

Hope For All Who Enter

www.hshministries.org

HSHM
HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES
since 1917

OCTOBER 2018



Inspiring New Directions

Home Sweet Home Ministries strives to use innovative approaches to help those in need in our community. We are pleased to announce the start of a new initiative, Rapid Rehousing, in addition to our expansion of Bridge of Hope.

"Rapid Rehousing is all about helping people get into a home of their own as fast as possible and then providing them with support once they are in that home," explains HSHM Chief Operating Officer Matt Burgess.

The faster housing is established, the more time a participant has to focus on the restoration of their life. "When people are provided access to housing, a lot of the associated problems they're experiencing start to improve," shares Burgess. "For example, if somebody is struggling with their mental health and they're homeless, if they are provided a home, their mental health starts to improve. The need for safety and security is a fundamental need. Providing someone with a home of their own immediately provides that safe zone."



"When people are provided access to housing, a lot of the associated problems they're experiencing start to improve."

Participants will work closely with Home Sweet Home's Rapid Rehousing Navigator to move in to a place of their own in a matter of days.

HSHM will provide time and quantity limited rental assistance. Burgess adds,

"We look forward to developing significant relationships with landlords. We plan on reaching out to landlords large and small."

Once housing is secured, participants must find ways to stabilize their income through employment or benefits to maintain housing.

Home Sweet Home hopes to help 15 households within the first year with this new initiative.

Another exciting way HSHM will be preventing homelessness in our community is through the expansion of Bridge of Hope. Home Sweet Home has utilized the program for the past five years.

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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

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

- Psalm 100:4

I thank God that Billy Shelper decided to open the doors to Home Sweet Home Ministries on Thanksgiving Day 1917. I love to share that story with visitors and tell them, "We have been celebrating Thanksgiving ever since." I mean that sincerely. Every day at Home Sweet Home Ministries is a day to give thanks.

I give thanks for the opportunity to minister to and with a host of God's children: those in need of food, shelter, and hope; employees and volunteers who share their time and talents; and all who support us with their prayers and gifts.

My favorite season at Home Sweet Home Ministries is during the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. Thousands of people join with us in expressing gratitude for God's blessings by sharing their blessings with others. Some donate turkeys or other food. Some volunteer their time. All recognize the common bond that they share with all God's children. Praise God!

This year, as in year's past, we will partner with Midwest Food Bank, local churches, and others in the community to make sure that over 10,000 people have everything they need for a Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone can play a role. You do not have to physically bring us food. You may write a check or donate online and say a prayer for those you are helping.

Thank you for helping to make every day a day of thanksgiving at Home Sweet Home Ministries.

Blessings,

Mary Ann Pullin

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Inspiring New Directions

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"Bridge of Hope helps families facing homelessness find stable housing and connects them to a neighboring support group of 6-10 dedicated individuals," shares HSHM Client Services Director Melissa Newbill. "The goal is to help families over a course of 18-24 months build friendships and a support system that lasts." With limited resources, the program has only impacted a couple of families at a time.

"We are blessed to have a full-time Bridge of Hope Family Resource Coordinator now on staff," announces Newbill. "Having someone devoted to developing neighboring groups, landlord relationships, and working with families is an amazing opportunity for us."

Home Sweet Home looks forward to impacting up to four families within the first year. We are thrilled to embark on this new journey to instill hope, restore lives, and build community.

"This is an opportunity that has been provided to us because of our faithfulness," exclaims Burgess. "It's amazing to see God in action like this."

OSF Shoe Drive Collects Over 2,400 Pounds of Shoes

OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center and Home Sweet Home Ministries are pleased to share that **2,437** pounds of shoes were collected during this year's 16th annual OSF Shoe Drive. Thank you for all of the generous donations of men's, women's, and children's shoes! All wearable shoes are routed to the Mission Mart for resale. HSHM is truly grateful to OSF for hosting the shoe drive and all of the community's support.



Save the Date!

**November 17th & 19th:
Give Thanks Food Distribution**

Women's Auxiliary Update

Home Sweet Home Ministries' Auxiliary is proud to be an organizational sponsor for Night In A Car 2019.

Women's Auxiliary meets February through December each year at HSHM, at 11:30 a.m., unless otherwise stated. Meetings include a potluck lunch, program, and business meeting. Dues are a reasonable \$10.00 annually. New members are always welcome. The following programs are scheduled:

- Monday, November 12, 2018, Charlene Homan, Touchstone Storytelling, Owner/Writer
- Monday, December 10, 2018, Christmas Tea – 12:00 noon, First Christian Church.
401 W. Jefferson, Bloomington Melody Makers, Gospel Trio

Auxiliary members are encouraged to bring powdered laundry detergent to the meetings to donate to the shelter.

Constructing Hope

It takes a lot of work to maintain Home Sweet Home's shelter.

Thanks to a generous donor, our

first floor has undergone some

recent renovations. Both the men's

and women's lounges have been updated to include new bathrooms

and new lockers. Laundry facilities have also been relocated to the first

floor. Shelter residents are especially grateful for this new arrangement.



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:

- our Veterans in need of a fresh start.
- community members hosting food drives to support Give Thanks.
- 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.

Give Thanks 2018

Thanksgiving Day is a very important day for Home Sweet Home. We opened our doors on Thanksgiving Day in 1917 for all to enjoy a nice warm meal. As we carry on into our 101st year, our tradition of providing a Thanksgiving meal to those in need continues. Home Sweet Home Ministries and Midwest Food Bank plan to distribute 2,000 Thanksgiving meal boxes. Home Sweet Home will also provide nearly 600 home delivered meals and 150 in-house meals on Thanksgiving Day. As the holiday season nears, we need your help. The list below includes all the items provided in each of our Thanksgiving meal boxes. You can bring items to Home Sweet Home Ministries at 303 East Oakland Avenue in Bloomington. Thank you!

- 1 Turkey
- 2 Cans of Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1 Turkey Gravy Packet (No jars, please.)
- 1 Can of French Fried Onions
- 1 Can of Cranberry Sauce
- 1 Box of Pie Crust Mix



Home Sweet Home is blessed to have hundreds of volunteers, Midwest Food Bank, several local churches, and businesses coming together to help ensure the success of this effort. We look forward to providing hope to those in need this Thanksgiving!

February 1st: Night In A Car

One Dish at a Time

On Thanksgiving Day, over 150 volunteers sign up to help with various jobs at our ministry such as serving food or meal delivery. But for Bob Frase, a volunteer for almost seven years, it's all about cleaning up.

"Just put me back in the kitchen. Dishes are easy," claims Bob, pictured below in the group photo wearing the green shirt.

Each Thanksgiving he travels 40 minutes from Fairbury to work behind the scenes scrubbing up pots and pans.

"If somebody doesn't do the dishes, things don't happen," adds Bob. "Even though it's out of the way, it's an important part. It's satisfying and I enjoy it."

Bob says it feels great to give back during the holiday season. He's grateful for the opportunity to volunteer and encourages others to do the same.

"Get involved and give back. It's all about helping each other," claims Bob.

Thanks, Bob for your dedication. We truly appreciate all your help.

Interested in volunteering? Please visit our website hshministries.org for more information.



Night In A Car Now Online

Momentum is building for Night In A Car 2019! Home Sweet Home Ministries is pleased to unveil our new website: www.nightinacar.org. On the site you will discover more information about Night In A Car and be able to easily sign up. Get inspired and plan to join us on February 1st, 2019. Be sure to check it out today!



Community Partners

HSHM has been very blessed over the past few months!

Local farmers provided our shelter with a bountiful harvest of fresh produce.

Vale Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, Victory Church, Calvary United Methodist Church, Mennonite Church of Normal, First Baptist Church, and First Presbyterian Church of Normal hosted food drives during Big Give season to help support HSHM needs for Thanksgiving.

Several groups volunteered at our warehouse and shelter including ISU Community Engagement and Service Learning, IWU Women's Soccer, IWU Freshmen, and Thrivent Action Teams.

Support for urgent needs requests via social media has been a true blessing. Community members quickly restocked our shelves with toilet paper and tissues when supplies were running very low.

Thank you for all of your help!

