

Hope For All Who Enter

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HSHM

HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES
since 1917

JULY 2018

Blessed Assurance

As Rosamond walks the halls of Home Sweet Home Ministries, she is surrounded with open arms and big smiles.

"Whenever I come here, I feel happiness. I feel family around me."

It's been nearly two years since Rosamond stayed at the shelter.

"When I first came here, I was so depressed. I was coming from an abusive relationship," shares Rosamond. "I depended on my spouse for everything. I didn't do anything on my own."

Through counseling services at Home Sweet Home, Rosamond learned to embrace her independence.

"Home Sweet Home supported me physically, mentally, and morally. From here is where my experience really started," exclaims Rosamond.

With the support of HSHM, Rosamond secured housing and employment. Despite a few struggles, her strength and happiness endures. "I have my home. I can go to the bank. I can do things for myself now," smiles Rosamond.

Rosamond continues to live in her own apartment and enjoys babysitting. She remains devoted to her Bible studies and helping others wherever she can. She is even an active member of the Bread for Life Food Co-op.

"I help with stocking. I sort bread and canned foods. I also work with the people who are shopping," conveys Rosamond.

She loves shopping in the co-op at least a few times per month. She says she savors picking out fresh vegetables and meat.



"Here you get really good food and friendships," adds Rosamond. "We have a good time together. It's a good experience for me."

As Rosamond strives to move forward, she demonstrates that there is hope beyond the shelter walls.

"With God, we have hope all the time. That's what keeps me going," praises Rosamond. Her spirits remain high as she discovers more about herself and the new paths that lie ahead.

"It's been a very good journey for me," asserts Rosamond. "I am living my own life. I am so happy."

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

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

- Romans 15:7

Lauren Hutton, one of Home Sweet Home's case managers, has this Bible verse posted on her office door as a daily reminder of her reason for being in her position at Home Sweet Home. Lauren refers to her position as her "dream job," because it allows her to talk about Jesus and pray with clients. As she helps her clients gain confidence and capability, she finds that she is growing spiritually and professionally as well.

Lauren's clients inspire and motivate her. Geneva* is dealing with a serious health issue, along with being homeless, and yet she is one of the happiest, most positive people that Lauren has encountered. Geneva initially claimed that she had no use for God or religion, but she now gladly accepts Lauren's prayers on her behalf.

Darlene*, one of Lauren's former clients, recently moved into her own apartment. Darlene struggles with mental illness, but she focuses on what she can do, not on her limitations. She holds down a job and has found the resources to furnish her new apartment.

The key to Lauren's success in working with her clients is reliance on God and dependence on prayer. Lauren prays for every meeting that she has with her clients. She trusts that the Holy Spirit will give her the words to speak when the message is difficult to deliver.

We are blessed to have Lauren and her co-workers, Jenn Rients and Ruth Nance, in their positions as case managers. They truly live out the commandment to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Blessings,

Mary Ann Pullin

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

*Names changed to protect client confidentiality.



May Community Challenge

Thank You!



A generous group of donors contributed \$81,500 to Home Sweet Home Ministries and challenged community members to match their contributions. The community responded with gifts totaling \$77,220, for a grand total of \$158,720. This is the best response we have had to the May Community Challenge to date. Many thanks to all who contributed. Because of you, Home Sweet Home Ministries will continue to provide greatly needed services to our local community.

Engaging Others

Illinois State University's American Democracy Project presented Home Sweet Home Ministries with the Community Partner Civic Engagement Award. It has been a pleasure to share a mutual community partnership with Illinois State University for many years. During the past academic year, over 180 ISU students contributed more than 1,100 volunteer hours. We look forward to many more years working together with Illinois State University's Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning.



Save the Date!

**August 3rd-13th:
16th Annual OSF Shoe Drive**

Hopeful Guidance



Each semester, Home Sweet Home offers internship opportunities for a range of college students. One of our most popular areas to intern is Client Services. Beginning in her junior year, Carley Leitch, a now graduate from Illinois State University's Undergraduate Social Work program, decided to choose Home Sweet Home Ministries for her 50-hour volunteer placement.

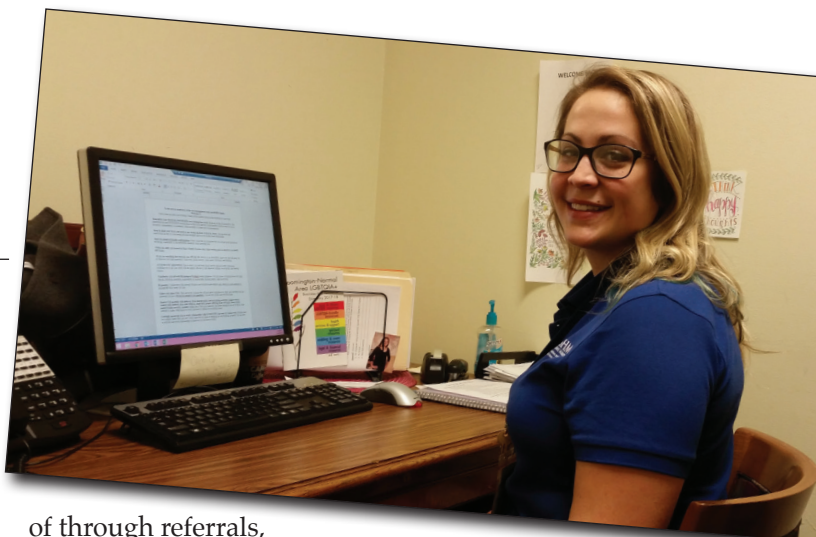
"From the very first day of training, I was met with an overwhelming sense of kindness, not only from staff but from the residents as well," says Carley.

Despite feeling a little intimidated, Carley easily adapted to her new role.

"As a Case Management Intern, I am interacting with a multitude of community members on a daily basis when they are interviewing for potential residency," shares Carley. "I am put on the forefront of interactions with people who are in difficult times, but rest assured knowing they are seeking help in the right place."

Carley says she is beyond grateful to experience first-hand all the hard work case managers do to aid others in crisis.

"HSHM staff are making sure that individuals are taken care



of through referrals, personal recommendations, or even through simple sit-down conversations," observes Carley.

Through her time at HSHM, Carley says she is excited to move forward with her social work career.

"I cannot assign a value to my time here or count the immense number of skills I have learned through observation, supervision, interactions, and conversations," expresses Carley. "At times, I wish I could take my colleagues and friends with me to the next phase in my life, but I find solace in knowing I have made lifelong connections while here and can take those wherever I go."

Carley is currently pursuing her master's degree in Social Work at The Ohio State University. Thanks for all of your hard work, Carley! We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

EXTENDING Hope

Home Sweet Home Ministries has received a grant in the amount of \$9,000 from the Westfield Insurance Foundation's Legacy of Caring Fund.

The grant will provide financial support for case managers who work with families and individuals in our shelter. Our staff looks forward to helping more HSHM clients achieve their goals of securing stable housing and employment.

From all of us at Home Sweet Home, we would like to thank BPA Troxell for the nomination and the Westfield Insurance Foundation for their generous support.

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for Home Sweet Home Ministries and the services we provide.

We ask that you join us in praying for:

- community members working in gardens to support our food services.
- Bread for Life Food Co-op and its members.
- our food source providers, including local restaurants and grocery stores.
- individuals and families in need of shelter.
- volunteers, clients, and staff who devote their time in our shelter, Mission Mart, and warehouse.

November 17th & 19th: Give Thanks Distribution

Community Partners

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Golden Kiwanis Club of Bloomington provided funds to add mulch to our children's play yard.

Kiwanis Club of Bloomington provided funds for short-term rental assistance for a family served by the Bridge of Hope program.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church hosted Big Give Sunday, bringing in over 2,600 pounds of donated items for the Bread For Life Food Co-op and dining center.

A variety of donations continue to pour in at our receiving center.

Over 450 volunteers have dedicated time in our warehouse and shelter this year.

Community members enjoyed a delicious meal by HSHM kitchen staff during our Summer Supper To-Go Fundraiser.

Several groups including Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary, Connect Transit, and Country Financial hosted meals for HSHM residents.

Home Sweet Home is blessed by all of your support. Thank you!



Four years and growing!

The Bread For Life Food Co-op is celebrating 4 years. Since its inception, the co-op has helped hundreds of individuals gain access to healthy foods and other household items.

An average of 150 shopping trips are made by co-op members each month.

HSHM is beyond blessed for the community's support to keep the co-op shelves stocked. Our work would not be possible without all your generous donations. We look forward to serving many more members for years to come!



Women's Auxiliary Update

The HSHM Women's Auxiliary reinstalled the current officers for the 2018-2019 year. Pat Parmenter, President; Loretta Terven, Vice President; Carol Griffith, Secretary; Judy Peppers, Treasurer.

The Auxiliary proudly participated in HSHM's May Community Challenge.

Annual dues are \$10.00. Lifetime memberships are \$100.00.

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at HSHM, 303 East Oakland Avenue, Bloomington. Potluck lunch and program included.

Upcoming meetings are:

- **August 13**, Barb and Paula, mother/daughter musicians
- **September 10**, The No Worries Uke Band
- **October 8**, Maureen and Brian Barnes, Dulcimer Dreamers