

From Hopeless to Hopeful

When Brian first came to Home Sweet Home Ministries, he was at rock bottom, hopeless. He was dealing with a divorce, leading him into depression which ultimately cost him his job and his apartment. Brian felt alone, with no one to talk to.

"This place saved my life," says Brian, a veteran who stayed at Home Sweet Home for seven months.

"You think you're a number when you come in, but as time went on you figured out that you're not just a number. You're actually somebody that people care about."

Having a special room for veterans was his first step towards a new, brighter path. Home Sweet Home reserves seven beds in semi-private rooms specifically for veterans who are referred by the Veteran's Administration.

"It was wonderful to have a place to go and some sort of privacy to start off with," adds Brian.

Brian's faith was restored through devotions, counseling, and Faith and Finances classes. "You get out of it what you put into it. And that's what we did, we just kept plugging along all that time and finally things happened."

He utilized our services here to turn his life around. "Everyone is fragile; they just don't realize how fragile they can be. They (Home Sweet Home Ministries' staff) start to help you put the pieces back together."

Brian now has an apartment, a job, and confidence in himself that didn't exist seven months ago. "It's given me hope again," says Brian.

He says he loves his new job and looks forward to saving up money and paying off his bills. He knows obstacles still lie ahead, but now he has a more optimistic approach.

"I live day by day and keep myself together. I'm making it. This place has been a Godsend," praises Brian.



*"You're actually
somebody that
people care
about."*

MISSION STATEMENT

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



A Message from Mary Ann

*Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.*

- Psalm 107:8-9

For 99 years Home Sweet Home Ministries has endeavored to be God's agent in satisfying those who hunger and thirst for both physical and spiritual sustenance. On a daily basis we are blessed by those who participate with us in this holy work.

On September 18, seven local churches joined together to gather thousands of pounds of food and supplies that Home Sweet Home Ministries and Midwest Food Bank will use to meet the needs of the people we serve over the next several months. Many thanks to the faithful people of Vale, Evangelical Free, Victory Christian, Charis, New Life, Our Redeemer Lutheran, and Bloomington First Baptist for working to satisfy the thirsty and hungry.

Thanks, also, to OSF St. Joseph Medical Center and all who contributed shoes in the 14th annual shoe drive. The shoes collected will find their way to work, school, play, and church on the feet of those who bought them through the Bloomington and Lincoln Mission Marts. Proceeds from the sale of the shoes will support the programs at Home Sweet Home Ministries.

The annual art show on October 11 satisfied a hunger and thirst for beauty in our world and in the lives of our residents. Thanks to all who participated as artists and teachers in the art show.

On November 4, we will celebrate our 99th anniversary with a fundraising gala that includes a dinner, silent auction, and live auction. I would love to have you join us for this festive occasion. Go to www.hshministries.org to learn more.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I give thanks for you and your participation in our ministries through your prayers, service, and gifts.

Blessings,

Mary Ann Pullin

Mary Ann Pullin
Chief Executive
mpullin@hshministries.org
(309) 828-7356

OSF Shoe Drive Collects 3,524 Pounds of Shoes!

OSF St. Joseph Medical Center collected 3,524 pounds of shoes for Home Sweet Home Ministries at the 14th Annual OSF Shoe Drive. All wearable shoes are routed to the Mission Mart thrift stores 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.

Missed your chance to donate shoes? Check out www.missionmart.org for drop-off locations!



Become a Partner in Hope Today!

Make a commitment to offer ongoing, monthly support of any amount to Home Sweet Home Ministries.

Your monthly donation provides income we can count on to further our mission to share Christ's love, instill hope, and restore lives.

Visit www.hshministries.org/donate to become a Partner in Hope today!



Save the Date!

November 4th:
Sharing the Light of Hope Fundraising Gala
Register at www.wedoauctions.net/hshm

Healing and Hope in the Volunteer Relationship

Volunteers play a crucial role in helping us to serve others, each one bringing a unique skill set that inspires hope in our residents. Sarah Tunall, a volunteer since December 2014, brings her voice.

Sarah loves to facilitate our Devotions once a week.

"I lead a reading, a conversation, and we pray together," says Sarah. "It's really brought some conversations of hope and some conversations of reconciliation."

It's through these interactions that she too has grown as an individual.

"Words that some of the residents say in those conversations have been healing and transformative in my life," shares Sarah. For her, volunteering is centered on creating relationships. She helps others and in return heals herself.

"I feel like that's our calling by the gospel, to build relationships with one another."

Sarah says volunteering is life transforming. She encourages others to do the same.

Become a volunteer today! Visit www.hshministries.org



Community Partners

It was a busy summer for Home Sweet Home Ministries. In July, the Illinois Chamber Music Festival held a concert benefitting our Bread for Life Food Co-op.

Gardeners supplied us with abundant produce.

In August, Sherman's donated 52 mattresses for our resident beds.

We also initiated interest in a new project called Young Professionals.

Volunteers from Monsanto, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, IWU, ISU, and other groups all helped out at our warehouse.

Churches throughout the community collected food donations for us on Big Give Sunday.

Thank you everyone for all that you do!



HSHM Women's Auxiliary

The Women's Auxiliary supports many projects that benefit the residents at Home Sweet Home. They recently donated funds for 12 mattress covers for our resident beds.

Home Sweet Home Women's Auxiliary is open to anyone. Their next meeting is November 14th at Home Sweet Home Ministries.

Meetings begin at noon and include a potluck lunch and program.

So far this year, we have had over 260,000 pounds of food donated!

Give Thanks 2016

Thanksgiving is a time to look back and count our blessings. Here at Home Sweet Home, we have a lot of ways in 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, 600 home delivered meals, and 150 in-house meals on Thanksgiving Day. Hundreds of volunteers, along with Midwest Food Bank and local grocery stores, will help us gather the essential food to ensure the success of this effort. We are so thankful for the outpouring of community support that is provided year after year. We look forward to providing warm meals to the men, women, and children in our community on Thanksgiving Day.



Introducing the State Farm Employee Match Donation Program

Attention all State Farm employees and retirees! State Farm will now match all donations up to \$1,500 to Home Sweet Home made by their employees and retirees. This wonderful opportunity allows you to double your contribution to Home Sweet Home Ministries and make an even larger impact in our community. You may submit a request for any donation already made in 2016 and for any additional donations this year. If you have any questions, please contact our Donor Relations

Coordinator Ashley Souk at
309-828-7356.

Give Thanks 2016 Shopping List

We have plenty of people in need of our help this Thanksgiving at Home Sweet Home. We plan to serve over 10,000 meals to individuals in our community and we need your support! The list below includes what will be provided in each of our Thanksgiving meal baskets. Our goal is to give over 2,000 baskets to families in need. You can bring items to the Billy Shelper Center at Home Sweet Home Ministries at 303 E. Oakland Ave. in Bloomington.

- 1 Turkey
- 2 Cans of Green Beans
- 2 Cans of Cream of Mushroom
- 1 Box of Instant Mashed Potatoes
- 1 Turkey Gravy Packet
(No Glass Jars, please.)
- 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

