

# Matthew's Story

Our scholarship program changed a young man's life.

Imagine this: after living with a mother who battled substance abuse and had never been able to properly care for you, you are adopted at the age of fifteen. You have always longed for a place of acceptance and understanding, all the more so because you have an autism diagnosis and poor social and communication skills. But instead of acceptance and understanding, you find yourself in another distressing situation: you are required to comply with strict and arbitrary rules that you don't understand. Being kicked out of the house an ever-present threat.

As difficult as it may be to imagine such a life, this is the life that Matthew lived right here in middle Georgia.

Two weeks after Matthew's high school graduation, his adoptive mother made good on her threats and told him he had to leave. He was on the streets at nineteen with no money, no job, no one able to take him in, and limited life skills to succeed in such a challenging situation. You may have passed Matthew on the street or sat next to him at church (where he faithfully walked every Sunday). You may have worried about the homeless-looking kid hanging around the library long after it closed. You may have wondered if anybody anywhere was looking out for him. We now know that God was watching out for Matthew, drawing him to people who could help.

Matthew has a way of engaging people; the officers of the Perry Police Department are no exception. A few months before he graduated from high school, Matthew missed the school bus. It was eight miles to school: even if he made the walk, the school day would be half-over before he got there. Rather than using that as an excuse to skip school, he



Matthew using the sander to sand bamboo for our ornaments.

went where he had always been taught he could find help – the police. He walked through the front door of the Perry Police Department and asked for a ride to school. After the officers on duty recovered from the shock, he was given a police escort to school. Thus began a very special relationship between Matthew, the Perry Police Department and the Recreation Department where he volunteered after school.

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Around this time Major Dykes of the Perry Police Department contacted us at The HALO Group to see if we could help Matthew. Because of faithful supporters like you, Matthew was able to become a HALO teammate through our Scholarship Program. Since becoming part of the HALO family, Matthew has had many opportunities to learn and grow. His work ethic is unrivaled, he attempts any job, and he doesn't mind getting dirty, wet or hot. Matthew has recently been hired by Flint River Fresh to work a few hours a week as a garden assistant. He also has a safe interim place to live while he works on skills that will allow him greater independence.

Matthew has found his place of acceptance and belonging at HALO. Our dreams for HALO continue to come true with every story like his. Meanwhile, Matthew's dreams are just beginning and his future is bright.

Without our Scholarship Program, Matthew's story would be very different. To all our faithful supporters, THANK YOU! You are changing lives. If you have been thinking about giving to a good cause, I hope you have found it with The HALO Group of Middle Georgia.



# We have a new location!

At this time each year, we reflect on the many blessings God has brought our way. High on the list are the people at Perry Presbyterian Church who have generously allowed us to use the former youth building. After months of renovation, we began using the building in June.

We are in awe of God's faithfulness, His timing, and His ways which are so much higher than ours.

**FOR FROM HIM AND THROUGH HIM AND TO HIM ARE ALL THINGS.  
TO HIM BE THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN. ROMANS 11:36**

## We are raising \$50,000 by the end of 2024!

If you would like to partner with us in making a difference in the lives of adults with developmental disabilities and autism, please mail your donation to PO Box 1078, Perry, GA 31069 or through Venmo or PayPal using these QR codes.

VENMO



PAYPAL





## HALO by the Numbers

Number of teammates who have utilized our scholarship program: **9**

Total 2024 scholarship amount spent: **\$27,174**

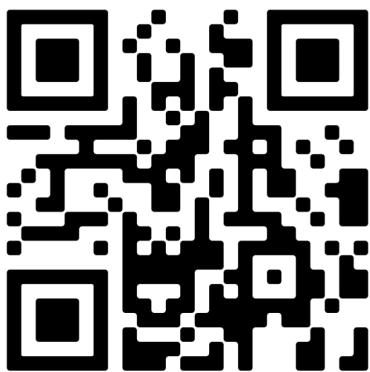
Total number of teammates served in 2024: **41**

Budget for 2025: **\$375,000**

Year End GIVING GOAL: **\$50,000**

## HALO on TV

On October 4, The HALO Group was featured on GPBS' show, "A Fork in the Road", GPB S4 Ep 10 "Community". Use the QR Code below to watch our teammates and staff in action.



# Take a peek at our products!

Our teammates have been hard at work constructing, painting and crafting! They have been busily getting product ready for the upcoming Mistletoe Market which will take place in the Miller-Murphy-Howard Building at the Georgia National Fairgrounds on November 21-24, 2024. If you come to the event, be sure to look for our booth! We'd love to see you!!



**Coming in early 2025...  
our very own storefront located on  
Main Street in Downtown Perry**