

Hope For All Who Enter

www.hshministries.org

HSHM
HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES
since 1917

APRIL 2024

Essential Efforts



At Home Sweet Home Ministries, we believe that God created each of us with unique and special abilities and that He wants us to be active contributors. Each year we have hundreds of volunteers answer the call to serve those in need. Whether it's serving a meal or engaging in simple conversation, there are so many ways in which our volunteers help their neighbors at Home Sweet Home.

If you pop in for a cup of coffee at The Junction on Mondays or Wednesdays, there's a good chance you'll run into Valerie. "Working with the public is something I love to do. The Holy Spirit has given me the opportunity to work at the Junction and connect with the people of our community," shares Valerie.

For the past year, Valerie has enjoyed managing the coffee bar. "I make sure the beverages are all filled and I do a lot of talking and listening," says Valerie. "More listening than talking. On a busy day, I'm making lots of coffee!"

Over in our Dining Center you may run into Kathryn, washing dishes or sweeping up the dining room with a smile. "I like to volunteer in a way that helps my community, and the legacy that HSHM has had for over 100 years is one that I want to connect with," explains Kathryn. "It satisfies my retirement code which is be busy, be helpful, be grateful. Every day that I am here, I can check all those boxes."

Kathryn has diligently served in the kitchen for the past two years. She values having a consistent schedule and the opportunity to build relationships with others. "You do get attached to both staff and clients, and just wanting to be a part of the connection that HSHM has with the community," says Kathryn. "I tend to be progressive in my faith, but I am a Christian, and this is an area where I can feel as if I am continuing the work that Jesus began."

In giving to others, our volunteers find that they are blessed as well. "The blessings that come from the volunteer service we provide are returned to us tenfold!" exclaims Valerie. "I have always felt the best thing you can do for yourself is to do something for someone else!" adds Kathryn.

As part of Volunteer Appreciation Month, Home Sweet Home Ministries would like to thank all those who have graciously served alongside us. In 2023, HSHM had 387 volunteers contribute their time and talents. Our work would not be possible without all your generous support. Thank you for your devotion to help others in need.



Thank You Volunteers!

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

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."

– 1st Corinthians 12:27

I frequently get asked what I find rewarding about working at Home Sweet Home Ministries. While the list of answers I could give is quite long and varied, one of the most fulfilling aspects of serving in this ministry is witnessing how the various parts of Christ's body come together to demonstrate love and compassion to our hurting neighbors.

The generous contributions of volunteers have been integral to our work since we were founded in 1917. In fact, we have numerous historic photographs from our early years that depict members of the community serving meals, worshipping, distributing food and clothing, and supporting others with kindness. A quick walk through our facilities today shows the same thing – volunteers washing dishes in the kitchen, picking up groceries in our van, welcoming visitors to The Junction, and even working behind the scenes helping our administrative staff. The scope of our ministry is broadened because of this generous outpouring of time and talent from so many of you!

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

Matt Burgess

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Follow Us!

Speeding to Success



HSHM is thrilled to share that Night in a Car raised over \$164,000 this year! Thank you to all our participants, sponsors, donors, and volunteers that helped make the night a success. We would like to extend a very special thank you to Young America Realty, Cumulus Radio Bloomington, and all our sponsors for their support.

On February 2nd, around 185 participants spent the overnight hours in their cars to raise awareness for those experiencing homelessness. During the event, participants enjoyed learning more about Home Sweet Home through an insightful Game of Life activity and resident testimonials.

Missy, a resident of Home Sweet Home, shared, "That it takes a village. That all the support and all the comforting, all the mental illnesses, and everything that you guys deal with on a day-to-day basis is a gift. You guys take it accordingly and deal with it. Without the community's support and help, it wouldn't be possible. So, **thank you to the community for helping you guys help us.**"

Donors like you are helping many others like Missy achieve stability. Because of your generosity and compassion, more work can be done to support your neighbors in need. Thank You!

Mark your
calendars now:
We'll rev up
for our 9th annual
Night In A Car on
February 7th,
2025!



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Volunteer 101

You are interested in volunteering at Home Sweet Home. Now what? What are your next steps? We took a moment to catch up with HSHM's Recruiter, Kody, (not pictured) to answer some of our most frequently asked questions.

Why is it so important to volunteer with us?

"Volunteers are at the heart and soul of how we serve those in need at HSHM. Without our volunteers, our ministry would not be able to run as it does, and our community would be negatively impacted. Volunteers are not just needed; they are appreciated, and absolutely essential to serve our residents and community members."

What are the basic requirements to volunteer?

"The volunteer must fill out an application (either online or in person), watch our short training videos after their app is submitted, be at least 18 years old or have an adult present with them when volunteering, and pass a background check."

What kind of opportunities to serve are there?

"Our biggest opportunity to serve is in our kitchen! We are always looking for kitchen assistants, dishwashers, and meal servers. We also offer custodial shifts and have a lot of miscellaneous opportunities that come up during different times of the year. We are always looking for substitute volunteers to call on short notice if our regular volunteers are unable to attend their scheduled shift."

What is the best way to get involved?

"The best way to get involved is to go to our website at hshministries.org, click on 'Volunteer', and then select 'Volunteer Application'. If the volunteer is wanting to be put on a regular schedule rotation, for example, every Tuesday afternoon for meal serving, they can simply let us know and we will add them to the schedule!"

Anything else to share?

"If you have any questions or need help signing up, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 309.319.2824. I know that all of us here at Home Sweet Home are grateful for our current and future volunteers! We couldn't do what we do without them!"



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Home Sweet Home Ministries

Like Us!



Double Your Impact This May

2X

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 Community Challenge. This challenge helps Home Sweet Home continue to provide services so that individuals and families experiencing homelessness can get the help they need. Home Sweet Home greatly appreciates any community support given. Together we will continue to help those seeking a fresh start. Thank you so much!

Donations to the May Community Challenge can be made:

- Online at hshministries.org/donate
 - “May Community Challenge” 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 Community Challenge” should be indicated on the gift.

2023 Annual Report Now Available

Thanks to your generosity, Home Sweet Home made some amazing strides in 2023. To learn more about all the great work you helped us accomplish, please check out our 2023 Annual Report available now at hshministries.org. With your continued blessings, we look forward to achieving even more in 2024.

Current Needs

With your help, Home Sweet Home can comfort and nourish the men, women, and children seeking renewal. Please kindly consider collecting the following items:

- Bottled Water
- Napkins
- Coffee
- Creamer
- Flour (5 lb.)
- Sugar (4 lb.)
- Individual Bags of Chips
- 8 oz.-12 oz. Disposable Cups

Donations can be dropped off at the Bread For Life 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. 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 in our community in need of comfort and hope.

Thank you for surrounding us in prayer.
God Bless!