

Hope For All Who Enter

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HSHM

HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES
since 1917

JANUARY 2019

No place Like Home

Having a place to call your own means everything. With Home Sweet Home's Rapid Rehousing program, we help people in need get into a home of their own as fast as possible. Since its inception last fall, our Rapid Rehousing Navigator, Aaron Stine, has been seeking out participants for the program.

"My job focuses on helping participants overcome obstacles that are holding them back from independent housing which could be financial, previous evictions, background criminal records, or any combination of things," says Aaron. "I have helped five individuals secure housing. I look forward to helping even more find places of their own."

One of Aaron's first participants, Phillip, was thrilled to be considered for Rapid Rehousing.

"We sat down and talked and we started moving from there," says Phillip.

Aaron worked with Phillip to create a budget. "We figured out how much my bills would be every month and what everything would cost. He really helped me put things into perspective," shares Phillip. "I had some outstanding utility bills and I started aggressively paying that off and the program was able to help me with that."

After putting his finances in order, the next step was to find an apartment. Phillip was excited to begin the search. "Aaron went with me and we talked to the landlords. We shared information about the new program."

Once Phillip found a place, Aaron helped him fill out the necessary paper work and put down a deposit. When asked about getting handed the keys, "Oh, it's awesome. Nothing like it," smiles Phillip.

Aaron keeps in touch with Phillip, providing continued support and guidance. "Phillip has been awesome to work with. He has been very thankful and positive," adds Aaron. "I believe a true friendship has started. He welcomes the home visits and Phillip is doing very well on his own."

Phillip says he's blessed to have others that he can count on.

"It's very good to know that I have someone I can talk to in case I need some help. He comes by and checks on me. We have home visits to see if everything is going well."

Fast forward a few months later and Phillip continues to work hard and save money. "It's been a big help to just have a place to call home."

Phillip says he is extremely grateful for Aaron and everyone involved. "The Rapid Rehousing program is a Godsend. It's one thing to provide shelter for someone, but to be able to help someone get out there on their own, put their first foot forward, that's a blessing."



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

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

- John 15:12

Jesus's love is sacrificial and constant, not just on Christmas or Valentine's Day, not just when the loving mood strikes, and not just towards the people who will return that love. Jesus loves everyone, all the time.

We can only aspire to love like Jesus loves, but many people, every day, are reaching towards that goal.

Ten-year old Kinley is one such person. Jesus placed in Kinley's heart the desire to share the love of Jesus with people who are experiencing homelessness. Kinley asked her circle of family and friends to make contributions so that she could purchase basic necessities for people staying at Home Sweet Home Ministries in lieu of gifts for her tenth birthday. Kinley blessed dozens of people who she doesn't even know and she set an example for all who helped her accomplish her goal.

Hundreds of people volunteered and thousands of people donated food and funds to ensure that their neighbors would experience the love of Jesus during the recent holiday season.

Mike and Susan, our regular Monday lunch servers at Home Sweet Home, were recently serving lunch on a Tuesday. When I questioned them about doing double duty, they said, "Didn't you know? Every day is Monday." In other words, "Jesus loves me every day, so I want to love others every day."

Jesus sets the bar for loving others impossibly high. It is our great privilege to follow his example. Thank you for the many ways in which you live out the love of Jesus every day.

Blessings,

Mary Ann Pullin

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Sweet Inspiration

Your birthday comes once a year. It's a special time to celebrate you and have a little fun. For Kinley Elliott's 10th birthday, she wanted to do something a little more. After watching YouTube videos about ways to give back, Kinley was inspired to help those in need at Home Sweet Home. Instead of asking for presents she encouraged family and church members for donations. Kinley collected over \$200. She used the money to go on a shopping spree to purchase items, including socks, pajamas, and blankets. In November, Kinley dropped off the wonderful array of donations and took a tour of the shelter. Thank you so much, Kinley. You're an inspiration to us all!

Women's Auxiliary Update

Women's Auxiliary enjoyed their annual Christmas Tea in December. The Auxiliary will be on winter break in January and February. Their next two meetings are:

- March 11th: Deanna Frautschi, Master Naturalist and Photographer, will present "Spring is on the Wing."
- April 8th: Terri Ryburn will present "Route 66, From Childhood Journey to Life's Work."

Both meetings begin at 11:30 a.m. at Home Sweet Home Ministries. Women's Auxiliary is a proud sponsor for Night in a Car 2019. They also helped purchase turkeys for Home Sweet Home Ministries' Thanksgiving celebration and recently purchased high chairs for the dining center. Guests and new members are always welcome. Be sure to check them out on Facebook at Home Sweet Home Ministries Auxiliary.

Save the Date!

February 1st: Night In A Car

Give Thanks 2018

Food, Hope, Relief. That's what you helped to provide during Home Sweet Home Ministries and Midwest Food Bank's annual Give Thanks campaign. We cannot express how grateful we are to have the continued support of individuals like you donating turkeys and other food items to those in need on Thanksgiving.

Together we provided 2,522 households with a delicious Thanksgiving meal to share with their families. This marked a new record resulting in 106 more families as compared to last year.

As one gentlemen anxiously awaited, he shared, "God bless you. We're so grateful you guys do this year after year. My family really enjoys Thanksgiving and this really helps us out a lot. And trust me, we eat all of it! Thank you!"

Special thanks also goes to Hy-Vee, Schnucks, and Great Plains Media for helping us meet the need. We are blessed by the community's generosity.



MOTIVATIONAL DRIVE

Last year, Jenny Bursell and her nephew, Kayden, signed up for Home Sweet Home Ministries' Night In A Car.

"I decided to get involved because my nephew was asking questions about homeless individuals he was seeing around town," shares Jenny. "I began speaking to him about homelessness and Home Sweet Home Ministries and one thing led to another."

Jenny encouraged family and friends to help support their fundraiser. She even held a bake sale. With the community's generous help, Jenny and Kayden raised \$1,148 for Home Sweet Home.

Jenny and Kayden are back for Night In A Car 2019. This year she tried to get even more creative by participating in a fundraiser at Jazz Up Front in Bloomington, dedicating all her tips to the cause. In one night, Jenny collected \$985!

"It felt amazing! It was a mixture of excitement and disbelief," exclaims Jenny. "It encouraged me to raise our goal and make it feel it is actually possible to achieve."

Jenny and Kayden have now set their goal at \$2,000.

"To know how much you can help so many others with minimal effort compared to what they go through in an average day is indescribable," says Jenny. "My friends, family, and co-workers have helped in some way or another and it has been awesome!"

There's still time! Support Jenny and Kayden along with others at nightinacar.org. We're looking forward to another successful night on February 1st at Trinity Lutheran Church. Together we can drive out homelessness. Thank you!



March 31st: 6th Annual Run For Hope

Holiday Helpers

The holiday season produces one of our biggest needs for volunteers. Each year Home Sweet Home is blessed by so many willing to serve.

In November, over 100 volunteers from local businesses, softball teams, basketball teams, and other organizations signed up for Give Thanks distribution. They loaded turkeys and meal boxes into cars of anxiously awaiting families. 171 individuals, families, and friends volunteered to package and deliver 575 meals on Thanksgiving Day and then again on Christmas Day for those in need.

In total, over 450 volunteers helped spread feelings of comfort and joy. As a volunteer, your dedication and time are invaluable. Whether you helped prepare food, package items, deliver meals, or even wash dishes, Home Sweet Home is grateful to have you as a part of our family. Thank you for making HSHM feel like home to so many others. Wishing you many blessings in 2019!



Prayer Requests

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

We ask that you help lift up in prayer:

- individuals and families in need of shelter.
- participants and volunteers for Night In A Car.
- volunteers, clients, and staff who devote their time in our shelter, Mission Mart, and warehouse.

Community Partners

HSHM was truly blessed over the holiday season!

Little Caesar's Love Kitchen baked 50 pizzas for a special lunch in October.

Illinois Farm Bureau donated 132 gallons of milk from Prairie Farms Dairy to our dining center and co-op.

Second graders from Washington Elementary School collected 175 pounds of food for Give Thanks.

Patrick Campbell and fellow members of Jury's Out raised \$15,000 for their Mission for the Mission benefiting Thanksgiving.

Community members helped HSHM achieve our goal of \$10,000 on Giving Tuesday.

Over 180 volunteers delivered almost 575 meals on Christmas Day.

Johnson Family Chiropractic, Destihl, and other local businesses hosted food drives to help support HSHM needs during the holiday season.

Thank you all so much for your support.

