THE NEXT STOP

STOP NO. 06

WAYNE'S STORY



06

BOARD MEMBER

WAYNE'S STORY

"FINDING STABILITY THROUGH INSTABILITY"

Wayne Fraleigh was born in the Philippines and moved to the United States with his family when he was nine. He grew up as the youngest of five in a close, faith-centered household, though his father's military career often kept him away from home for long stretches.

"I came home and I just told my mom, 'Do you know you and dad are probably one of the only parents that are not divorced?' And she said, I just remember vividly, 'You'll never have to worry about that with us, son.' "

ROLE
Board Member

YEARS SERVED
1

HIS WHY
A lot of young people don't have a support system.

About one year later, everything changed when Wayne was in his freshman year of high school. He woke up one day to find that his mother had left their family unexpectedly, and for three or four months, Wayne found himself essentially living alone, his siblings scattered with their own lives, his father searching for his wife. What followed was a stretch of real upheaval: Wayne moved in with one brother in Cleveland, then back to California, then to Cheyenne, Wyoming with another sibling, all within the same sophomore year, as his family tried to figure out how to support him.

> “It doesn’t matter what happens to you, it’s how you handle what happens to you.



Finally, Wayne reunited with his father when his dad retired from the military and settled in Tucson. It wasn’t an easy adjustment. Wayne carried a lot of anger during those years, but he also watched his father model something powerful: prayer, forgiveness, and a refusal to give up on Wayne’s mother. Eventually, she returned, and remarkably, Wayne’s parents reconciled.

Even with that reunion, Wayne carried real hurt and trust issues for years afterward. He credits school and sports with keeping him grounded during that time. Looking back now, he sees those chapters differently, not as things that happened to him, but as experiences that shaped the compassion he carries today for people without a strong support system.

That perspective has quietly guided Wayne's path ever since: serving as a youth pastor during college, teaching middle and high school for several years, and eventually moving into healthcare, where he works today. After relocating to Colorado, Wayne learned about The Matthews House and found an organization built around exactly what he wished he'd had growing up - a place, a person, a sense of stability for kids and families going through hard seasons.



JUST LIKE WAYNE, YOU CAN HELP

THE MATTHEWS HOUSE BE A LISTENING EAR AND PERSON OF SUPPORT WHEN SOMEONE NEEDS IT MOST

HEAR WAYNE TELL HIS STORY:

