

Hope For All Who Enter

www.hshministries.org

HSHM
HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES
since 1917

APRIL 2019

Revvng Up Support: **NIGHT IN A CAR**

Cold. Restricted. Revealing. Meaningful. These are just a few of the words participants used to describe sleeping in their cars on February 1st as part of Home Sweet Home Ministries' Night In A Car at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomington.

150 participants comprised of individuals, families, churches, and businesses including Keller Williams Realty, Connect Transit, and Integrity Technology Solutions, all experienced a unique glimpse into homelessness. First time participant Kimberly Kernosky shares, "I couldn't stop thinking about the people that do this every day and still have to get up and take their kids to school. How does that really work for them? It was very eye opening."

"You think about things like privacy and space and how do you get ready for the next day," adds Tony Gilmer, a HSHM board member and first time participant. "Where do you shower if you have to get up and go to work? It's really interesting."

"I didn't realize how lonely I would be in the car," expresses Keith Cornille, President of Heartland Community College. "I could easily see how that could just evolve into depression."

After spending more than eight hours in their cars, participants drove away with a new outlook on the struggles that others deal with on a nightly basis.

"I think it really opened my eyes that we are all potentially one missed paycheck away from being in this situation," states Tony. "It helped me realize that it is not a choice for a lot of people. It becomes their way of life."

"There are people right here in Bloomington-Normal that are doing what we just did," shares Pastor Brian Fatheree of Victory Church. "I recently spoke with someone who had just found their own place after living in their car for about two years. So I know that we're making an impact."

The greater Bloomington-Normal community continues to support this unique event, raising over \$90,000 for our shelter and outreach programs. Your participation will continue to grow this event to drive out homelessness in 2020. Mark your calendars for Friday, February 7, 2020. Thank you!



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

"Follow me."

- Matthew 4:19

The call of Jesus to each of his disciples is the same: "Follow me." But the following takes many different forms.

Jesus fed the hungry. Hundreds of volunteers joined with our kitchen staff to prepare and serve 92,443 meals last year. Countless individuals, groups, and churches donated 228,751 pounds of food and other items to ensure that Home Sweet Home Ministries could meet the needs of those who request our services.

Jesus welcomed the outcast. Our staff and volunteers accept each person for the child of God that they are, regardless of labels imposed by society, like homeless, disabled, criminal, unemployed, and drug abuser.

Jesus healed body, mind, and spirit. Through daily devotions, prayer, counsel, guidance, and community referrals, our staff offer healing opportunities for our residents, co-op members, and dining center guests.

Jesus promised new life to all. All who receive our services are offered restored lives and renewal powered by Jesus Christ.

To learn more about the many ways in which Christ followers are heeding Christ's call at Home Sweet Home Ministries, please read our 2018 Annual Report at <https://hshministries.org/advocate/our-solution/annual-report>.

Thank you for answering God's call on your life, using your own unique gifts and graces.

Blessings,

Mary Ann Pullin

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Women's Auxiliary

Home Sweet Home Ministries' Women's Auxiliary is a proud supporter of Night In A Car 2019.

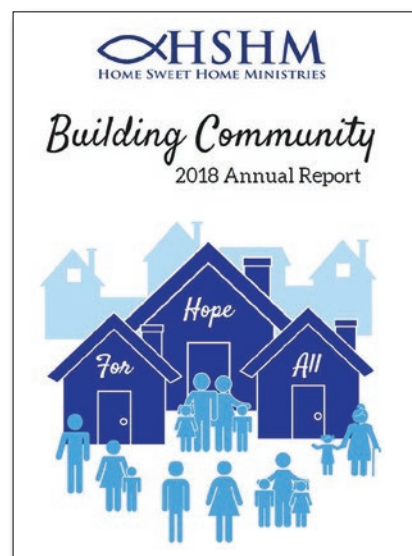
The Auxiliary meets at Home Sweet Home Ministries, 303 East Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, IL., 11:30 a.m. Join us for our monthly potluck and program. Yearly dues are \$10.00; a life membership is \$100.00.

Upcoming meetings are:

- April 8, 2019, Terri Ryburn, PhD, Route 66,
From Childhood Journey to Life's Work
- May 11, 2019, Nora and Dave Zaring,
Threshold to Hope, Offering Hope and Healing
Through Art

2018 Annual Report Available Online

2018 was another eventful year for Home Sweet Home Ministries as we built up many community connections. We are pleased to share that our 2018 Annual Report is now available at hshministries.org. Check it out online today!



Prayer Requests

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

We ask that you join us in praying for:

- individuals and families in need of shelter.
- volunteers who devote their time and talents in our shelter and warehouse.
- clients who strive to achieve their goals.
- staff who diligently work in our shelter, Mission Mart, and warehouse.

Save the Date!

**May 1st: May Community Challenge
All Month Long**

THANK YOU



April is Volunteer Appreciation month and all of us at Home Sweet Home wanted to thank you for all of your dedicated service to our ministry. In 2018, you helped impact over 400 individuals and families at the shelter. No matter your role, your help is immeasurable. Below you will find some moments of hope shared by recent clients.

"This place is a life saver. I still can't believe all this place does for a person going through a bad situation. They helped with all resources available."

"It was a stepping stone to becoming better prepared for independent living."

"Thanks to all the HSHM team for helping me though my hardship. For giving me shelter, food, resources to find a job, to help me save money, and for having the Rapid Rehousing program for which I owe the new apartment that I now have. Thanks to you I have a great new start in life!"



Thank you so much for providing food, shelter, and new hope to those we serve. With your continued support, HSHM looks forward to helping many more create a fresh start. Thank you!

**Like us on Facebook
Home Sweet Home Ministries**

Connect With Us!



"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

- Ephesians 2:10

Volunteer Spotlight

Each year several individuals, groups, and organizations devote their time and talents in our shelter and warehouse. Home Sweet Home Ministries thrives on the hard work of volunteers to help others achieve a fresh start.

"Having the opportunity to get involved with something that's local is very rewarding," says Nolan Recker, Vale Church Guest Services Pastor.

Vale Church has actively supported HSHM over the past five years. At the end of February, 11 Vale staff members volunteered to prepare and serve three meals in our dining center.

"I got to come out here and make baked ziti," shares Nolan. "I usually don't make a lot of pasta, but it's been good."

From chopping up vegetables to serving up soup, Vale volunteers were happy to help. They enjoyed working with each other alongside HSHM kitchen staff.

"We're the hands and feet of Jesus. So for us to be just inside the four walls of the church is not what we're created to do," adds Abbey Rusher, Vale Church Kids Director. "We're supposed to use God's given abilities and gifts that he's created us for to make a difference in other people's lives. And I think when you serve there's something you gain from it just as much as what others get from it."

Vale members say they had lots of fun volunteering at HSHM and look forward to doing it again soon.

"Just being able to serve food to others, that's a big deal. We give them a smile and wish them a good day. Just the small things like that bring me joy," proclaims Abbey.

In 2018, over 3,300 volunteers contributed over 33,800 hours of service. Home Sweet Home Ministries is grateful for your dedication to help others. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit hshministries.org/participate/volunteer. Thank you!



Community Partners

- Green Top Grocery and PrairiErth Farms donated several pounds of fresh produce and household items to the Bread For Life Food Co-op.
- Earthbound Trading Company donated 102 pairs of socks to HSHM.
- Fleet Feet Bloomington hosted the 6th Annual Run for Hope to benefit HSHM.
- Several ISU groups volunteered in our Dining Center and Warehouse.
- Furlong's Sports Grill donated a variety of food items to our Dining Center.
- Wausau Homes donated \$1,000 on behalf of Victory Church for Night In A Car.
- Cargill hosted a Chili Cook-off to benefit HSHM.

