

# Hope For All Who Enter

[www.hshministries.org](http://www.hshministries.org)

# HSHM

HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES  
since 1917

JANUARY 2021

## Driving Forward

Anticipation is building as Home Sweet Home Ministries prepares for our 5th annual Night In A Car. Nearly 200 Participants are busy packing up hats, gloves, blankets, and more to brave a cold night in their cars on Friday, February 5th.

The event serves as a unique experience for all ages. Several families, organizations, businesses, and even HSHM staff have volunteered to spend the night in their cars from their own driveways or in Trinity Lutheran Church's parking lot. While only for one night, Night In A Car provides a real glimpse into the realities of facing homelessness through Bloomington's harsh winters.

Cassie Little and several of her sorority sisters from Illinois State University's Epsilon Sigma Alpha chapter have taken on the challenge. The sorority has a total of 10 teams participating.

"I'm participating in Night In A Car because I don't think there is enough awareness about how hard it is to get back on your feet after you've been exposed to homelessness," says Cassie.

This will be Epsilon Sigma Alpha's third year of being involved. They are excited to spread hope for those in need.

"Personally when I was younger and in elementary school, I did have to live out of my car for several weeks," adds Cassie. "It was a really challenging experience, but it made me stronger."

Home Sweet Home encourages you to join others like Cassie. Together we can achieve reaching our goal of raising \$100,000 to support those in need.

"I think our community should be coming together to help people in those situations," says Cassie. "I don't ever want anyone to feel like because they are down on their luck that they don't have someone they can reach out to for help. I would love for our community to reach out to those individuals and be here as a support system."

We invite you to spend some time praying about how you can support Night In A Car. Whether you choose to sign-up or donate, we thank you for providing hope to the families we serve. For more information, please visit [nightinacar.org](http://nightinacar.org) or reach out to Home Sweet Home's Donor Relations Coordinator, Todd Keller at 309-319-2839 or [tkeller@hshministries.org](mailto:tkeller@hshministries.org). Thank You!



## NIGHT IN A CAR



## 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

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

— Ecclesiastes 3:1

Home Sweet Home Ministries has endured many seasons over the last 103 years. Home Sweet Home Ministries was born in the midst of World War I, just before the 1918 influenza pandemic. Home Sweet Home has survived two World Wars, the Great Depression, and so much more. The current pandemic is the latest season in Home Sweet Home Ministries' history.

I will soon retire from my 12 year tenure as Home Sweet Home Ministries' CEO. During those 12 years I have participated in the growth and decline of several programs and initiatives. Seasons come and seasons go, but some things remain constant. As this season comes to a close for me, I offer my heartfelt thanks to you. Your prayerful support has made it possible for Home Sweet Home Ministries to instill hope, restore lives, and build community.

Perhaps you served a meal, donated food, shopped at Mission Mart, led devotions, or made a gift of any size. Whatever you did, you did it with love, and I thank you for that.

I am confident that the legacy of the past 103 years will continue to serve those in greatest need in our community for years to come. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you.

*Mary Ann Pullin*

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Home Sweet Home was thrilled to partner with Midwest Food Bank in November for Give Thanks 2020. The community, along with Thrivent Financial, Hy-Vee, Schnuck's, and Great Plains Media, helped us reach our goal of collecting 2,500 turkeys and other meal items for those in need. Over two

distribution days in November, the turkeys along with complete meal boxes were handed out to 2,322 households.

With masks on and windows up, over 100 volunteers safely helped load up cars. Even through face masks, expressions of gratitude were visible through excited eyes, thumbs up, and happy waves. As one recipient shared in a post online, "I got one of the turkey boxes and I wanted to say thank you for helping us to have a Thanksgiving dinner. God bless everyone involved."



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## Meet the New CEO

Back in September, Home Sweet Home Ministries' Board of Directors announced that Matt Burgess, currently serving as HSHM's Chief Operating Officer, will replace Mary Ann Pullin as CEO of Home Sweet Home Ministries beginning on February 15th. HSHM is excited to have Matt extend his career as CEO.

Matt says he looks forward to extending Home Sweet Home's outreach. "Throughout our history, Home Sweet Home Ministries has been committed to showing God's love and concern to people in need. I look forward to leading our continued efforts to instill hope, restore lives, and build community with those who come to us for help."

## Get to Know Matt

### 1. Favorite HSHM memory?

One of my favorite memories goes all the way back to my first Thanksgiving at HSHM. It was the Monday before the holiday, and I was helping out in the food pantry. At the end of the day, we'd given out so much food that our shelves were completely bare. I distinctly remember thinking to myself, "We don't have anything to give out tomorrow. What are we going to do?!" I went home, praying and worrying about it. When I walked into work the next morning, I was overwhelmed with what I saw: so much food had come in overnight from the community that I couldn't even walk across the pantry room floor! It was in that moment I realized that the help we offer to people through Home Sweet Home is a result of God's provision and through the movement of His spirit in a community who support our work so strongly.

### 2. Favorite Bible verse?

John 3:17 – "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

I love the hope that is communicated in this verse, hope for redemption and salvation – not just for us, but for the whole world.

### 3. Ideal Vacation?

Definitely something involving the outdoors. I have hiked the Grand Canyon several times, and would love to take my family back there to do it again now that my boys are grown.

### 4. Best Snack?

It's hard to beat the classic of Oreos and milk.

### 5. Favorite Hobby?

I'm an avid vegetable gardener, so much so that my wife always calls me a "backyard farmer." My specialties are rare tomatoes and peppers that I use to make my signature salsa every year.



## Renovations at 301

This past fall Home Sweet Home started renovations on its building located at 301 East Oakland in Bloomington. We are excited to share that the Bread for Life Food Co-op will soon be moving in! This relocation will allow more space, better visibility, and easier access for co-op members. We expect to complete renovations in the spring. Many thanks to all of our volunteers helping us with this transition from demolition to move-in. We look forward to serving co-op members in our new location soon!

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# 2020

## A Year of Resilience

Home Sweet Home would like to thank everyone for their support in 2020.

It was a challenging and unprecedented year, but with your gracious support we persevered. Your donations, time, and prayers blessed several men, women, and children in our community with delicious meals, warm beds, and new hope. Your encouragement helped clients overcome their struggles, leading them to secure new jobs and find new homes.



## Keep Us In Prayer

The power of prayer works wonders. As we lead into a new year, we graciously ask your help in praying for:

- our community as we all continue to cope with the effects of COVID-19.
- individuals, families, and Veterans seeking refuge and renewal.
- the safety and health of volunteers, clients, and staff who devote their time in our shelter.
- individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations participating in Night In A Car.

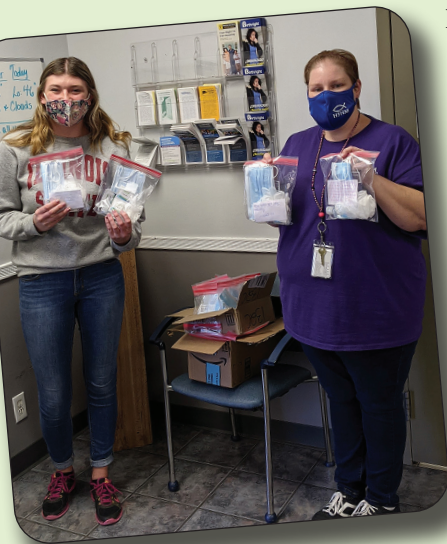
Thank you for lifting our ministry up in prayer.

HSJM is not the only one giving praise. Here is what a few recent clients had to share:

"The people were amazing. When I had no hope left, they gave me a place for my children."

"I am grateful for Home Sweet Home giving me sanctuary and assisting me in starting a new life."

"Thank you for everything."



With all our heart, we thank you. Home Sweet Home appreciates all you do to ensure the well-being of your fellow community members. We wish you and your families many blessings in 2021.

## Current Needs

Every day Home Sweet Home provides food and other basic essentials to individuals and families in need. Please kindly consider helping us collect the following items:

- Low /No Sodium items
- Low /No Sugar items
- Napkins
- Flour
- Sugar
- Full size shampoo
- Full size conditioner
- Body wash-all ages
- Laundry detergent

Donations can be dropped off at the shelter at 303 East Oakland Avenue in Bloomington at any time. Thank you for helping those we serve.