

- Volunteer of the Year Awards
- Liberty Mutual's Big Surprise
- Meet the New Board Members

VOLUNTEERS
of the
YEAR

Adult Winner: Allan Carter

Volunteers at: Congregation Etz Chaim in Lombard

Years volunteered for DuPage PADS: More than 10

Volunteer tasks: Coordinating and prepares meals, donates necessities

What makes him inspirational?

One nominator wrote, "He knows many of our guests' preferences (be it for hot sauce or a vegetarian meal) and requests (such as clothes for a job interview), and is always there to provide them what they need."

Youth Winner: Desiree "Desi" Faulkner Watson

Volunteers at: St. Alexis Catholic Church in Bensenville

Years volunteered for DuPage PADS: 8

Volunteer Tasks: Prepare site, serve dinner, sweep, clean up

What makes her inspirational:

"She sees more than a homeless person – she sees a heart...She is not overbearing, just friendly with a warm smile...There are good teenagers in our society and this is an exceptional one!"

Volunteer of the Year Award Two Selected out of 4,000

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, 2012, DuPage PADS requested volunteers to submit nominations for the Inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award for their fellow volunteers in two categories: Adult and Youth (age 13 to 18). DuPage PADS' senior leadership selected: Allan Carter, Adult Winner and Desiree Faulkner Watson, Youth Winner. The two inspirational winners were awarded plaques and received special recognition.

"We know that we could not provide all of our services without the tremendous support of our volunteers. This award was created to demonstrate how much we value their time and commitment to our mission," says Carol Simler, DuPage PADS Executive Director.



Volunteer Allan Carter (left) and Carol Simler, DuPage PADS Executive Director (right)

Allan Carter received his plaque as a surprise in front of the members of Congregation Etz Chaim, where he is a respected member and Sunday school teacher.

Allan lives with his wife and children in Lombard. He is also a noted educator at College of DuPage. When asked why he

volunteers for DuPage PADS, Allan replied, "I feel the appreciation of our guests, the pleasure of seeing the volunteers working together and I feel the approval of my parents, who themselves were very giving to others."



From L to R: Carol Simler; Chuck Watson, Desiree's Uncle; Desiree Faulkner Watson, Youth Volunteer of the Year; Lynn Watson, Desiree's Aunt; and Lynn Zychowski, Support Coordinator.

Desiree "Desi" Faulkner Watson received the award as a surprise during class at York High School in Elmhurst.

At the age of 9, Desi lost both of her parents and moved from Kentucky to live with her Aunt and Uncle, "It was really hard. I didn't know my aunt and uncle very well. I'm not the only one who has had hard things happen to them, but I think it helps me relate better to PADS participants. I know what it feels like to lose so much at once," Desi says. When asked why she volunteers at DuPage PADS Desi replies, "I get a good feeling afterwards, it's magnificent!"

Other volunteers received honorable mentions including: Sue Baez, Paul Brose, Erik Engel, Judy De Simone Kuehn, Mark Gaffney, Jan Happel, Tom Henry, Alex Miller, Dianne Niemann and Lynn Zychowski.

Discover volunteer opportunities at www.dupagepads.org.

DuPage PADS
is committed to
ending homelessness
in DuPage County.

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DuPage PADS
705 West Liberty Street
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
(630) 682-3846
(630) 682-3874 (fax)
www.dupagepads.org

Liberty Mutual's 'Big' Surprise for DuPage PADS

In celebration of their 100 year anniversary, Liberty Mutual awarded 100 non-profit organizations around the globe with a \$10,000 donation. Liberty Mutual staff and film crew came to DuPage PADS, surprised them as one of the funded organizations and shot footage of the event. DuPage PADS is one of two non-profits selected in Illinois and one of the only five recipients filmed for Liberty Mutual's promotional video.

Liberty Mutual employees brought items from DuPage PADS' Needs List and a delicious cake in celebration. After the announcement, Liberty Mutual employees took a tour to the Employment and Education Center where they learned that this past year DuPage PADS helped 71% of their clients who were seeking employment find jobs.

Carol Simler, DuPage PADS Executive Director said, "I was so surprised when I walked in the room and saw a camera crew and a group of cheerleaders from Liberty Mutual. We are so honored to be one of the 100 organizations chosen by Liberty Mutual. For more than a decade, Liberty Mutual employees have supported us through volunteering, attending events and more. We really value their partnership on so many levels."



Liberty Mutual employees cheer on DuPage PADS. From left to right: Debbie Michel, Pam Nast, Hope Ziarnik, RoseAnne Caboor, Diana Trent and Denise Heap.

Homelessness occurs **365 days a year**
and we are open every night of the year.

Please support DuPage PADS today! *You* can make a difference at www.dupagepads.org.

Behind the Scenes at Our Client Service Center

High School Student Spends a Day with DuPage PADS

16 year old Carliss Strickland had the opportunity to spend a day with Jennifer Coyer, Client Service Center Coordinator through the Attainable Futures Program. This job shadowing program sponsored by the Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce enables high school students to spend a day in the career of their choice.

Carliss began her day with a tour, then observed Jennifer in initial client meetings, helped serve lunch and prepared materials for the Pharmacy Technician program.



Carliss Strickland, student, and Jennifer Coyer, Client Service Center Coordinator.

Suddenly, a client came to the center who was in a serious car accident and Jennifer and Carliss dropped everything to calm him down. After observing that he was only wearing slippers, they left to purchase him a pair of shoes. Back at the center, Carliss observed all of the documentation necessary for this incident.

Interestingly, Jennifer was an intern at DuPage PADS, "I see the Attainable Futures Program as a great way for students to get a first hand account of what career possibilities are open to them. Having this kind of experience is priceless!"

Laura Crawford, Downers Grove Chamber President, says of this program, "I think this is one of the most impactful areas a chamber of commerce can contribute."

Meet Our New Board Members

William G. Hamik

Retired Senior V.P. Sales & Operations at McKesson Corporation

"I really believe in DuPage PADS' mission and have been involved in housing programs for more than 10 years. The stories of individuals rebuilding their lives are heart inspiring and we need to continue this work to end homelessness."



Laura Crawford

Downers Grove Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry President and CEO

"DuPage PADS is recognized as a hero of hope for so many, and it's important to us all, that solutions are being provided. I am humbled and honored to participate in any way I'm able, to end homelessness in DuPage County."



Jane Doyle

First Trust Portfolios L.P. Sr. Vice President, Marketing & President of FT Cares Foundation

"I believe in the work DuPage PADS is doing, and I've seen firsthand the success stories of clients who now have housing and are leading productive lives. I'm truly thrilled (and inspired) to be on the Board and look forward to the ways we'll be able to help further the DuPage PADS' mission."



Why it's All Worthwhile...Sharing an email from a grateful former client.

“ Tomorrow will mark the 16th anniversary that I graduated from PADS. I learned a lot about myself and what the world had to offer while I was there. I learned that sobriety was my key to the future. I mark my sobriety date on my calendar as well. I would like to THANK YOU again for the love and support I received while I was there. Even 16 years later, it still stays with me.

I was amazed that so many people cared about me in a time in my life that I didn't care about myself. I started a new life when I left there with a new outlook on the future. For now, all is good in my life. I am a homeowner again, pay too much in taxes, living life to the fullest and am happy with the world around me. And this is all with the economy in the shape it is in. Life is GOOD. It could always be better, but I will continue to be happy with the blessings that I have and not covet the things I don't have. Just thought I would send a quick note of thanks and let you know that your efforts are appreciated...I'm sure that sometimes you wonder if it is all worthwhile.

I would say that my life wouldn't be where it is without your help. ”

Thank You, Tom

Thank you!



Exciting Announcements Inside!

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Carol Stream, Illinois 60188

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www.dupagepads.org

Save the Date

Friday & Saturday, July 13 & 14, 2012

Tex Mex & Music Fest

CityGate Centre, Naperville

The 1st Annual Tex Mex & Music Fest will feature signature dishes from the best Tex Mex restaurants, cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs including Rick Bayless, activity areas for families and live music from regional bands and national headliner,



Chris Isaak. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to DuPage PADS. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Anne O'Dell at 630.682.8567, ext. 350 or aodell@dupagepads.org.

Saturday, September 8, 2012

DuPage PADS 8th Annual Run For Home

10K & 5K Run, 5K Walk

Take a step to end homelessness in DuPage County on our 10k & 5K CARA certified course. After the race, all are invited to stay for music, refreshments and prizes. Proceeds from this FUNdraiser will support programs that provide housing, support services and job qualified training to assist families and individuals who are homeless in DuPage County.

For more information, to register or volunteer, visit www.dupagepads.org.



Sunday, October 21, 2012

Soup's On!

Soup's On! is Rotary Club of Naperville's charitable fundraiser which features entertainment, food and friendship. Over 30 area restaurants will be serving soups, entrees, desserts and more. DuPage PADS is one of the beneficiaries, so be sure to save the date. Tickets are on sale now at www.soupsonrotary.com.



Wednesday, November 7, 2012

DuPage PADS 10th Annual Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast

Stay tuned. More details to follow!

