



Courtesy St. Matthew's House/Naples Kenny Photography

Food for Thought

St. Matthew's House opens LuLu's Kitchen with fresh eats and job training opportunities.

Last October, **LuLu's Kitchen** at St. Matthew's House—the homeless shelter and feeding ministry that also offers addiction recovery services—opened in East Naples. The complex is home to St. Matthew's existing programs: The Culinary Training Institute of Southwest Florida and Delicious by Design catering kitchen, plus the new from-scratch eatery The Fresh Start Café, which employs grads from the culinary program.

Naples contractors Connor & Gaskins Unlimited built the 8,000-square-foot space, complete with a commercial kitchen,

a dining room with flexible seating and a drive-thru that serves Starbucks coffee along with breakfast and lunch.

Liz Morris, the director of hospitality for the nonprofit, says the hub not only creates jobs, but also provides culinary and management training to prepare people aided by the shelter for careers in other areas of the hospitality industry. The center's sous chef Ryan Schank's journey is a prime example: Since getting sober, he's started developing his culinary skills with the goal of becoming an executive chef. —*J.B.*