

# Be Hope.

**"Hope For All Who Enter"** has been our slogan for 98 years. Our goal has always been to provide hope to everyone who comes through our doors. But it isn't about our story; every person who comes through our doors has their own story to tell. And our story is ultimately a part of their story. Take it from three of our former residents, who are all employed at Home Sweet Home Ministries.



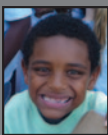
*Pictured from left to right, Maurice, Gail and Ryan*

**"Before I came here,** I was stuck in jobs that weren't paying enough. I knew I had to get myself together, get my life together, find a job. I came to Home Sweet Home and during my stay I got involved with the devotions and art classes and started working in the kitchen. Home Sweet Home is a blessing; some people look at it as just a place to lay their head, and don't realize that this is a place to search for what has gone wrong in their life. They don't take the time to figure out how to stop the cycle and how to make their life better. When I look back on it now, I realize that God was opening doors for me at the right time. One of those doors that He opened for me was this job at Home Sweet Home. I'm the type of person who wants to just share LOVE. I love to make people laugh and cheer them up. It's my gift. And God gave me these gifts to share with HIS people. I'm just happy I have been given the opportunity to do that through Home Sweet Home." -Gail, Kitchen Assistant.

**"I was between jobs** and struggling to make things work. I finally realized I was almost completely out of money and that I was going to be homeless. When I came to Home Sweet Home, I had 39 dollars left to my name. The first person I talked to was Miss Pat. She explained to me the programs and classes that were available and that there was a bed waiting for me upstairs. God has always taken care of me. He never left me on the streets. And as I continued to stay and work at Home Sweet Home, I was always reminded that God was taking care of me. I began to work in the kitchen and I enjoyed working with everyone here. Everyone treats you with kindness and respect. And now that I'm on staff, I try to treat everyone who comes in that same way. I try to minister to them and talk them through their situations. My whole outlook on life has changed, and I'm grateful for every day." -Maurice, Staff Cook.

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**"When I first came to Home Sweet Home,** I hated it. It was a rough transition. I was coming off four drug addictions and I didn't want to be here. One of the staff pulled me aside and told me that if I ever need to talk, he was there for me. And it was that kind of support that helped me when I was staying here at Home Sweet Home. No one is judgmental here and no one believes they are above you. It was hard to come here and admit that you failed. But I learned that God brings you down so that He can bring you up. I was able to build responsibility and set goals so I could get the things I wanted. I was able to get an apartment and a job. I've learned to just take things day by day and stay positive." -Ryan, Food Pantry Assistant.



## A Message from MARY ANN

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. – 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

What are your present circumstances? Maurice, Gail, and Ryan found themselves homeless, jobless, and friendless when they came to Home Sweet Home Ministries – but they were not God-less. God was here, ready to pick them up, strengthen them, and set them on a right path.

This Thanksgiving Maurice, Gail, and Ryan, along with many others, will provide Thanksgiving dinner fixings for over 2,000 families that find themselves in difficult circumstances. Some have financial or health worries. Some suffer from loneliness. Regardless of their circumstances, all will have an opportunity to give thanks because you, our faithful supporters, are there for them.

Maurice, Gail, and Ryan inspire me. They recognize their dependence on God's goodness and grace. They give credit where credit is due – to God. I invite you to do the same.

As you count your blessings this Thanksgiving season, please remember those facing difficult circumstances. Help them understand that they can give thanks, regardless of their circumstances.

Please go to our website, [www.hshministries.org](http://www.hshministries.org), to find out how you can make a difference this Thanksgiving.

In His Name,

Mary Ann Pullin  
Chief Executive  
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## OSF Shoe Drive Collects Over 3,367 Pounds of Shoes!

OSF St. Joseph Medical Center collected 3,367 pounds of shoes for Home Sweet Home Ministries at the 13th Annual OSF Shoe Drive. All shoes will be routed into the Mission Mart thrift stores at Home Sweet Home Ministries for retail sale. The generosity of the Bloomington-Normal community seems to grow every year, and Home Sweet Home is incredibly thankful to OSF for promoting the shoe drive and bringing in community support. "OSF St. Joseph Medical Center is a fantastic community partner. Over the past 13 years, they have collected over 19,000 pairs of shoes for the benefit of individuals in our community. This year alone, they collected 3,367 pounds of shoes. These shoes will be a real blessing. Many thanks to OSF and the community for their compassionate support of our ministry," shares Mary Ann Pullin, Chief Executive Officer at Home Sweet Home Ministries. **Missed your chance to drop-off shoes? Check out [www.missionmart.org](http://www.missionmart.org) for donation drop-off locations!**





## Give Thanks 2015: How great is OUR God!

*"Give THANKS to the Lord for He is good."  
-1 Chronicles 16:34*

Thankfulness is expressing and feeling gratitude for the things in our lives, and we all have things for which we are thankful. Since our founding, on Thanksgiving Day in 1917, Home Sweet Home Ministries has always opened its doors for all to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner. *This year, we plan to distribute 2,000 Thanksgiving meal baskets, complete with turkeys, 600 home delivered meals, and 150 in-house meals on Thanksgiving Day.* Hundreds of volunteers throughout the community, along with Midwest Food Bank and local grocery stores, will help us gather the food essentials that we need for this effort. Home Sweet Home is also partnering with Great Plains Media for the Turkey Drop Days to collect turkeys and other non-perishable food items. We will also continue our partnership with Open Arms Christian Fellowship, to expand our fundraising efforts in the Lincoln and Logan County area. **If you would like to donate or find out more information, visit [www.givethanks2015.org](http://www.givethanks2015.org).**



*From one of our neighbors who joined us on Thanksgiving last year: "The meal is so delicious, and it is wonderful to be surrounded by people. Thank you!"*



*From a woman who received a turkey last year: "It's comforting to know that I won't have to eat a peanut butter and jelly sandwich-I will be able to have a Thanksgiving dinner!"*



*From one of our volunteers: "Everyone was so happy and thankful. The process this year was great. I love the improvement!"*



### Many Hands Make Light Work

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the way we serve those in need here at Home Sweet Home Ministries. Each one of our volunteers brings a unique skill to help accomplish the mission and vision of our organization. Fred Nimke started volunteering in July of 2014, and since then, he has put in over 500 hours.

Fred is a retired carpenter and uses his talents to complete projects to make Home Sweet Home more comfortable for the residents. He would like their temporary home to be as nice as his home, if he can, and for them to be as comfortable here as possible here.

Fred says that his faith has been reaffirmed through his volunteer service at Home Sweet Home and he looks to Christ as his example. "The blueprint is in the Bible. We are called to serve and love one another and we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ. I'm just following the example that was laid out for me." Fred says.



## Give Thanks 2015 Shopping List!

This year more people than ever will seek help at Thanksgiving from Home Sweet Home. We plan to serve over 10,000 meals to individuals in our community and we need YOUR help! The list below represents what we will provide in each of our Thanksgiving meal baskets. Over 2,000 families will be receiving these baskets. You can bring items to the Billy Shelper Center here at Home Sweet Home Ministries at 303 E. Oakland Ave. in Bloomington or you can go online to [givethanks2015.org](http://givethanks2015.org) for a complete list of donation locations!

- 1 Turkey
- 2 Cans of Green Beans
- 2 Cans of Cream of Mushroom
- 1 Box of Instant Mashed Potatoes
- 1 Turkey Gravy Packet
- 1 Regular Can of French Fried Onions
- 1 Can of Cranberry Sauce
- 1 Box of Jiffy Pie Crust Mix
- 1 Can of Pie Filling
- 1 Can of Evaporated Milk

## HSHM Women's Auxiliary

Home Sweet Home Women's Auxiliary is open to anyone interested in supporting our organization. Their next meetings are November 9th at Home Sweet Home Ministries and December 14th at First Christian Church in Bloomington. Meetings begin at noon and include a potluck lunch and program.

The Women's Auxiliary has supported many projects to benefit the residents of Home Sweet Home. They recently purchased 60 copies of The Story, NIV: The Bible as One Continuous Story of God and His People for the residents of Home Sweet Home.



## Shop Smart at Mission Mart!

If you've been by the Mission Mart in Bloomington or Lincoln lately, then you've probably noticed the fantastic items in our Silent Auction. The Silent Auction is full of collector's items, antiques, and designer

apparel that anyone can bid on. New pieces are put in every Tuesday morning, and you have the opportunity to bid until the following Monday. With up to 82 items per week, there is something for everyone. Each week brings new and exciting selections for our customers, but nothing beats getting the call that you are the lucky winner. Stop by the Mission Mart in Bloomington and in Lincoln today to place a bid!

**Go to [www.missionmart.org](http://www.missionmart.org) for more information!**



Some of the Silent Auction items displayed



Become a Partner in Hope this

**FALL**

Monthly giving through our Partners in Hope program provides consistent support to the men, women and children who receive services at Home Sweet Home Ministries.

*Monthly donations help form a predictable source of income we can count on and will further our mission to serve the hungry, homeless and hurting.*

Visit [donate.hshministries.org](http://donate.hshministries.org) to become a Partner in Hope today!