

Hope For All Who Enter

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HSHM
HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES
since 1917

JANUARY 2023

SERVING FROM THE HEART

Home Sweet Home's dedicated kitchen staff provides three delicious meals and three snacks every single day to all of our residents at the shelter. In addition, staff also dishes up community meals during lunch and dinner times. It takes a whole lot of love and devotion to nourish others in need.

"It always so wonderful to hear from folks how much they enjoyed a meal," says Carol Schrenk, HSHM's Food Services Manager. "Sometimes we even get sweet little notes with compliments. It just makes our work that much more meaningful."

Carol, along with fellow kitchen staff, Wendy, Gail, and Nicole, happily prepare a variety of meals for all to savor. Each day provides an opportunity to serve a variety of foods from tacos to pork roast.

"I enjoy coming up with our menu each month. I review what we have available and plan our meals accordingly. It truly means so much to have so many caring members of our community donate food to us," adds Carol. "I especially love it when I get to treat our residents to something new or special. For example, it was a tremendous help when a generous farmer donated a cow to us. We had fresh beef for weeks. Such a blessing!"

Home Sweet Home is especially grateful to local farmers, restaurants, and grocery stores that collaborate with us to serve up comfort and hope. "We couldn't do what we do without everyone's help. I mean, we count on it," expresses Carol. "I appreciate all those who help to keep our shelves stocked and our freezers full."

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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

*"Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble.
Then your light will shine out from the darkness,
and the darkness around you will be as bright as
noon."*

— Isaiah 58:10

Ever since Billy Shelper founded this ministry on Thanksgiving Day in 1917, we've included feeding people as a core service. Through the daily work of our Food Services and Bread For Life teams, hundreds of households are assured of having access to wholesome, nutritious food throughout the year.

But physical nourishment isn't our only focus – we prioritize spiritual nourishment as well. The fellowship of sitting around a table enjoying a meal together and the sense of belonging that comes from working alongside one another combine to kindle hope in the lives of those we serve (& in our own). This is the light that Isaiah mentions – a glowing sense of beloved community in which darkness gets pushed back and the light of Christ and His love shines for all to see. We embrace this sense of community in all of our services so that hope and restoration are included in the shelter, food, and case management we offer our neighbors.

I pray that you are encouraged as you get a glimpse of the ways Home Sweet Home Ministries nourishes people, both physically and spiritually, through reading this newsletter. May God bless you all for your faithful support of our ministry.

Matt Burgess

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Blessings Abound

Home Sweet Home was grateful to collaborate with Midwest Food Bank and Thrivent Financial for Give Thanks 2022. With the generous support of the community, Hy-Vee, and Great Plains Media, nearly 1,600 households received complete meal boxes and frozen turkeys a week before Thanksgiving.

During the distribution, many expressed their thanks and appreciation. One mother shared, "You know that without this, a lot of people wouldn't be having a Thanksgiving. I'm so grateful to get to cook for my family. I love to cook! It just means so much especially this year. With just enough to make ends meet, dealing with inflation and the cost of everything out there, what you're doing is just priceless, so thank you. God bless you all."



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NIGHT IN A CAR IS ALMOST HERE!

Momentum is driving forward as Home Sweet Home Ministries prepares for our 7th annual Night In A Car on Friday, February 3rd. Participants are anxiously gathering up hats, gloves, and blankets to brave a cold night in their cars. While only for one night, Night In A Car provides a real glimpse into the realities of facing homelessness through Bloomington's harsh winters.

This unique event is something all ages can experience. It serves as a great educational opportunity to learn more about homelessness and the work HSHM does to help those in need. Home Sweet Home encourages you to join the ride. Together we can achieve our goal of raising \$200,000 to support those in need.

"We are back for our 5th year and excited to raise awareness and funds for HSHM. Each year we learn new facts, enjoy meeting other passionate community members, and feel the love through the support of our family and friends. Looking forward to another great event and helping to make a difference." – Team Warming Hearts

"We're doing it again! The Bookmobile Babes will be participating in Home Sweet Home Ministries' Night in a Car. This will be our 4th year sleeping on the bus and sharing information on homelessness, generosity, and volunteering. This event is so eye opening to what our Bloomington-Normal neighbors might be experiencing. We hope you will consider participating as well. Colleen and I are so grateful that the Bloomington Public Library allows us to 'borrow the car' for the night. Thank you to all our other supporters for the encouragement, financial backing, and the large supply of hand warmers you provide each year. We couldn't do this without you!" – The Bookmobile Babes

There is still time to get involved! Please consider signing-up or donating today by visiting nightinacar.org. If you have any questions, please reach out to Home Sweet Home's Night In A Car Coordinator, Leslie Bunge, at 309-319-2820 or lbunge@hshministries.org. Thank You!



Shelter Renovations

Since early October, Home Sweet Home has been under some heavy construction. Thanks to a capital grant through the Veteran's Administration, we are excited to add seven private bathrooms for both our male and female Veterans. The project has been quite an undertaking with installation and plumbing, but we are thrilled to undergo this major renovation for our Veterans to feel more at home. HSHM is honored to provide extra comfort to those who've sacrificed so much.

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Home Sweet Home Ministries**

Like Us!





SERVING FROM THE HEART

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And it's not just about donations, it's also about getting connected to all the volunteers who come to help serve. "Our volunteers are a huge part of our labor force. Without them, it would be a real struggle to get everything done from the dishwashing to cooking to serving each meal. To me, volunteers are not extra, they are essential," says Carol.

Carol adds, "We're always looking for new volunteers. I would be great if we could connect with moms with kids in school. I believe that is a network we haven't tapped into yet. I would love to have a mom drop off her kids and come volunteer with me for a couple of hours. That would be so wonderful."

Another key part to the kitchen staff's daily routine is providing sack lunches. Anyone in our community can walk into our shelter and receive a sack lunch, which is typically comprised of a sandwich, chips, vegetables, and fruit. Just recently, HSHM partnered with seven local churches to help provide items needed for our sack lunch program.

"I can't say thank you enough times to those that help out with this. It takes a lot of effort to keep sack lunches available. Over the past months, we've seen a significant increase in the number of lunches we've been handing out. Sometimes it's been a real struggle to have enough meat and cheese on hand."

Help Home Sweet Home continue to provide nourishment and healing. Please visit hshministries.org and click on the "Ways to Give" tab to see how you can help or check out the "Volunteer" tab to help our amazing kitchen team. Many blessings to you all!



Current Needs

With your kind help, Home Sweet Home is able to provide health and comfort to families seeking a fresh start. Please kindly consider collecting the following items for us:

- Bottled Water
- Apples/Cuties
- Gluten-Free Items
- Toilet Paper
- Kleenex Tissues
- Deodorant for Men and Women
- Body Wash for Men and Women

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 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.

Prayers Welcomed

As Home Sweet Home journeys into a new year, we graciously seek your help in praying for:

- individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations participating in Night In A Car.
- individuals, families, and Veterans searching for refuge and renewal.
- volunteers and staff who devote their time to help others.
- all those involved in supporting our new duplex at 1010 S Adelaide.

Thank you for lifting HSHM up in spirit.