

Welcome to THE JUNCTION!

It has been months in the making, but with your kind support Home Sweet Home Ministries is thrilled to welcome you to our new community center, The Junction!

On June 2, HSHM staff along with the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, volunteers, and other community members celebrated The Junction's grand opening with a special ribbon cutting ceremony.

"It comes with limitless possibilities. Also the name, The Junction, it's such an intersection of many things in this community and that just feels perfect," shares Deborah Halperin with IWU and the West Bloomington Revitalization Project.

The new facility features a welcome area, several open areas with tables and chairs, computer nooks, a classroom, coffee and snack bar, and a children's playroom. "I'm intrigued by the amazing classroom. I work at Heartland and we're going to have a GED class there," shares Kerry Urquizo with Heartland Community College. "The classroom is new, innovative. It's going to be a really nice space to learn."

We could not do it without you. Your prayers and donations have helped make this new space a reality. Home Sweet Home would especially like to thank State Farm for donating furniture, District 87 for providing educational items, and Living Stone Community Church for all of their time and efforts.

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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

“So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.”

Romans 5:11

Kingdom work is relationship work, and as one of our core values **Relationships** receive considerable attention at Home Sweet Home Ministries. Each time someone comes to us for help, we focus on developing a healthy relationship with them – one that honors who they are as God’s children. Jesus’ imperative to Peter to “feed my sheep” wasn’t just about providing nourishing food – it was about bringing people together to know His love for them. Developing genuine connections with one another is a key way we work towards restoring lives and our community. With the launch of The Junction, where people and services come together, we believe we have introduced a new venue where these connections can occur. You can join us as well! If you are interested in exploring volunteer opportunities in The Junction or anywhere else, don’t hesitate to reach out. I truly believe you’ll experience restoration in your own life by getting involved in the work of Home Sweet Home Ministries.

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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Give Back in a Big Way



Fall will soon be here. Home Sweet Home Ministries, Midwest Food Bank, and Thrivent are busy preparing for Big Give. We are blessed to have the support of 7 churches so far and we would love to have more get involved! 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. You can choose to do special shopping days or a planned food drive. We are happy to accommodate any way we can. We can provide video promotion, boxes, and arrange pick-ups. 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 or 309-319-2820. Thank you!

Zooming Ahead

These warmer days have all of us at Home Sweet Home Ministries thinking cool. We are already busy planning for Night In A Car. Mark your calendars now to join us on Friday, February 3,

2023. It is going to be another fun ride as we look to bring back in-person activities in addition to maintaining the zoom-in option. You can sign up now at nightinacar.org. We already have a team revved up and ready to start. Want to learn more? Join us out at the Corn Crib on July 30th. HSHM staff will be onsite to happily share more details and help you get involved with this unique event.



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"It's amazing how God has redeemed the space for, what I believe are high and holy purposes for this community. We're excited about it!" exclaims Larry Van Gundy, pastor of Living Stone Community Church who is already conducting Sunday services in The Junction. "I look forward to the forging of friendships, the building of relationships, and I look forward with expectancy at what God is going to do for the lives of men, women, boys and girls about what God is going to do with this space."

There is so much potential at The Junction. During the past month, Career Link hosted a job fair, Sunnyside Garden had a movie night, and Bloomington Township started wellness classes. HSHM is also looking into the possibilities of displaying local artwork.

"It's just so exciting to welcome everyone in," says Samantha Williams, HSHM's Community Outreach Manager. "I look forward to connecting with more people and expanding our relationship with the community."

Even though the doors are open, there is still much work to be done. If you are interested in learning more about The Junction or wish to explore new opportunities, please reach out to Community Outreach Manager, Samantha Williams, at 309-828-7356 ext. 228 or swilliams@hshministries.org. Together we will continue to grow and gather. God Bless!

No Place Like the Co-op

It's been just over a year since The Bread For Life Food Co-op moved into its new home behind The Junction. With your gracious help, the co-op has continued to thrive. Thanks to you, our shelves have stayed stocked and our families continue to have access to fresh food. HSHM recently caught up with co-op members Carmen Guillen and Peggy Ana Milton for a little co-op Q&A.

Can you describe your shopping experience at the Co-op?

Carmen: "It's really good. You can find almost everything you need. The way things are organized is also very helpful."

Peggy Ana: "I agree. They also have fresh produce. With inflation and prices of everything going sky high, it's a blessing."

Carmen: "I try not to go to the stores. I get what I can here first. It's only me so I don't need that much."

Peggy Ana: "We like to work here to give back to the community but it's also a blessing to be able to shop. It's like a bonus."



How do you feel about the Co-op staff?

Carmen: "Great. You can't find anybody better than them."

Peggy Ana: "I agree completely. They're phenomenal. Sam's always treated me great. Ethel's like the sister that I've never had."

How do you feel about the food selection at the Co-op?

Carmen: "You find everything you need."

Peggy Ana: "You find many name brands but even if there's not a name brand available, the product they have is just as good."



What do you enjoy most about the Co-op?

Carmen: "Working."

Peggy Ana: "It just feels like a family to me. I appreciate that. I just recently had a loss in my home where I'm not able to stay there. I couldn't wait to get here today because I feel a sense of normalcy here. It's a really nice environment."

So many great moments happen in the co-op. We are grateful for caring neighbors like you to help make them happen. Please visit hshministries.org/donate to discover how you can make an impact. We appreciate your help as we continue to provide for others. Thank you!

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Your Support Matters

Home Sweet Home would like to take a moment to say **“Thank You”** for all that you do to support our ministry. Because of you, individuals and families in our community are provided safe shelter, warm meals, and new opportunities. Because of you, we are building a stronger community together.

Your efforts have truly made an impact over the past few months. HSHM was blessed to have State Farm volunteers help with cleaning and organizing The Junction. Illinois State University Culinary Students treated us to a delicious meal of parmesan chicken. United Contractors Midwest donated their time and skills to lay new concrete for our sidewalk. We were also thrilled to have First Presbyterian Church members come out and plant flowers for us.

In addition, we would like to thank everyone that helped us surpass our \$40,000 matching goal during our May Community Challenge.

Thank
YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Current Needs

With your help, Home Sweet Home is able to provide comfort and hope to individuals and families seeking renewal. Please kindly consider collecting the following items:

- Bottled Water
- Apples/Cuties
- Individual Bags of Chips
- Sugar-1 lb. or 2 lb. bags
- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Canned Tomatoes
- Full-sized Shampoo/Conditioner
- Body Wash

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 our Amazon Wish list. Thank you so much for caring for your neighbors in need.

Keep Us In Prayer

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

- individuals, families, and Veterans seeking a fresh start.
- the volunteers and staff involved with The Junction.
- the Bread For Life Food Co-op and its members.
- our food source providers, including local restaurants, grocery stores, and community gardens.
- 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 spirit. God Bless!