

APRIL 2021

Turning New Corners



Last year, Home Sweet Home Ministries impacted the lives of 270 men, women, and children. A mother and her baby found a safe place to call home within two weeks through our Rapid Rehousing program. A veteran, focusing on rebuilding himself, secured a new apartment. Even an elderly woman while under quarantine managed to receive housing with the aid of staff. Many others were able to start new jobs and seek out new opportunities.

Fresh starts like these are only possible through the dedication of our donors like you. Your desire to help others creates new hope for those experiencing homelessness. This kind of passion was the driving force behind 308 individuals, families, and friends participating in Night In A Car on February 5th.

In the midst of the pandemic, people from the local community and across the country challenged themselves to spend approximately 12 hours in their cars overnight. Kimberly Kernosky, a third year participant with Team Warming Hearts, was overjoyed to see so many teams come together.



"Seeing the 80 teams join in for the cause and participating in this event for our local community reminds me of the story the late Fred Rogers shared... "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." The helpers in this community definitely showed up for this cause. Thank you to each and every one of you," expresses Kimberly.

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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 Matt

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."

– Romans 12:4&5

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, but I want our volunteers to know how much we appreciate them as a vital part of the Home Sweet Home Ministries 'body' throughout the year. Without our volunteers, Home Sweet Home Ministries would not be able to provide such valuable supports in this community.

Our volunteers help prepare and serve the meals our shelter residents rely on, and then even help wash the dishes! Their smiling faces are every bit as nourishing as the delicious food they serve.

Our volunteers pick up groceries and help stock the shelves of the Bread For Life Co-op, working alongside our members and building meaningful relationships in the process of helping increase food security.

Our volunteers commit to forming relationships as 'neighbors' with the families in Bridge of Hope, offering encouragement and support that goes far beyond what one staff person could provide as participants re-establish stable housing.

Our volunteers provide words of wisdom and instruction in the wide range of classes we offer in the shelter. From leading devotions, teaching interviewing skills, and helping people discover their hidden creativity through art classes volunteers help restore self-confidence and healthy identity in those we serve.

Our volunteers roll up their sleeves and help with renovation and cleaning projects throughout our facilities, helping us offer a hospitable and welcoming environment that helps rekindle hope in the lives of those we serve.

Our volunteers do all of these things and more – far more than I could list here. And I thank all of you who are doing this work!

If you're interested in joining our amazing volunteer team, please go to <https://hshministries.org/volunteer/opportunities-to-serve> to check out our current volunteer needs.

May God bless you all for your faithful support of our ministry.

Matt Burgess

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Follow Us!

Double the Effort



Meet twin sisters Kathy Sauder and Karen Metz. Both are passionate about helping others in need. They have volunteered with Bridge of Hope, served in the kitchen, and helped with Give Thanks Distribution. Together they have contributed over 900 hours of service at Home Sweet Home.

"It's really nice to be able to give your time to such a great organization like Home Sweet Home because I know that it's making a big difference in people's lives," shares Kathy.

Both sisters currently serve in the Bread For Life Food Co-op. On a weekly basis, you can find them sorting through donations and stocking food items on the shelves. They say they enjoy having the opportunity to work alongside each other.

"It makes it more fun and adds some accountability," says Karen, pictured above with their mom at Give Thanks. "We love it and it's a good time for us to catch up, too," adds Kathy, pictured here at Give Thanks.



Not only do they have fun interacting amongst themselves, but they also enjoy making new connections. "The social part makes it really enjoyable," says Kathy. "You get to learn about others and hear about their lives." Karen adds, "You meet so many interesting people. I love serving with everyone. They're so nice."

They love how the co-op creates a sense of community. The sisters look forward to coming back each week. "It's a wonderful place. Everyone is so kind," adds Karen. "It makes it fun to come when you know you're welcomed and appreciated."

Thank you so much for volunteering with us, Kathy and Karen! Home Sweet Home truly values all your hard work. Kindly consider joining them. Learn more by visiting hshministries.org and clicking on 'Opportunities to Serve' under the Volunteer tab.

Follow us on Instagram
@hshministries

Co-op Transformation Taking Shape

"I'm just so excited. I eagerly await the day we can move in."

Anticipation is building as the renovation and relocation of the Bread For Life Food Co-op continues. That excitement is shared by Samantha Williams, Home Sweet Home Ministries' Co-op Coordinator. "I'm looking forward to having windows. It's such a joy to see the outside," says Samantha.

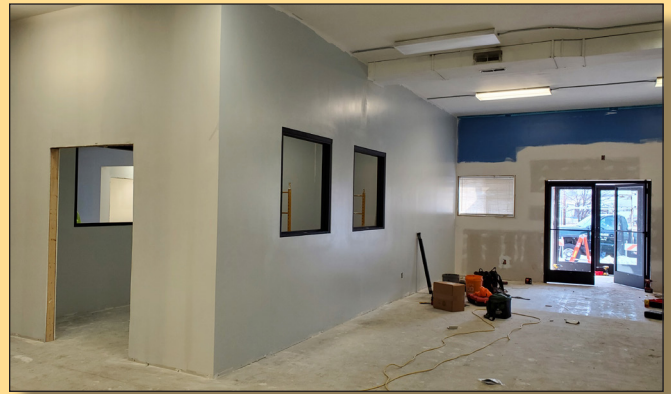
The food co-op is currently located in the basement of Home Sweet Home's shelter. The move will shine a light on the co-op, adding additional space, better visibility, and easier access for co-op members. "We are going to have our own designated kitchen prep area that includes a stainless-steel table and refrigerator," adds Samantha. "I'm excited to have a new space to do our own in-house food processing where we combine fresh fruit and vegetables into items such as pre-packaged salads and stir fry."

Construction initially began in December. Since then, Tarter Construction has been busy installing new walls, building a new entrance area, and refurbishing the floors. Home Sweet Home has enjoyed watching the transformation unfold. "When I see something else completed, I become more anxious," shares Samantha. "It puts us that much closer to move-in day."

A project of this magnitude is only possible with the support of the community. Home Sweet Home is blessed to have received a \$75,000 grant from the John M. Scott Commission and support from Calvary United Methodist Church. In addition, the former HSHM Women's Auxiliary donated their remaining treasury funds for us to purchase a freezer.

"We are grateful to have so many people that care about the co-op and the impact we have on those struggling to feed their families," shares Samantha. "We cannot say 'Thank You' enough to all of the businesses and organizations supporting us."

The co-op serves 350 individuals and families. With your continued prayers and support, we look forward to seeing that number grow in the near future. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for the latest updates on construction.



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She shares that even though sleeping in a car proves difficult, she remains diligent to create awareness about homelessness. "There is no such thing as being comfortable when trying to sleep in your car," adds Kimberly. "The low hit 10 degrees and you just couldn't stay warm. This is a reality for individuals and families across America."

Efforts to promote the event were inspiring. As teams posted to social media with piano recitals, fitness challenges, and dance competitions, over 1,300 donations in total poured in. That's more than double the amount of donations from last year.

"The generosity of family, friends, and co-workers in helping us exceed our fundraising goal is just astounding," exclaims Kimberly. She is grateful to see so many others share in her passion to give back.

Home Sweet Home is thrilled to announce that Night In A Car officially raised over \$130,000! Thank you for helping your neighbors in need achieve stability and comfort. God bless you all!

Help us continue to drive out homelessness. Learn more about volunteering and other giving opportunities by visiting hshministries.org.

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

Like Us!



Achieving New Destinations

Home Sweet Home Ministries, along with four other local non-profits, received a donation of a multiple passenger van from State Farm in January. HSHM has been utilizing the van to transport residents to appointments and veterans to the local VA clinic. We are truly grateful to have the ability to safely transport our shelter residents as needs arise. Thank You, State Farm for being a great community partner.



Current Needs

Every day Home Sweet Home provides healthy food and other essential items to individuals and families as they start to rebuild their lives. Please consider collecting the following items:

- Low /No Sodium items
- Low /No Sugar items
- Coffee
- Canned Fruit
- Lunch meat
- Bottled water
- Individual bags of chips
- Disposable razors
- Nail clippers

Donations can be dropped off at the shelter at 303 East Oakland Avenue in Bloomington at any time. Thank you so much for blessing a neighbor in need.

Become a Partner In Hope Today!

Make a commitment to offer ongoing, monthly support of any amount to Home Sweet Home Ministries.

Your monthly donation provides income we can count on to further our mission to share Christ's love, instill hope, and restore lives.

Visit hshministries.org and click on DONATE to become a Partner in Hope today. Thank You!



Moment in Prayer

Home Sweet Home appreciates your continued prayers. We kindly 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.
- all those involved in our Bread For Life Food Co-op renovation and relocation.

Thank you for lifting our ministry up in spirit.