

Hope For All Who Enter

www.hshministries.org

HSHM
HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES
since 1917

JANUARY 2022

NIGHT IN A CAR

Momentum is driving forward as Home Sweet Home Ministries prepares for our 6th annual Night In A Car on Friday, February 4th. Participants are anxiously gathering up hats, gloves, and blankets to brave a cold night in their cars. While only for one night, Night In A Car provides a real glimpse into the realities of facing homelessness through Bloomington's harsh winters.

This unique event is something all ages can experience. It serves as a great educational opportunity to learn more about homelessness and the work HSHM does to help those in need.

"Last year when we participated, they gave us a packet of information regarding the process of becoming homeless and I was really surprised at how quickly it could happen," shares Kay Thames, who is participating again this year with her daughter, Carol. "Last year it was more of a curiosity thing and this year I really see a need for it."

Home Sweet Home is excited to see more families, such as the Giermanns, get involved this year. As first time participants, parents Chris and Jenn, along with sisters Kylie, Kharizma, and Amira are eager to embrace the challenge.

"For the past few years, our girls have expressed a strong interest in participating in HSHM's Night in a Car event. Given the girl's younger ages, we were hesitant," explains Jenn. "However, now that the girls are a little older, wiser, and have continued to show an interest in this cause, we are accepting the challenge to build awareness amongst our friends, family, and community in an effort to remove the

stigmatism of homelessness and show love and support to everyone!"

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NIGHT IN A CAR



MISSION STATEMENT

Home Sweet Home Ministries demonstrates Christ's love through innovative approaches that instill hope, restore lives, and build community.



A Message from Matt

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight"

Proverbs 3:5-6

As we begin our 105th year of serving the community, we do so from a place of faith – in God and in each other. In fact, the "definition" of our core value of Faith says that "every day we anchor ourselves in God's love, trusting in His promises and each other." Time and time again, we see God's love and promise manifest in real ways at Home Sweet Home Ministries. I invite you to join us to see for yourself how your own faith can be put into action in 2022. Perhaps you'll decide to join us for Night In A Car, or to help serve meals, or to help serve our shelter residents at the front desk of our shelter. Maybe your involvement will consist of prayers and financial support. Regardless of how you engage with Home Sweet Home Ministries this year, I am confident you'll see the centrality of our faith in everything we do.

I pray that you are encouraged as you read through this month's newsletter. May God bless you all for your faithful support of our ministry.

Matt Burgess

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Grateful Hearts



Home Sweet Home was grateful to partner with Midwest Food Bank and Thrivent Financial for Give Thanks 2021.

Along with the generous support of the community, Hy-Vee, Schnuck's, and Great Plains Media helped us collect 2,500 turkeys and other meal items for those in need. Over two distribution days in November, complete meal boxes and frozen turkeys were handed out to nearly 1,600 households.

Over 150 volunteers experienced firsthand the joy of giving back. As they safely loaded up cars, many shared true expressions of gratitude. One little girl from the back seat at least three times said, "Thank you

for my turkey." A very enthusiastic woman exclaimed, "The Lord has met a need. I'm so grateful. I'm so blessed. Thank you all so much!"



Follow Us!

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..... Daily Nourishment



Every single day Home Sweet Home's dedicated staff and volunteers provide three delicious meals and three snacks to all of our residents at the shelter. In addition, we distribute sack lunches to anyone in need from the community. Without your faithful support, none of this would be possible. HSHM would like to extend a very special thank you to all in our community, especially local farmers, restaurants, and grocery stores that collaborate with us to serve up hope and comfort.

From sliced bread and lunchmeat to pulled pork and steak, your donations do more than just curb hunger. They provide much needed nourishment and strength to keep pushing forward. Because of you our clients are given time to focus on their goals towards healthier lifestyles. Help us continue to provide nourishment and healing. Please visit hshministries.org and click on the "Ways to Give" tab to see how you can help from our Urgent Needs List to our Amazon Wish Lists.

Thank you and God Bless!

NIGHT IN A CAR

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"I would like to spend a night in the car so we can raise enough money for people who do not have homes and experience what it is like doing that," adds Amira.

Home Sweet Home encourages you to join the ride. Together we can achieve our goal of raising \$150,000 to support those in need.

"I want to participate in night in a car because I want to help raise awareness for people who are homeless and for those who do not have a home or food to eat," says Kharizma. Kylie adds, "I would like to stay in the car so we can see how it is for people that have to stay in their car."

There is still time to get involved! Please consider signing-up or donating today by visiting nightinacar.org. If you have any questions, please reach out to Home Sweet Home's Night In A Car Coordinator, Leslie Bunge, at 309-319-2820 or lbunge@hshministries.org. Thank You!

**Like us on Facebook
Home Sweet Home Ministries**

Like Us!



Moments of Hope

Home Sweet Home strives to provide hope for all who enter. This past year, through your gracious donations and prayers, HSHM helped over 215 individuals and families find comfort and strength. We cannot thank you enough for all of your faithful support and encouragement. Caring neighbors like you ensure that we can help clients overcome obstacles and start anew, obtaining new jobs and securing new homes.



Here are some praises shared by just a few our clients:

"It's such a blessing that a place like this exists."

"It's a helpful resource for mothers with children."

"This place is very helpful as a stepping stone to achieve your goals."

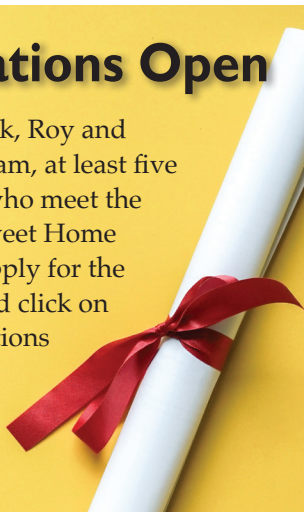
"Amazing! Helped me when I needed it most!"

"It was a great place that has helped me get myself together, moving forward. It helped me focus on my responsibilities."

Thank you so much for inspiring hope. We wish you and your families health and happiness in 2022.

Brown Scholarship Applications Open

Home Sweet Home Ministries announces the R. Mack, Roy and Hazel Brown Scholarship Program. Under the Program, at least five \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to individuals who meet the scholarship criteria and are selected by the Home Sweet Home Ministries selection committee. To learn more and apply for the Brown Scholarship, please visit hshministries.org and click on "Our Services" under the About Us section. Applications must be received by Home Sweet Home Ministries no later than March 1, 2022. Late applications will not be accepted. Thank you.



Current Needs

With your support, Home Sweet Home is able to provide healthy food and other basic needs to individuals and families seeking a fresh start. Please kindly consider collecting the following items:

- Bottled Water
- Apples/Cuties
- Gluten-Free Items
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels

Donations can be dropped off at the Bread For Life Food Co-op at 301 East Oakland Avenue in Bloomington. Be sure to check out hshministries.org and click on the "Ways to Give" tab for updated needs and our Amazon Wish list. Thank you so much for providing hope to your neighbors in need.

Support Us In Prayer

As Home Sweet Home begins a new year, we graciously ask your help in praying for:

- our food source providers, including local restaurants and grocery stores.
- individuals, families, and Veterans searching for renewal.
- the health and safety of volunteers, clients, and staff who devote their time in our shelter.
- all those involved in the continued development of The Junction at 301.
- individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations participating in Night In A Car.

Thank you for lifting up HSHM in prayer.