

*Hope For All Who Enter*

[www.hshministries.org](http://www.hshministries.org)

**HSHM**  
HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES  
since 1917

JULY 2016

## Bread for Life Food Co-op Builds Community

Two years ago, Home Sweet Home Ministries opened the Bread for Life Food Co-op. The co-op currently has over 400 active members and over 5,000 hours of service completed. In a typical month co-op members make 400 shopping trips to select the foods for themselves and their families. Obtaining food security is important, but equally important is the sense of community that has developed among its members.

CarolAnn Carara, HSHM's Director of Hospitality Services, says "It has been amazing over the past two years to see people building trusting, dependable relationships by being co-op members. Those relationships enhance their faithfulness and the productivity of the co-op. If they know their friend is going to be there, they are going to come."

"We've watched so many members grow in their feelings of self-worth and dignity, and we've seen members grow in their skills" CarolAnn continues, *"Instead of coming in to receive something, co-op members get to work alongside people who are going through similar life situations."*

It isn't just about the food- that almost becomes a by-product. It's about the people."

"A good example of this would be Carla. When Carla signed up for the Co-op, on her membership application there is a space for employment and Carla wrote, "disabled cannot do anything". Carla used a walker to get around. But we worked with Carla to figure out what would work for her. Today Carla still uses her walker, although she stands much more erect and even has a little spring in her step. Carla has made new relationships and finds some much needed community while she works in the co-op. Carla is not just a name and a face. She is a friend and co-worker within the co-op."

**So far this year, we have had over 14,800 volunteer hours.**





## A Message from Mary Ann

*Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray – Proverbs 22:6*

One of the great joys we experience at Home Sweet Home is to participate in “training children in the right way.” Numerous church, school, and family groups involve their children and youth in service opportunities at Home Sweet Home.

Children and youth are involved in food drives, preparing food for sack lunches, volunteering at the warehouse, helping with art activities and story times for children, creating and selling ceramic bowls, participating in worship services at Home Sweet Home, and helping to deliver meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Some children have chosen to have “alternative birthdays,” asking party guests to donate to Home Sweet Home in place of gifts for themselves. Other children have raised funds through lemonade stands or garage sales.

The children who reside at Home Sweet Home are also “in training.” They are learning that Jesus loves them. They have opportunities to participate in worship and Bible study. They are learning to apply the Golden Rule.

I thank God for parents, teachers, youth leaders, mentors and the children and youth they influence. Please join me in praying for all children and youth and the adults who are involved in their lives.

(In His Name,  
*Mary Ann Pullin*)

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## How the Bread for Life Co-op impacts its members



Two years ago, we opened up the Bread for Life Co-op. And with over 400 members, there have been many different stories of hope and life-change. One of those stories is from Mary, who has been a part of the co-op from the beginning.

“Before the co-op, I was living at Lincoln Towers and I would drive people around who couldn’t make it to the pantry themselves. Then, I heard about the Bread for Life Co-op. I was intrigued by the idea of membership, and working for my food- not just receiving a box at a pantry. I signed up and it has been a wonderful experience.

*“I don’t come back for  
the food, I come back  
for the **support**  
I get from everyone.”*

Over the past two years I have been able to develop relationships and get to know everyone here on a personal level. It’s the best support system I have. I’ve had some health issues and everyone here has gone above and beyond to support and love me. I know that I am cared for

and that I’m valued. Being a part of the Bread for Life Co-op has made me aware of the struggles that everyone is going through. No matter how bad my problems seem to be, so many other people here are struggling with something worse. It humbles me and makes me so thankful for everything I’ve been blessed with. I’m so grateful every day. For me, the Bread for Life Co-op is more than just food. It’s the people that continue to bring me back. I’ve built relationships with so many people, and have found true, dependable friendships. The food has become secondary. I don’t come back for the food, I come back for the support I get from everyone.”

# Save the Date!

## October 11th: 10th Annual Art Show

*We are so thankful for every one of our volunteers who selflessly serves at Home Sweet Home Ministries. This newsletter, we are featuring Nadine Prall, who has volunteered over 220 hours at HSHM!*

## Volunteer Testimonial

### **How did you get connected with HSHM?**

"I was reading the bulletin at my church, and it said that Home Sweet Home needed help serving lunches on Fridays. I began volunteering, and I quickly fell in love with the people. The staff and residents were so wonderful-I was hooked! I also shop at the Bloomington Mission Mart quite often, so I thought I would also help out there!

### **How has volunteering made an impact on you?**

"Volunteering has made me appreciate what I have. When I volunteer, I feel like I am getting so much more out of it than I could ever give. It has also encouraged me to be more generous with my time and volunteer as much as I can."

### **What would you tell others about volunteering at Home Sweet Home Ministries?**

"It is a wonderful place to volunteer. Once you get started, you want to come back more and more! I have several friends who are retiring and trying to figure out what to do, and I always encourage them to volunteer. Even if it's just for a little bit, it makes such an impact on you and on the ministry." **Become a volunteer today! Visit [HSHMinistries.org](http://HSHMinistries.org)**



## **Grant received from Illinois Prairie Community Foundation**

Home Sweet Home Ministries received a grant in the amount of \$1026 from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation (IPCF) for the expansion of the Mobile Health Project, a partnership between Home Sweet Home Ministries and the Community Health Care Clinic. On behalf of those who will now have ready access to health care, many thanks to IPCF!

## **HSHM Women's Auxiliary – The Best Potluck in Town!**

Home Sweet Home Ministries' Women's Auxiliary meets on the second Monday of the month with registration beginning at 11:30 a.m., potluck lunch at noon, and the program beginning at 1 p.m. The Women's Auxiliary supports the work of Home Sweet Home Ministries and is open to all. Contact President, Pat Parmenter, at (309) 661-8842 for more information.



**November 4th: Sharing the Light of Hope Fundraising Gala**



# Day of Hope for our Community!

June 11th was a busy day here at Home Sweet Home Ministries. Three of our community partners came out for a fun day of hope. Thank you to First Assembly of God Church for having their second annual Day of Hope. Volunteers from the church collected food, recycled clothing, and showed hope and love to many in our community. We are so thankful for this partnership.

Later that night, Daybreak Rotary had their 4th annual Cajun Craze benefitting Home Sweet Home. People came out and enjoyed delicious Cajun food, live music, and auction items.

Express Employment Professionals had their "Brand It Blue" Day and collected canned food items for HSHM.

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*We are so blessed!  
Thank you to everyone  
who came out for these  
fun events!*

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## Become a Partner in Hope this summer!

As Home Sweet Home Ministries celebrates 99 years of service to the community, we are seeking at least 99 new Monthly Donors to become *Partners in Hope*. You can join our special community of monthly givers who play a key role in helping families find hope and restoration. It's the steady support of our Partners in Hope that enables us to support the men, women, and children of our community who are homeless. Right now, when you become a Partner in Hope, your gift will provide spiritual and emotional support, love, and will spread hope in the Bloomington-Normal community.



To become a Partner in Hope  
go to [donate.hshministries.org](http://donate.hshministries.org)  
and **choose to make a monthly donation.**

## Get a Tax Benefit

## Donate a Vehicle

### Home Sweet Home Ministries



- Any Vehicle, Anywhere
- Running or Not
- **Free**, Easy, Fast



Get a Tax Benefit and a big **"Thanks"** from us

[www.hshministries.org](http://www.hshministries.org)

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