backyard chickens and fresh produce from gardens. People bring a huge variety of tools to the tool library so that everyone can access them. Volunteers work at the cafe, urban farm, corner store, tool library and in the office. One of the reasons Matthew 25 is able to accomplish so much good is because we are supported by a generous group of sharing people.

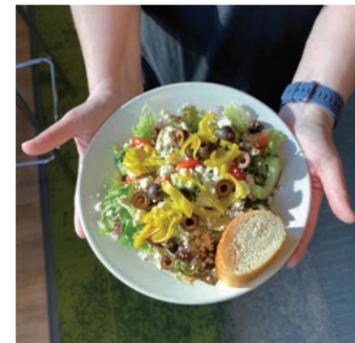
derived from the sharing economy. Matthew 25 views the sharing economy as connecting our work to the ancient concept



found in scripture in Acts, chapter 2, beginning with verse 44. The text talks about people sharing food and other possessions so that everyone has enough. This is in keeping with Jesus' mandate found in Matthew 25 to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and care for the least and the lost. Jesus was talking about the sharing economy we get to experience every day here at Matthew 25.

Recently, we updated our vision to be: *Thriving, connected communities with sharing economies, where all people are valued, talents are multiplied, and neighbors live healthy, nourished lives full of opportunity.* The Matthew 25

Our vision is to help create a system where this sharing happens in a seamless way, where people can see up close how their generosity supports others. It's a pretty cool thing to tip at Groundswell or the Corner Store and know that



# PATCH 2.0 - Long-Term Derecho Recovery

Every phase of disaster response is different. The first phase of immediate response is often the most emotionally driven and boosted by adrenaline. This is when the whole community turns out. Neighbors come out to help neighbors. People drive in from other towns. National disaster response organizations bring heavy equipment. It's the boots on the ground phase that can sometimes resemble a military operation, full of both chaos and top down response. As you can see in looking around town, we're well past that phase of derecho recovery.



The next phase is long-term recovery, which eventually moves into rebuilding. This phase is really tricky. Often, we're dealing with longer-term, chronic issues that are both personal and societal. Private contributions of money and time generally begin to fade as professional services and government funding kick-in.

Within PATCH, we often talk about the 1.0 and 2.0 versions. PATCH 1.0 developed right after the disaster as several non-profits came together to support recovery efforts, primarily focused on housing. We engaged hundreds of volunteers and did a lot of stop gap efforts to make life bearable and prevent ongoing deterioration of homes. We tarped, patched, fixed broken windows and steps, and removed trees.

This construction season, we've been in PATCH 2.0. We've still been working on more than one-hundred projects. And the projects are more complicated. Take Jane and Paul's mobile home (names changed to protect homeowners). It is an older home that had a few issues before the derecho. For the last



two years, Jane and Paul have been on a rollercoaster ride with FEMA and other recovery programs.

Initially, with a shortage of affordable housing, the goal was to do the minimum to make their home livable. The debate has been over what the best long-term solution is. Is their mobile home worth repairing? Is it better to keep people in a neighborhood where they have friends and community or move them to a different setting? As a couple battling disabilities and living primarily off of social security payments, people wanted to make sure they wouldn't be put in a situation where they eventually wouldn't be able to afford rent or have the support they need. After many conversations, it was decided that the best option would be a used mobile home in a different park. Now, it is a matter of finding the right home and community.

Another PATCH 2.0 family has issues of trust and mental health. Because their house is nearly unlivable, at first they didn't want anyone to come inside. They feared the home would be condemned. Even before the derecho, they had been struggling with the recent death of their husband, who had started demoing the interior of their house. Now that he was gone, so was his paycheck and construction abilities. The house was left on pause and derecho damage just added to the remaining partner's feelings of being overwhelmed. Slowly, we've gained their trust and are developing a plan to move the home forward.

These are just two of the many, many situations Matthew 25 is dealing with as we move through the rebuilding phase. At this point, there are rarely perfect answers. Funding is beginning to be depleted. Stamina of homeowners and responding organizations is beginning to wane. At Matthew 25, we find that in addition to having construction expertise, we need social work skills buoyed by faith.



Since this is our second disaster where we've helped lead the response, we've learned a few things about the recovery process. We know we won't help everyone. We also know that our responses won't all be perfect. But, we also know as an organization that we've developed a unique skill set that combines

compassion, construction, personal relationships, advocacy, faith and grit. The community has learned to trust us for the long-haul, knowing we won't walk away just because things get difficult or the answers aren't easy. We will do the best we can and trust in God to work in people's lives even when we're gone. And we know that the team of all of you that surrounds us, will continue to provide the necessary spiritual and financial support that empowers us to continue helping others.



## Make Meaningful Change in Our Community

Supporting Matthew 25's mission doesn't have to mean a big financial or time commitment. It can be as simple as stopping for groceries at the Cultivate Hope Corner Store or grabbing a cup of coffee at Groundswell Cafe. By choosing to do just 10% of your grocery shopping at the Corner Store or eating a meal just once a month at Groundswell, you're choosing to participate in a sharing economy and making a difference in the lives of your Cedar Rapids neighbors.



Another easy way to help support Matthew 25 is to stay connected and spread the word! Learn about upcoming events, inspiring stories and other Matthew 25 news by signing up to receive our bi-weekly email Memo at [hub25.org/email](http://hub25.org/email). Follow us on Facebook (@Matthew25MinistryHub) and share our posts. Tell your friends about the Corner Store, or invite your coworkers to lunch at Groundswell. Consider hosting a fundraiser through your business, community group or on Facebook.



Would you like to give of your time and talents? We offer hands-on volunteer opportunities for all interests and skill levels. Whether you're taking orders at Groundswell Cafe or getting your hands dirty at the Urban Farm, we need your help. If you're looking for ways that your company, church group, or community organization can volunteer together, we have group opportunities available. To learn more, visit [hub25.org/](http://hub25.org/) volunteer or contact our volunteer coordinator at 319-200-2787 or [jessica@hub25.org](mailto:jessica@hub25.org).

If you can afford a financial gift, consider setting up a recurring donation. Small monthly gifts to Matthew 25 can grow into amazing possibilities for Cedar Rapids neighborhoods. Join our ever-growing community of monthly givers by scheduling a recurring gift online at [hub25.org/donate](http://hub25.org/donate) or fill out our an ACH form at our office. Another option is to designate your United Way payroll deduction to Matthew 25. If your employer offers their own giving program, you can give to Matthew 25 and perhaps even double or triple the impact of your gift if your company offers matching contributions.

If you're looking to make an even bigger impact, we're happy to talk with you about a variety of planned giving options, such as gifts of stock, bequests, annuities, endowed gifts and more. We would love to help you leave a lasting legacy for the Cedar Rapids community. To learn more, contact our chief development officer at 319-200-2783 or [jana@hub25.org](mailto:jana@hub25.org).



### SHOP NOW!

Produce	Affordable Meals
Meat	Daily Soup
Dairy	Rotisserie Chicken
Frozen	Groundswell Salads
Dry Goods	Local Vendors

**Plus, free produce options always available**

**CULTIVATE HOPE CORNER STORE**  
604 Ellis Blvd NW, Cedar Rapids  
319-200-3150  
[cornerstore@hub25.org](mailto:cornerstore@hub25.org)  
[hub25.org/cornerstore](http://hub25.org/cornerstore)

**Hours:**  
8 am-8 pm,  
Mon-Sat  
Closed Sunday




**Breakfast • Pastries**  
**Sandwiches • Salads • Soup**  
**Smoothies • Coffee**

Open Tuesday-Saturday • 7 am-2 pm  
201 Third Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids  
319-200-2791 • [groundswell@hub25.org](mailto:groundswell@hub25.org)  
[groundswell.hub25.org](http://groundswell.hub25.org)

### PATCH by the Numbers

- 4,450 bundles of shingles (92 pallets weighing 156 tons!) distributed to help 60+ homeowners**
- 149 Small and manufactured home projects in 2021, ranging from tarping to major repairs**
- 74 Manufactured homes repaired in 2022**
- 88 Manufactured homes winterized in 2021-2022**
- 59 Large revolving loan projects for site build homes in 2021-22**
- \$3.1 million in government and private funds invested by end of 2022**