

# Hope For All Who Enter

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# HSHM

HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES  
since 1917

APRIL 2022



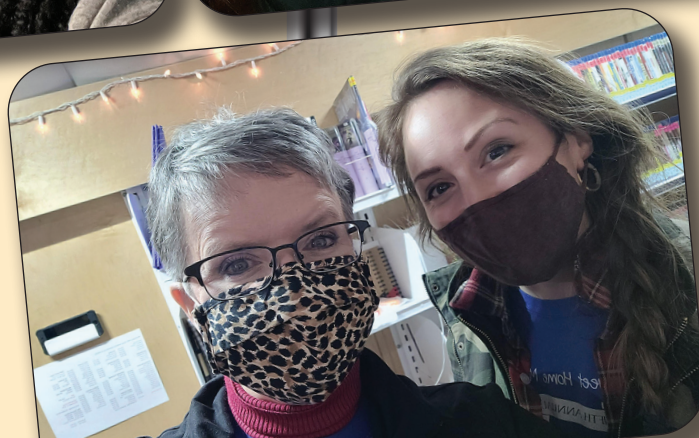
Compassion and generosity. Two key components that have helped Home Sweet Home Ministries thrive for nearly 105 years. HSHM is blessed to be a part of such a caring community with so many sharing a passion to serve.

If there is anything that Night In A Car has proven, it's that there is a huge network of people who are eager and willing to help. On Friday, February 4th, 230 participants including individuals, families, churches, and more, braved the cold to help raise awareness about homelessness by spending the overnight hours in their cars. Some participated in-person at Trinity Lutheran Church while others participated virtually from their own driveways in the community and beyond.

Despite brutally cold temperatures and nine inches of snow, participants bundled up in layers of clothes and blankets to experience the reality of living out of their car through Bloomington's harsh winter.

Michelle Cope, who has participated in Night In A Car for the past three years with the Bloomington Public Library's Bookmobile, shares, "It takes so much to stay warm if you live in your car in Illinois. I still cannot imagine having to get up and go to work each day. It makes me just that much more compassionate and understanding working with the patrons at the library."

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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 it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast"*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

There's no hiding the truth that we do a lot of "works" here at Home Sweet Home Ministries. However, our first priority is to always focus on demonstrating Christ's love. One of our core values is the value of Grace, which we define by saying: "Every day we encourage compassion and forgiveness by offering unmerited favor and fresh opportunities." This commitment leads us to welcome people as they come to us, regardless of who they are or how many times they might have come to us before. Home Sweet Home Ministries is a place of opportunity – opportunity for someone to experience hope, opportunity for a family to gain greater food security, opportunity to change direction in life, and opportunity to get back into a home of one's own. It is also a place of opportunity for you – to get involved through prayer, as a volunteer, and of course as a donor supporting our work.

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*

Matt Burgess  
Chief Executive  
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## CALLING ALL CHURCH NEIGHBORS

We are currently seeking more churches to get involved with our Bridge of Hope Program. We are so grateful to have Christ Temple Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Vale already making an impact to help families facing homelessness in our community. We need your help to end family homelessness. Become a Neighboring Volunteer:

- Form a group of 6-10 people from your church, Bible Study, or small group.
- Open your heart and hands to support a family facing homelessness by helping with transportation, meals, daycare, etc.
- Sustain encouragement to support a family's long-term success. Typically an 18-month commitment.

Curious to learn more? Please reach out to Edgar Miller, HSHM Bridge of Hope Navigator, at [emiller@hshministries.org](mailto:emiller@hshministries.org) or 309-828-7356. Thank you!



## Join Us In Prayer

As Home Sweet Home embraces a new spring season, we kindly ask your help in praying for:

- our food source providers, including local restaurants and grocery stores.
- individuals, families, and Veterans searching for renewal.
- our families and church partners participating in Bridge of Hope.
- 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 at 301.

Thank you for lifting up Home Sweet Home in prayer. God Bless!

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**@hshministries**



# Construction at the Junction

Construction continues at The Junction, HSHM's new community center. The wall frames are up and volunteers are busy with plumbing and electrical projects. HSHM is also blessed to have a wonderful volunteer who is building us custom cabinets. We look forward to the day we officially open the doors to the community.

By partnering with other local agencies and organizations, The Junction will be able to offer continuing education and enrichment classes, legal paperwork assistance, case management, life skills classes, youth and family counseling meeting space, health screenings, job fairs, and more. It will also serve as a safe place for the community to come together and



enjoy a cup of coffee, snack, play a game, visit, or just read a book.

With this new outreach comes many opportunities for volunteers to participate. To learn more, please contact Teresa Fowler, The Junction Program Manager, at [tfowler@hshministries.org](mailto:tfowler@hshministries.org) or 309-319-2819. Thank you.

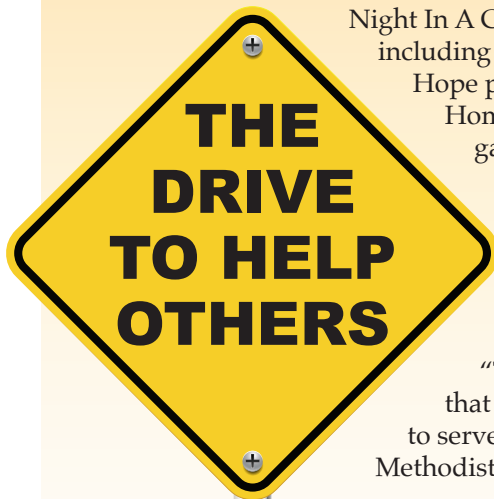
Night In A Car also provided participants with a glimpse into HSHM's programs and services including our Bridge of Hope program. Through a special Zoom panel, a couple of Bridge of Hope participants shared their journey. One mother graciously expressed, "If it weren't for Home Sweet Home and the Bridge of Hope Program, I don't know where I'd be. They gave me a chance when nobody would. I have my own home. I am warm and not on concrete."

Your prayers and encouragement mean everything to those struggling to rebuild their lives. Through the success of Night In A Car, we can continue to help families regain their stability and strength.

"These events always remind me of the wisdom, power, and unlimited possibilities that groups have. I am grateful to be a part of a larger team that is working together to serve our community," exclaims Kathy King-Nobles, a Pastor of Normal First United Methodist Church and avid Night In A Car supporter.

Home Sweet Home is happy to announce that Night In A Car officially raised over \$171,000! Such a tremendous blessing! We would like to give a very special thank you to our top sponsors including Young America Realty, Nussbaum Transportation, BPA Troxell, El Paso Chiropractic Clinic, and Ameren Illinois. Thank you so much for helping your neighbors in need find new hope. God bless you all!

Help us continue to drive out homelessness. Learn more about volunteering and other giving opportunities by visiting [hshministries.org](http://hshministries.org). Thank you.



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# Making Their Mark

HSHM values all the unique ways the community supports our work. It has been exciting to see all the kind and creative ways others choose to help, like the Marks family.

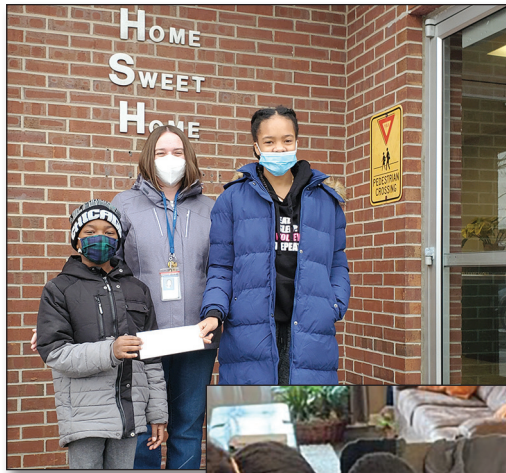
For a few years now, the Marks family have come up with fun and educational ways to fundraise for HSHM. In the past, their kids participated in a Math-A-Thon, answering math questions for donations. This year they tackled STEM activities. In mid-January for every donation received, parents Christopher and Courtney challenged their children, Cai and Christopher, to complete different snap circuit projects. In total, the Marks family raised \$1,000 for HSHM. We are so grateful for their help! This is such a creative way for them to learn and grow all while helping our organization in the process.

"It is our pleasure to do this each year. We are so thankful for the support and generosity of our family and friends who contribute to these learning opportunities that benefit the kids and organizations in need," shares Christopher. "Thank you for the partnership and we look forward to seeing what we can do for the next round."

Many thanks to the Marks family! May your creativity inspire others to get involved with Home Sweet Home.

## Get Involved with Big Give

Home Sweet Home Ministries and Midwest Food Bank are excited to team up once again for Big Give. We are currently seeking community partners to get involved with this great cause. Big Give typically occurs in September and October. We ask community members to help us collect items for meal boxes that we will distribute during Thanksgiving. It is a great opportunity for churches, youth groups, schools, and businesses to help those in need. Last year your efforts helped to feed 1,577 families. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Leslie Bunge, HSHM's Development and Communications Manager at [lbunge@hshministries.org](mailto:lbunge@hshministries.org) or 309-319-2820. Thank you!



## Current Needs

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

- Bottled Water
- Apples/Cuties
- Individual Bags of Chips
- Gluten-Free Items
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Soup
- Canned Potatoes

Donations can be dropped off at the Bread For Life Food Co-op at 301 East Oakland Avenue in Bloomington. Be sure to check out [hshministries.org](http://hshministries.org) and click on the "Ways to Give" tab for updated needs and our Amazon Wish list. Thank you so much for providing hope to your neighbors in need.

