

Hope For All Who Enter

www.hshministries.org

HSHM

HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES
since 1917

OCTOBER 2021

A FLOOD OF SUPPORT



Back in June, many in our community experienced flooding due to heavy downpours. As water rushed through Home Sweet Home Ministries' doors, 38 inches of accumulated rainwater flooded our entire basement. Equipment, tools, a surplus of food donations—all gone.

"Everything in our freezers was a total loss. It was heartbreaking to dispose of so much food," says Carol Schrenk, HSHM's Food Services Manager.

When Home Sweet Home put out a plea for help, we were quickly surrounded in love. Monetary donations rushed in from the community, including \$20,000 from State Farm, \$5,000 from the Illinois Farm Bureau and Growmark, and another \$5,000 from Bridgestone. Several local businesses came to our aid to provide clean up and maintenance assistance. Seven local restaurants stepped up to provide meals and Chestnut Health Systems donated freezers. Midwest Food Bank in addition to churches like First Presbyterian Church, helped to replenish our immediate food needs, plus many others.

"Because of your love and prayers, our residents remained unaffected. We continued to offer safe shelter, meals, and counseling. We truly value knowing that you care about the work we do. Thank you for uplifting our hearts," exclaims Matt Burgess, HSHM's CEO.

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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

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."

– Psalm 46:1

If there's one thing we know here at Home Sweet Home Ministries, it's that life can throw a curveball at you when you least expect it. That's what the flood we experienced in June was – one of the biggest curveballs ever thrown our way. Rather than being the ones to offer strength and encouragement, we were suddenly the ones in need of it. Instead of having answers, we found ourselves with seemingly endless questions of how we would recover from this catastrophe. And almost immediately, the answers started coming in – through contractors who dropped everything to get our hot water and air conditioning back on, through numerous donors who sent in financial support to help us pay for the damages, and through countless prayers from so many of you who support our ministry.

Today, I'm pleased to report that we have made significant headway in recovering from the flood. Equipment has been fixed and freezers have been refilled. While all the repairs are not quite completed, they are well underway. On behalf of all of us here at Home Sweet Home Ministries, I extend my thanks and appreciation for your encouragement and faithful support. You are truly partners in the work that we do!

Matt Burgess

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Follow Us!

Maintaining Vigilance



With the resurgence of Covid-19 in the community, Home Sweet Home Ministries continues to take precautionary measures to protect our staff and clients. We are requiring masks to be worn by everyone in the shelter and within the Bread For Life Food Co-op, regardless of vaccination status. We are also continuing to partner with local providers to offer testing and vaccination for our residents and staff. We practice social distancing whenever possible. We are doing our best to protect each other from unintended transmission of the virus. As we navigate our way through the pandemic, Home Sweet Home prays for everyone's health and safety.

Give Thanks

Home Sweet Home Ministries, Midwest Food Bank, and Thrivent Financial need your help to provide 2,500 Thanksgiving meal boxes and turkeys to families in need. During September, several churches and other organizations helped gather all of the necessary food items for the meal boxes. As we approach the holiday season, we kindly ask for your support as we work towards gathering 2,500 turkeys.

Here are a few ways you can easily help:

- Shop Hy-Vee or Schnuck's in Bloomington-Normal. You can shop as usual and purchase a turkey for \$15 right at checkout.
- Simply donate online at hshministries.org/donate. In the campaign box, just designate your gift for Give Thanks.

Turkey donations will also be gladly accepted at Midwest Food Bank located at 2031 Warehouse Drive in Normal or at Home Sweet Home Ministries located at 303 East Oakland Avenue in Bloomington. Thank you so much for helping us provide 10,000 individuals and families with an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful dinner this November.



**Follow us on Instagram
@hshministries**

Joyful Service



Serving up hope with a smile. That is exactly what Melanie Brown does when she volunteers at Home Sweet Home Ministries. "I like being able to serve those in my community and bring a little joy into someone's life," shares Melanie.

Melanie has been volunteering at HSHM for over six years. She currently spends her time in the kitchen as a meal server and has recently started volunteering at the front desk. She says she enjoys coming to Home Sweet Home every week.

"I love helping others," adds Melanie. "Giving back truly makes my heart smile. HSHM is amazing. This organization definitely brings hope back into people's lives and I am so glad to be a part of that."

Home Sweet Home values Melanie's passion to help others. Learn more about volunteering by visiting hshministries.org and clicking on 'Opportunities to Serve' under the Volunteer tab.



A FLOOD OF SUPPORT

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It took 68 fans and 22 dehumidifiers to dry out the basement. The restoration company even had to remove the bottom 4 feet of drywall throughout the basement. In total, we filled 7 roll-off dumpsters full of damaged items.

After the final cleaning and sanitization in mid-July, we were finally ready to begin rebuilding. Home Sweet Home had a portion of the basement floor resealed in the food storage area. Volunteer construction crews have installed new walls in our maintenance shop and in the surrounding spaces.

Despite all this progress, we still have much more work to accomplish. We kindly ask you to keep praying for us and showing your support. Visit hshministries.org/donate today to help us rebuild hope. We are blessed to have such caring neighbors just like you. Thank you!

Like us on Facebook
Home Sweet Home Ministries

Like Us!



Night In A Car 2022: Sign Up Today!

It is time to start thinking cool! Registration for Night In A Car 2022 on Friday, February 4th is now open. Participants will once again have the opportunity to join us at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomington or online from the convenience of their home. This homelessness simulation is a great way to experience the realities of many who are forced to live out of their car through Bloomington's harsh winters. If you are looking for a missional experience for your family, group, or friends, consider joining the ride.

To learn more and sign up, please visit www.nightinacar.org. We cannot thank you enough for all of the effort, support, and momentum that we were blessed with this year. We look forward to revving up that excitement again next year as we speed towards our goal of raising \$150,000. Think cool and join us in February!



The Junction

Development to the front half of our building at 301 continues. We officially have a name for Home Sweet Home's community center: The Junction. This name highlights a key function of this new program, namely bringing people and service providers together. After seeking community feedback, we have also devised a floor plan with lots of open space for tables and chairs, computer cubbies, and a classroom. The area will also include a welcome center, snack area, and offices for case managers. Construction is underway and HSHM looks forward to opening The Junction early in 2022. Be sure to follow us on Facebook @HomeSweetHomeMinistries for the latest updates.



Current Needs

With your support, Home Sweet Home is able to provide healthy food and other basic needs to individuals and families seeking a fresh start. Please kindly consider collecting the following items:

- Bottled Water
- Apples/Cuties
- Gluten-Free Items
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels

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

Lift Us Up In Prayer

As Home Sweet Home transitions into the fall season, we graciously ask your help in praying for:
-our community as we adapt to the continuous changes caused by the pandemic.

- all those involved with the construction and rebuilding of HSHM's basement.
- community members and churches supporting Give Thanks.
- our food source providers, including local restaurants and grocery stores.
- individuals, families, and Veterans searching for renewal.
- the health and safety of volunteers, clients, and staff who devote their time in our shelter.
- all those involved in the continued development of The Junction.

Thank you for praying for our ministry.