

OCTOBER 2022



LIAM'S PATH TO RECOVERY

Faced with trauma and drug addiction, Liam had let his life spiral out of control. Every day was a struggle. He bounced from job to job, wandering the streets most nights. It was only after a small act of kindness that his life changed.

"At the end of one of my jobs, my boss asked me if she could give me a ride home. I didn't have a home," shares Liam. "I asked her to drop me off at a restaurant and told her I had friends coming to pick me up. I sat there on the sidewalk and just fell apart. In that moment, I decided to stop dreaming and start following. So I came here."

HSHM staff embraced him in grace. "It's the first time I felt loved. It gave me somewhere to be sheltered and safe from my own devices. It gave me a safe place to break apart and start to build myself back together. I'm so grateful," expresses Liam.

During his first month at the shelter, his case manager worked hard to get Liam to open up. "She was amazing. She just poured into me. I was so broken."

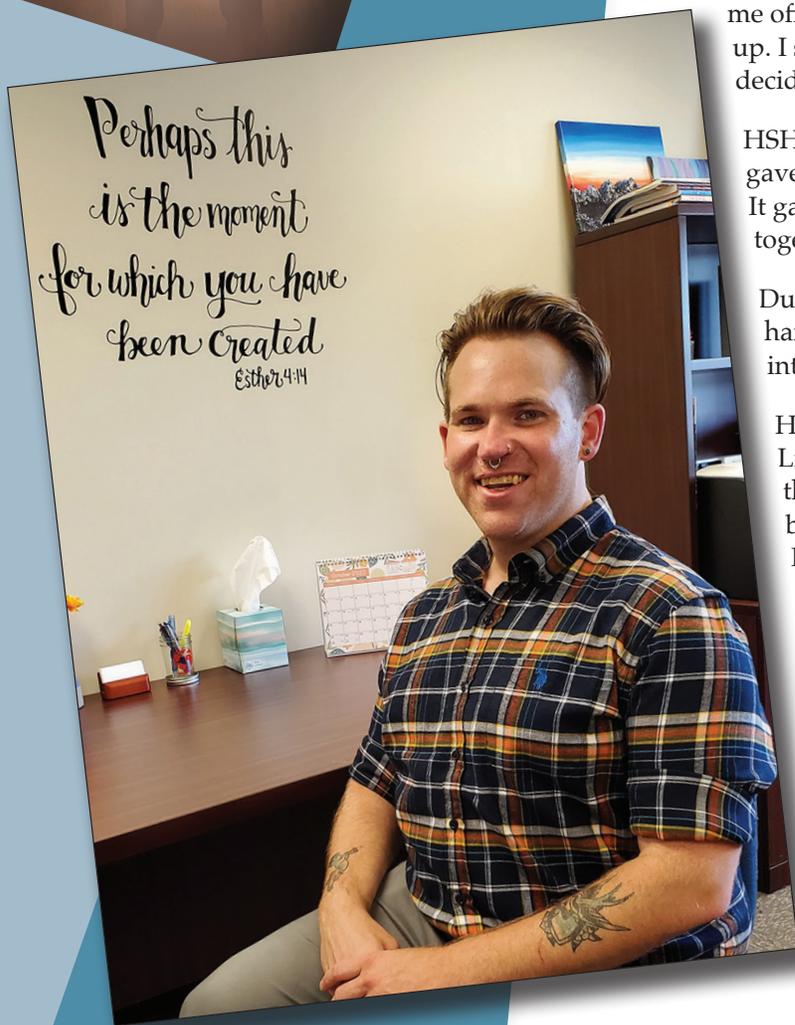
He learned to be open and honest. Through praise and prayer, Liam was able to grow as an individual, expressing himself through music. "I got to sing at the top of my lungs. I would go back and play the piano. It was soothing and comforting. I would play my cello outside. It was empowering."

With continued counseling and support, Liam was able to gain financial stability and find his own housing.

"From the moment I was here to the end of the first year clean was just exponential growth. Life just kept getting better and better and better."

Despite some of his life's ups and downs, he keeps pushing forward. "It's allowed me the courage to fight harder for myself and seek out new opportunities."

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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

"For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you."

2 Corinthians 9:10

We place a high degree of emphasis on our core value of **Resourcefulness** as we serve our neighbors in need. Our Food Services team creatively combines ingredients that are donated to us in order to serve thousands of meals each month. Our Client Services team skillfully supports shelter residents as they work their way back to their own homes. Our Community Outreach team nimbly pivots based on ever changing circumstances as they engage guests at the Junction or in the Bread For Life co-op. And our Administrative team deftly manages the "behind the scenes" work that enables our direct service staff to engage in the hands-on ministry we provide. I guess you could say that being resourceful is how, every day, we redefine the possible here at Home Sweet Home Ministries.

How do we do this? By remaining steadfast in our reliance on God & in knowing that all of you who support Home Sweet Home Ministries are our partners. This is how we collectively "produce a great harvest of generosity" that leads to hope, restoration, and community.

I pray that you are encouraged as you read through this month's newsletter. May God bless you all for your faithful support of our ministry.

Matt Burgess

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Essential Helpers

Volunteers are an essential piece to the way we serve those in need at Home Sweet Home Ministries. Every day we rely on volunteers to help further our mission and vision. HSHM is grateful to have faithful servants who devote their time to help others.

Laura Bailey has volunteered in the Bread For Life Co-op for over seven years. She enjoys the flexibility to be able to help wherever she can. "It's usually busy and always friendly. Everyone is very positive and very helpful to each other. It's a great place to spend my time," shares Laura.

Stephen and Carol White enjoy serving up meals every Wednesday in our Dining Center. "My amazement is the attitude of the people we serve," says Stephen. "They are truly appreciative of the fact that we are there. Everyone is so thankful."

HSHM would love to have you become a part of our volunteer family. For more information on opportunities to serve, please contact Catherine at 309-319-2824 or cdepew@hshministries.org. We appreciate all your time and efforts.



Follow Us!

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Join Us For Night In A Car 2023



Fall is here and we are so excited to once again be back in the Night in a Car fundraising season! The NIAC 2023 event is being held Friday, February 3rd with in-person and online options to accommodate participants of all kinds. Night in a Car is a homelessness simulation that creates awareness, compassion, help, and hope for the many people in our community experiencing the difficult realities of homelessness this winter. Whether you are an individual, a youth group, or a team of employees looking to make a difference in Bloomington/Normal this year, Night in a Car is a fantastic way to get involved. It's going to be our biggest year yet and we need your help to make it happen. To learn more and sign up, please visit nightinacar.org and sign up today!

Help Us Give Thanks

Home Sweet Home Ministries, Midwest Food Bank, and Thrivent Financial need your help! As we approach the holiday season, we kindly ask for your support as we work towards gathering **2,200 turkeys** this Thanksgiving to help families in need. Here are a few ways you can easily help:



- **Shop Hy-Vee in Bloomington.**
You can shop as usual and purchase a turkey for \$20 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 the Bread For Life Co-op located at 301 East Oakland Avenue in Bloomington. Thank you so much for helping us provide 10,000 individuals with an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful meal this November.

More Ways to Give

Home Sweet Home Ministries truly values your support. As good stewards, we would like to share an additional way you can help benefit our ministry through Donor Advised Funds (DAF). DAF is a giving opportunity that allows you to combine tax benefits with the flexibility to support HSHM. Simply work with public charities like Schwab Charitable, Fidelity Charitable, etc. that sponsor a donor advised program to create your DAF.

Once your fund is established, you can recommend grants from your Donor Advised Fund to Home Sweet Home at any time. It is a simple and tax-efficient way for you to support our important work. If you would like more information, please contact HSHM's Development and Communications Manager, Leslie Bunge, at 309-319-2820 or lbunge@hshministries.org.



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Together We Grow

Since the opening of The Junction in June, community support has continued to grow. Living Stone Community Church hosts services every Sunday. Heartland Community College teaches Adult Education classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our friends at the Bloomington Public Library have joined us for Thursday morning Story time. Even Bingo on Wednesdays has been a huge hit for all. We are blessed to be surrounded by such a caring community that is willing to learn and grow together!



If you are interested in partnering with The Junction, please contact Samantha at 309-319-2822 or swilliams@hshministries.org.

LIAM'S PATH TO RECOVERY

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For the past six months, Liam has been working at PATH as the Director of their Homeless Services Program. He feels blessed to be in the position to help others that are experiencing homelessness.

"Now to work alongside those who helped me, it's just amazing," says Liam.

Looking back at all of his accomplishments, Liam will always view Home Sweet Home as a source of hope. "Although the responsibility was mine, I never did anything alone. I just felt intense love from the bottom to the top. It's the only place that felt like home."

Current Needs

With your help, Home Sweet Home is able to provide nourishment and strength to families seeking refuge. Please kindly consider collecting the following items:

- Bottled Water
- Apples/Cuties
- Flour
- Sugar
- Canned Tuna
- Full-sized Shampoo/Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Toilet Paper

Donations can be dropped off at the Bread For Life Food Co-op at 301 East Oakland Avenue in Bloomington anytime Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. Be sure to check out hshministries.org and click on the "Ways to Give" tab for updated needs and links to our Amazon Wish list. Thank you so much for helping your neighbors in need.

Kindly Pray For Us

As Home Sweet Home strives to help individuals and families this fall, we kindly ask your help in praying for:

- individuals, families, and Veterans seeking new opportunities.
- the community members and churches involved with Give Thanks distribution.
- the Bread For Life Food Co-op and its members.
- the continued growth of The Junction.
- our food source providers, including local restaurants and grocery stores.
- the health and safety of volunteers, clients, and staff who devote their time in our shelter.

Thank you for lifting up Home Sweet Home in prayer. Many Blessings!