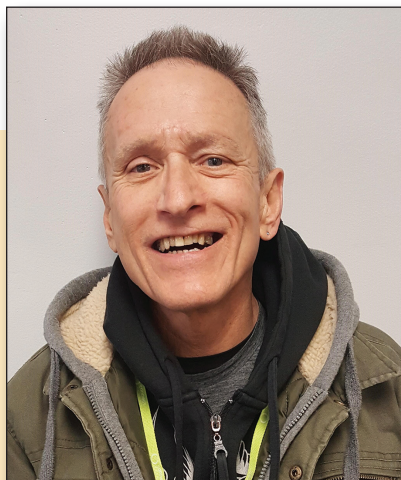


APRIL 2020

From Homeless to Hopeful



Michael is an expert on homelessness. On February 7, Michael willingly shared his expertise with many of the 107 volunteers who spent the night in their cars to increase awareness of homelessness and raise funds for the services that

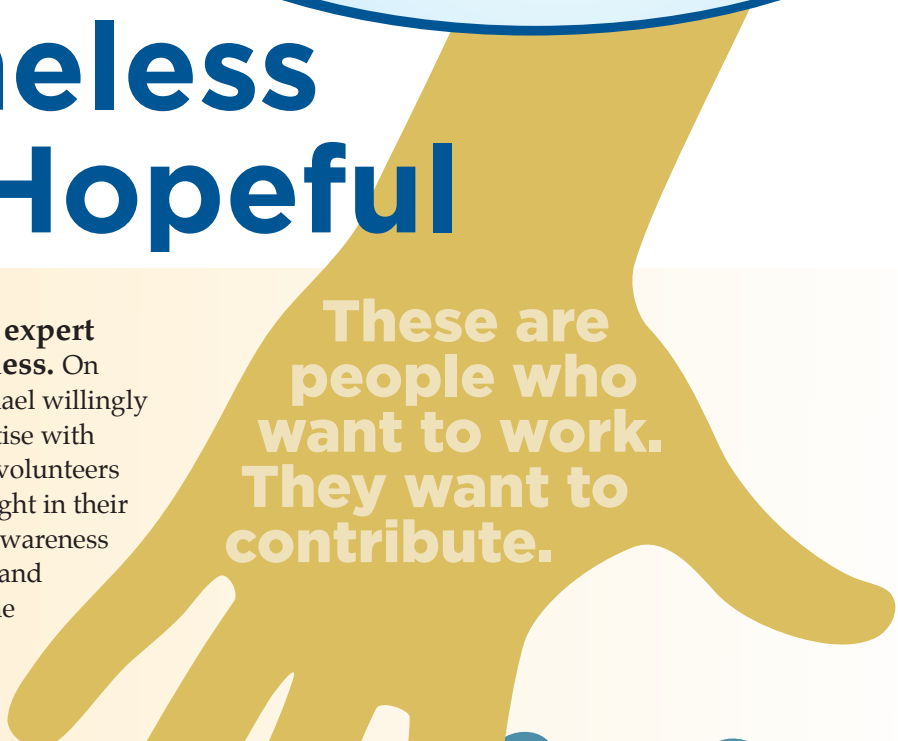
Home Sweet Home Ministries provides to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Michael acknowledged that the escape room that was part of the Night in a Car experience depicted real struggles that individuals face, such as having no place to keep their belongings, dealing with governmental bureaucracies, juggling competing priorities, and lacking adequate health care.


While staying at Home Sweet Home Ministries, Michael is actively working to overcome barriers to achieving housing. He exercises to maintain his physical health. He stays positive to remain sober. He works with his case manager on a plan that will help him transition to his own apartment.

Participants in Night in a Car 2020 appreciated meeting Michael and understanding his struggles while they endured the temporary discomforts of living in their cars for one night. Two other additions to this year's event also enhanced the experience for participants.

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These are people who want to work. They want to contribute.



They want to be able to be on their own.

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

My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

— Isaiah 32:18

You are a source of peaceful habitations, secure dwellings, and quiet resting places as you offer your prayers, your service, and your support to those individuals who look to Home Sweet Home Ministries for assistance.

The success of Night in a Car 2020 was due to the efforts of 107 people who spent the night in their cars, 700 donors, dozens of volunteers and Home Sweet Home Ministries' employees, and countless prayer warriors. For whatever role you played, thank you!

Home Sweet Home Ministries will provide services to 300 men, women, and children experiencing homelessness this year. You provide the support to ensure that our shelter is comfortable and accommodating, that the meals are delicious and nourishing, and that our staff and volunteers are welcoming and encouraging. Thank you!

As a valuable partner in our ministry, you are invited to contact me to schedule a visit to Home Sweet Home Ministries. My contact information is below.

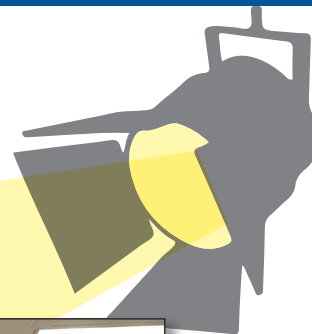
Blessings,

Mary Ann Pullin
Chief Executive
mpullin@hshministries.org
(309) 319-2833



Follow Us!

Volunteer Spotlight



April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, but every day is a day for us to celebrate and appreciate volunteers at Home Sweet Home Ministries. Last year 2,096 volunteers contributed 14,943 hours of their time to furthering the mission of Home Sweet Home Ministries. Many, many thanks to all our volunteers.

During the month of February, several members of Bloomington Elks Lodge #281 purchased, prepared, and served dinner at Home Sweet Home Ministries on 5 separate occasions. These events were made possible through a grant from the National Elks Foundation.

Teresa Lindsey, the Exalted Ruler of the Bloomington Elks Lodge #281, is carrying on a family tradition of Elks membership and community service. Her mother and father were among the volunteers who prepared and served meals with the Bloomington Elks in February.

Teresa is also our new Volunteer Coordinator, a role that seems custom-made for her. Teresa says, "I look forward to meeting our current volunteers who have given so many years of service to our ministry. I hope to grow our volunteer numbers and reach out to new groups in our community, to invite them into our volunteer experiences."

Follow us on Instagram
@hshministries



From Homeless to Hopeful

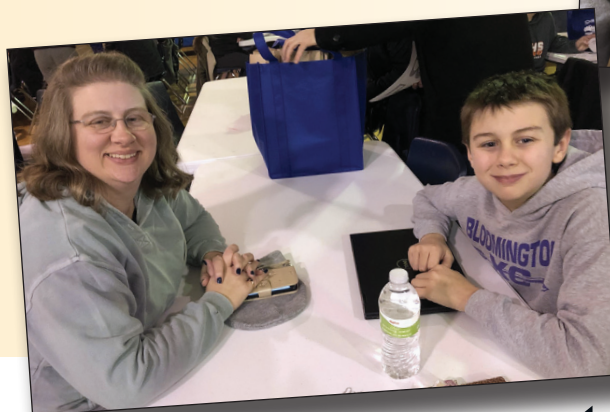
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The escape room highlighted the challenges that are faced in each season of the year. Michelle Cope and Colleen Shaw brought the Bloomington Public Library Bookmobile and shared resources about homelessness, poverty, generosity, and volunteering.

Board member and volunteer, Eric Hoss, has participated in Night in a Car for each of the last four years, since its inception. In his role as a volunteer coach for employment interviewing, Eric has encountered many people who are highly motivated. He says, "These are people who want to work. They want to contribute. They want to be able to be on their own." Eric returns every year to raise awareness of homelessness and to raise funds for Home Sweet Home Ministries' services. This year Eric raised over \$5,000. The total amount raised by the event was \$70,000.

Pierce Vrooman, a 12-year-old at Bloomington Junior High, is an old pro as a three-year veteran of Night in a Car. He brought along his laptop, not to watch movies, but to do his homework as if he were a student challenged with keeping up with his school work while homeless.

The overwhelming reaction of participants was that Night in a Car 2020 was a valuable experience and that they plan to repeat the experience in future years. Each year, through increased awareness and support, more and more people are moving from homelessness to hopefulness.



More and more people are moving from homelessness to hopefulness.

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

Like Us!



Women's Auxiliary

Home Sweet Home Ministries' Women's Auxiliary was a proud sponsor of Night in a Car 2020.

The Auxiliary meets on the second Monday of the month at 11:30 a.m., at Home Sweet Home Ministries, 303 E. Oakland, Bloomington, IL. All are invited to the monthly potluck and program. Yearly dues are \$10.00; a life membership is \$100.00.

- **May 11, 2020**, Evon Long, *The Sewing Room*
- **June 9, 2020**, Maureen Brunsdale, *Come One, Come All to the Greatest Show on Earth*
- **July 13, 2020**, Erica Spratt, *To Your Health!!*



Prayers Offered and Answered

Thank you for praying for Home Sweet Home Ministries' residents, employees, and volunteers. During the coming months, we ask that you include the following individuals in your prayers:

- With the approach of Mother's Day and Father's Day, please remember families that are experiencing homelessness.
- During the summer months, please remember children who are out of school and in need of structure and supportive supervision.



Current Needs

There is a high demand for the following items:

Facial tissue
Deodorant, men's and women's
Razors, men's and women's
Shaving cream, men's and women's
Children's toothpaste
Body wash
Baby lotion
Body lotion
Granola bars
Instant Oatmeal Packets
Sugar
Coffee
Snack size Baggies
Lemonade Mix (gallon size or more)
Egg Noodles
Mini Desserts (individually wrapped) like Little Debbie's
Dessert size foam paper plates (6")

Please bring donations to the front desk at 303 E Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, at any time. Thank you!