

# Turkeys and Blessings

*"God bless those who delivered these meals and those who donated this Thanksgiving."*

Thanksgiving is a special time for people all across America and that is no exception here at Home Sweet Home Ministries. We were founded on Thanksgiving Day in 1917, so this day has special significance to us. With our partnership with Midwest Food Bank, local grocery stores, and the generous donations made by hundreds of caring community members, we were able to **share the blessings** with more than 8,000 people facing challenging times. Thank you to all of our partners and YOU who came to help! Whether it was a turkey, cans of green beans or your time, your contribution helped to make someone's Thanksgiving Day special. "Give Thanks" is more than just donating food; it is spreading **hope** throughout the community.

*"If it were not for this meal, I would have had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich."*



*"Thank you to all who were able to make this Thanksgiving so special for me and my family."*



**SEE INSIDE:**

**2** Spreading Hope Through a Picture



**3** Wellness on Wheels



**4** Music Brings Hope





## A Message from MARY ANN

*And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." – Revelation 21:5*

There is something exciting about "new" things: new jobs, new babies, new opportunities, new years, and new life in Jesus Christ. Oftentimes our residents are weighed down by the old: old worries and cares; old disappointments; old grudges. It is refreshing for them to discover that Jesus is making all things new for them. Some of the readers of this newsletter are old friends and faithful supporters of Home Sweet Home Ministries. Some are new, with no previous knowledge of Home Sweet Home. Regardless of whether you consider yourself an old friend or a new friend, Jesus is making all things new for you. This newsletter will tell you some of the new things that Jesus is doing at Home Sweet Home, through your prayerful partnership. For more information about what is new, please contact me at the email or phone number listed below. I would love to explore with you the new things that we can do together.

Have a blessed new year.

In His Name,

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## Spreading Hope Through a Picture

On October 6th, Home Sweet Home Ministries had its 9th Annual

Art Show. The theme of this year's art show was "Sharing the Light of Hope", which is exactly what the participants did. Clients submitted many different forms of art highlighting their abilities and talents. There was live music, food, and a fun, supportive atmosphere. Children's paintings were displayed at the art show illustrating how far the power of healing and hope can reach. Through the many different forms of creative expression, clients were able to showcase their talents and spread the hope they have found here at Home Sweet Home Ministries. Thank you to all the people who came out to show their support. With your support, Home Sweet



Home Ministries is able to continue to find ways to spread hope and light in our community. If you would like to know more about the creative expressions program, or would like to volunteer, visit our website at [HSHMinistries.org](http://HSHMinistries.org)

## Save the date for the 3rd Annual Run For Hope!

The 3rd Annual Run For Hope is March 26, 2015! Sign up today at [RunForHope.org](http://RunForHope.org)!



## HSHM Women's Auxiliary

The Women's Auxiliary had a veteran's appreciation program in November and their annual Christmas tea in December. They take a winter break in January and February. Their next meeting will be March 14 with a potluck lunch and a program on Home Sweet Home's Bridge of Hope program. All are welcome to attend.

## Wellness on Wheels: an update on the Mobile Health Project

Last year, in partnership with the Community Health Care Clinic, we launched the Mobile Health Project (MHP). The Mobile Health Project provides free health care services to medically underserved individuals in our community. The goal of this project is to expand access to healthcare and wellness services. Brittany Cline, our Outreach Coordinator, reported, "We held our last clinic in October, and we are excited to make plans for when we start back up in the spring. We have had 23 clinic events and 114 clinic visits in the past year. People have begun to recognize who we are and what services we provide. We have heard from many that having the mobile clinic significantly helps because traveling to doctors' offices can be very difficult. We've been able to target the transportation barrier that limits people from accessing the healthcare they need. This was one of the goals of the MHP, so we are glad to see that we are meeting that need."

"Another benefit to the work we are doing, is that while the Community Health Care Clinic provides the health services, we are able to support them through community case



management. We've been able to provide services that would prevent people from becoming homeless.

When a patient comes to us, we ask them if they need any support outside of their physical health. For those individuals that have indicated that they want further support in their life, we've been able to determine if community case management is needed. One of our regular clients is an example of the benefit of the MHP. He's been able to rely on the services to receive his medication on a monthly basis instead of having to travel across town to receive these same services." For more information on the MHP, visit [HSHMinistries.org](http://HSHMinistries.org)

## Story of Hope .....



**Maureen, a former resident of Home Sweet Home and an active volunteer, shares her story of hope.**

My husband passed away unexpectedly, and the next seven years were very difficult. I was not staying in my support groups and my relationship with God began to suffer. I was angry with God and did not feel like he was there for me. As a result, I started making bad decisions, but I didn't really realize they were bad decisions at the time.

My son was at school here in Bloomington, and he connected me with Home Sweet Home Ministries. When I came here, I had only the clothes on my back. Home Sweet Home got me clothes and gave me a hot meal. They helped me find the resources that I needed. My case manager would follow up with me on everything, and genuinely cared about me. You can tell that for everyone who works here, this isn't just their "job", they truly care about everyone who walks through the doors. The devotions every morning really helped me and challenged me in my

relationship with God. There are so many classes to help you build yourself up.

I didn't think that I had any artistic talent, but I went to an art class and painted a sunset. It was beautiful! I didn't realize I had that in me. It helped me build my confidence back up. I was able to give my painting to my children, which just meant the world to me. God was helping me and opening doors for me.

What happened to me, can happen to anyone. When I first came here, I was scared. But as I got to know the other residents, I realized so many of them were educated, came from a good home, but circumstances in life led them to being here. I made so many lifelong friends while I was here, and while we all have different stories, we identified with one another. Everything in my life has turned around and I do feel like I have a bright future now and big appreciation for life and for family, for true friends and for everyone who helped me along the way. God was with me when I found this place. And when I moved out, I felt like I could be a whole person again. I could see God's hand in my life. I know I could not have gotten myself together without the support of Home Sweet Home Ministries.

## From Our Volunteers: Tony Gilmer

I started looking for something to do in the community, and I found Home Sweet Home Ministries. I started volunteering in high school, with our student government. I would help out every Thanksgiving with preparing and serving meals. And that sort of just created a habit in my life. When I came here for college, I started looking for a cause to get involved with because I missed serving others! Eventually, I found HSHM, and I've stuck with it ever since. As I had kids, I wanted them to see the importance of giving back. I wanted them to see the importance of treating people well and with respect, because I want that to be a pattern in their lives too. And I figured that if they see me treating everyone with kindness, it would stick with them.

I want people to be able to believe in people again. It's more than just giving someone a meal; it is making someone feel loved and cared for. It's letting people know that they are not forgotten. Remembering that we aren't really any different, but our situation is different.

Volunteering at HSHM has impacted me in a few different ways. For lack of a better word, it has kept me soft. It has helped me stay compassionate and loving towards people. When you work in the business world, it is easy to become jaded. But I try to remember those bright faces I see when I am delivering meal. It reminds me why I volunteer! Scripture tells us to be a father to the fatherless and love the widow. I think that we have a responsibility to help others and fill in the gap. Try volunteering. It can be hard to fit it into your schedule, but once you do it, you are hooked!

**"I want people to be able to believe in people again."**



## Music Brings Hope to Home Sweet Home Ministries

On October 25th, Fan the Flame Christian Concerts had a concert benefitting Home Sweet Home Ministries and The Forgotten Initiative. *The Afters, Unspoken, Among the Thirsty* and *Chris August* performed their hit songs, shared their light with a great crowd, and all the money from the ticket sales went to benefit two great causes.

"Not only was the concert a fun night for our residents, but it was an encouraging reminder of God's faithfulness. Over \$6,000 in ticket sales was collected to benefit Home Sweet Home and The Forgotten Initiative. What an amazing blessing!" said Mary Ann Pullin, CEO at Home Sweet Home.

A BIG thank you to everyone who came out to the concert and to Fan The Flame Christian Concerts for selecting Home Sweet Home as one of the beneficiaries.



*What have we been up to?*



Over 400,000 pounds of clothing & shoes kept out of the landfill.



Over 8,000 meals served this Thanksgiving season.



Over 100 individuals treated through the Mobile Health Project.

*Visit [Hshministries.org](http://Hshministries.org) for more info!*