Shelly Mattie is a native of Lycoming County, currently residing in Montoursville with her husband, Ray, of 20 years and her two teenage sons, Connor (19) and Sam (17). She is a 1996 graduate of Mansfield University, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice Administration. After graduation, she worked several years at Lycoming County Children and Youth Services in various day treatment programs. From there, Shelly worked at Tory Leather Company, her family’s business, until the arrival of her first born son. At this time, she was fortunate enough to become a stay-at-home mom.

Life with two boys, one with a diverse ability and one typical child was very busy. Connor was diagnosed with autism right before his third birthday and immediately started early intervention services. During this time, Shelly was on a mission to learn everything she could about autism and at the same time, trying to make sure her youngest son, Sam, was thriving since his brothers’ needs were so time consuming. When Connor reached elementary school age, Shelly and her husband, Ray, started a nonprofit through the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania to assist in meeting the educational needs of individuals diagnosed with autism in their community. Through fundraising and hard work, the foundation was able to benefit just about every school district in Lycoming County. In doing so, Shelly and Ray were able to provide trainings, resources, and technology to better serve teachers and support staff in meeting the needs of autistic youth in area schools.

As time progressed, Shelly continued being involved in the autism community. There were many ups and downs along the way, but until this day, she and her husband continue to work as a team, Team Mattie! Currently, Connor has a part-time job taking nature photography for a local doctor/author’s Facebook page. Sam, continues to flourish as a high school junior and plans to attend college, majoring in a business-related field. As for Shelly, she remains focused on her ‘mom duties’ as well as, her persisting mission to bring acceptance and understanding to those individuals living with autism. Her family’s motto: ONE DAY AT A TIME!