

APRIL 2026

## Faithful Service by the Plateful



Every meal tells a story—and through our Adopt a Meal program, that story is one of generosity, connection, and hope. Adopt a Meal offers a unique opportunity for volunteers to directly nourish our residents and other members of our community. More than simply providing food, volunteers help create an atmosphere of warmth and welcome around the table.

Home Sweet Home is blessed to have Eastview Community Church faithfully show up for our Adopt a Meal each month. Their commitment to serving has become more than a volunteer opportunity—it's a meaningful partnership rooted in shared mission and lasting connection.



Through Adopt a Meal, Eastview volunteers plan a menu with guidance from our staff, purchase ingredients for 60–70 servings, and prepare and serve the meal. Sometimes that means cooking in our kitchen; other times it means coordinating and delivering prepared food. No matter the approach, their presence is steady, joyful, and deeply impactful.

For Jamie, one of Eastview's dedicated volunteers, the heart behind serving is clear: "I believe every person is made in the image of God and deeply loved by Him. We live in a broken world, but as a follower of Jesus, I feel called to love people well and help meet their physical needs. Most importantly, I want to point people to Jesus as the source of eternal hope—not just hope for present circumstances, but eternal and lasting hope."

That hope is reflected not only in words, but in action. Eastview's decision to serve every month creates something powerful—consistency. "I love that it's consistent—the opportunity for Eastview and HSHM to partner and have a lasting connection with people and the ministry," Jamie shares. "There is something powerful about showing up regularly and being a dependable presence in the community."

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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

*"Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose."*

– Philemon 2:1-2

This April, honoring the volunteers who so generously share their time and talents with Home Sweet Home Ministries feels so easy. Getting The Bridge fully up and running involved record numbers of volunteers & we continue to see so many of you engaged in our day-to-day operations. This generosity and giving of time and talents has been on display since we were founded all the way back in 1917. I am filled with joy to see the tradition of our community coming together in fulfillment of Jesus' great commandment to love our neighbors occurring daily throughout our programs and services.

On behalf of all of us at Home Sweet Home Ministries, let me say thank you for so generously partnering in our work. May God bless you all for your faithful support of our ministry.

*Matt Burgess*

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## Thank You, Volunteers!

April is Volunteer Appreciation month and all of us at Home Sweet Home want to thank you for your dedicated service. Volunteers are at the heart and soul of how we serve those in need at HSHM. Without you, our ministry would not be able to run as it does. Volunteers are not just needed; they are appreciated and essential to serving our residents and community members. From helping in our dining center to painting at The Bridge, your support is immeasurable. Thank you so much for devoting your time and efforts to our ministry.

Are you looking to get more involved? Check out all of our amazing opportunities to serve by visiting [hshministries.org](http://hshministries.org) and clicking on the 'Volunteer' tab. Your help truly makes a difference.



## Welcome to The Bridge!



*Volunteer!*

Explore Opportunities to Serve  
[hshministries.org](http://hshministries.org)

# Cruising to Success



HSHM is excited to share that Night in a Car raised over \$140,000! Thank you to all our participants, donors, and volunteers that helped make our 10th year such a success. We would like to extend a very special thank you to Young America Realty and all our sponsors for their support.

On February 6th, over 180 participants spent the night in their cars to raise awareness for those experiencing homelessness. During the event, participants enjoyed a variety of activities including packing Blessing Bags and listening to a testimonial from a resident at The Bridge.

Erica, a first-time participant shared, "This was a very humbling experience. It made me think about how many people don't have that luxury to not fully sit-up or fully stretch out when they try to sleep. I will remember this night and think about those who do this on a daily basis."

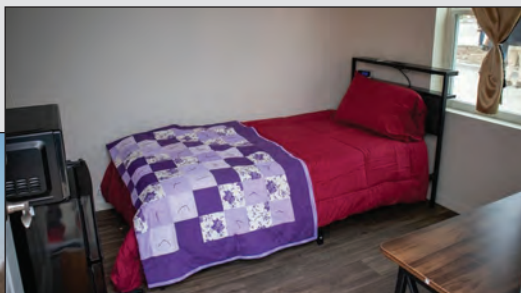
Chris, another first-time participant described, "If I had to choose three things to say about the night, it would be blessed, embarrassed, and forever changed. I am blessed our



kids got to experience this. I am embarrassed and question why am I not doing more and I am forever changed by this night. God bless you all."

Home Sweet Home is grateful for your compassion. Thank you for walking alongside those in need and helping them find strength, dignity and hope. Because of your generosity, more work can be done to support your neighbors in need. Thank You!

**Save the date! Our 11th annual Night In A Car will be on February 5th, 2027!**



On January 19th, Home Sweet Home was blessed to officially start moving residents into The Bridge. Thankfully, we were able to beat out the polar vortex, getting people out of the approaching bitter cold. Every person we moved into a cabin had previously been staying outside either at the encampment at the gravel pits, the encampment off Adelaide Street or elsewhere in town.

As HSHM staff moved people into their own place, residents expressed how grateful they are to have a safe place to call their own. Some were overjoyed to be able to fully stand inside their cabin versus a tent, while others were thrilled to have a consistent place to shower and nice kitchenette to cook up a meal.

As we approach our third month of operation, our dedicated staff and community partners are working diligently to connect our residents to services that will help them take that next step towards permanent housing. We will also be working with various community partners to beautify the landscape. Many thanks again to all who continue to support this endeavor. It is only through your generosity that these doors have been opened. Thank you!



*Become A Monthly Donor*  
[hshministries.org/donate](https://hshministries.org/donate)

*Donate!*

## Faithful Service by the Plateful

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In February, Jamie, along with fellow volunteers Deb, Stephanie, Summer, and Lindsey, served up delicious fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and rolls. This thoughtfully prepared dinner offers comfort, stability and a sense of belonging—things that are especially meaningful for those facing housing insecurity or hardship.

“The greatest thing about volunteering is that it reminds us we’re part of something bigger than ourselves and that each person who receives a meal matters and has worth and dignity,” Jamie says. “I love being able to embody that for someone and serve them in a tangible and practical way.”

We are incredibly grateful for partners like Eastview Community Church who choose to show up faithfully. Their monthly commitment helps create an atmosphere of dignity, connection, and eternal hope—one meal at a time. If your church, business, or group is looking for a hands-on way to make a difference, consider adopting a meal. Together, we can continue building lasting relationships and ensuring every person who walks through our doors knows they matter.’



## Current Needs

With your support, Home Sweet Home can provide comfort and care to our neighbors seeking a fresh start. Please kindly consider collecting the following items for our ministry:

- Bottled Water
- Coffee
- Canned Chicken
- Various Broths
- Disposable Razors
- Laundry Soap
- Disposable Coffee Cups
- Paper Towels

Donations can be dropped off at the Bread For Life Co-op at 301 East Oakland Avenue in Bloomington Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Be sure to check out [hshministries.org](http://hshministries.org) and click on the “Ways to Give” tab for our updated needs and Amazon Wish Lists. Thank you so much for your help!

## Join Us In Prayer

As Home Sweet Home strives to help others in our community, we kindly ask your help in praying for:

- the health and safety of volunteers who devote their time to our shelter.
- individuals, families, and Veterans searching for refuge.
- our food source providers, including local restaurants and grocery stores.
- all those involved with the continued success of The Bridge.
- all those in our community in need of comfort and hope.
- all our generous supporters that make our mission possible.

Thank you for surrounding us in prayer. God Bless!

## Double Your Impact This May

We are blessed to share that a group of generous donors is challenging the community to match their gifts of **\$50,000** to HSHM through our May Match Challenge. This special challenge helps Home Sweet Home continue to connect those experiencing homelessness to services that will lead them to a brighter future. Home Sweet Home greatly appreciates any community support given. Together we will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. Thank you so much!

Donations to the May Match Challenge can be made:

- Online at [hshministries.org/donate](http://hshministries.org/donate)
  - “May Match” should be indicated in the Campaign box.
- By mail or in person to:
  - Home Sweet Home Ministries  
303 E. Oakland Ave.  
Bloomington, IL 61701
  - “May Match” should be indicated on the gift.