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DuPagePads

The Solution to End Homelessness.

view

Exciting Time for Career Employment Solutions

Your support is helping people find careers!

“No longer are we looking at people just getting a job, we’re focusing on long-term, sustainable solutions.

DuPagePads has made a conscious decision to shift the focus of the Career Employment Solutions program to assisting participants in finding a career that has the potential for **upward growth, stability and earning a living wage.** Carol Simler, DuPagePads President & CEO says.

Every week, participants in DuPagePads Career Employment Solutions program meet with staff to develop their resumes and cover letters, work on presentation skills, participate in mock interviews and learn how to dress for success.

Recognizing the importance of financial education, in partnership with Wheaton Bank & Trust, DuPagePads offers an 11-week, “Money Smart” program which covers topics including budgeting and repairing credit. Upon completion of this program, participants open a savings account regardless of banking history.

Currently, the agency is working with **more than 70 local employers** from a variety of backgrounds including manufacturing, hospitality, culinary, healthcare, finance (banking), telemarketing and service industries.

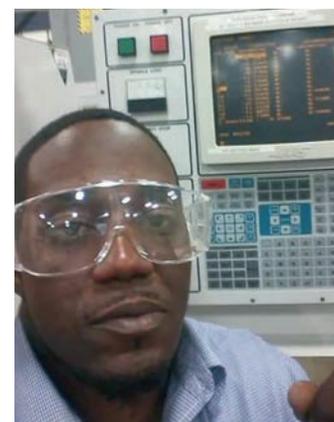
In order for participants to have the skills needed for these career paths, DuPagePads also utilizes a growing network of collaborators including:

- **Manufacturing:** DuPagePads partners with the Jane Addams Resource Center (JARC) to provide welding and Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) training programs.
- **Food Service:** DuPagePads partners with Sodexo to offer a one-year paid internship, with the possibility of becoming employed upon completion.

A SUCCESS STORY...

Lamont, a graduate of JARC CNC training, shares his experience, “I would attend CNC training during the day and stay at the overnight sites at night, studying when I could before lights out.

Since then, I have a career working at a manufacturing plant and my own apartment. I can’t believe how much my life has turned around and I feel so fortunate DuPagePads was there to assist me.”



As a result, 100% of those served by DuPagePads Career Solutions Program improved their financial position.

From Eviction to Promotion -

You Gave Theresa's Family Housing Now

Theresa and her three children first had contact with DuPagePads when they were evicted from their apartment.

"It is a scary feeling, not knowing what to tell your kids when they ask 'Where are we going?'" Theresa shares.

Although Theresa had a full-time career, searching for an apartment, while taking care of her two teens and an eight-year-old, was challenging. Unfortunately, Theresa's past credit history and prior evictions were financial stumbling blocks to finding another home.

"It was frustrating to keep hearing 'no' during my apartment search. I didn't know where to turn for help-until I started working with DuPagePads," Theresa shares.

With the help of Theresa's Family Outreach case manager, Theresa was given assistance, looking for apartment leads along with rental resources, including DuPagePads Housing Now program.

Through all of her family's uncertainty and stress, Theresa continued working hard. A model employee with an outstanding work ethic, Theresa was rewarded with a sizable raise and promotion.



"I'll never forget the moment of pure joy-hearing not only that I was appreciated by my employer – but knowing that this raise, along with support from DuPagePads, would help my family move to a home. I just remember thinking 'finally.' It was a dream come true."

Consequently, DupagePads was able to assist Theresa in finding a landlord that would work with her regardless of her prior evictions and poor credit. Theresa and her family recently moved into a new apartment. Working closely with her case manager, Theresa is planning for a brighter future.

"DuPagePads continues to work with me on a budget, and I now know how to stay focused so that we will never end up facing eviction again. I don't know where we would be without DuPagePads. We are so grateful," Theresa smiles.

HOUSING NOW

A newer program, DuPagePads Housing Now assists eligible families and individuals who are homeless and have a steady income through providing financial assistance in the form of their first month's rent and security deposit, which are often required if people have low credit scores. For people in crisis, this often seems like an insurmountable hurdle.

Households receiving this assistance agree to complete a budget with a reasonable income to expense ratio, and agree to participate in case management for 12 months after moving to stable housing.

Since this program started nearly a year ago, through a generous donor, Housing Now has assisted 29 households with a 97% success rate of keeping families and individuals housed.

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Street Outreach - You Can Help

DuPagePads Street Outreach case managers travel throughout the county to build trusting relationships with families and individuals who are homeless, without hope and disengaged from the community and social service agencies.

Through providing life sustaining supplies like food, socks and hygiene kits, referrals to community resources, access to all eligible benefits and options for housing, the Street Outreach program works toward restoring dignity and assisting people in obtaining their life goals.

DuPagePads outreach team responds to concerns about people experiencing homelessness from police departments, businesses, community-based organizations and concerned citizens.

To report any unsheltered homeless family or individual you observe in DuPage County, please contact our toll-free Outreach Hotline number, **866.682.3846, ext. 2275**.

With this information, DuPagePads will assist more people in obtaining the critical support services needed to stabilize their lives.



Employees of the Year

Congratulations to Sara Vainowski (Above Left), Program Data Support, and Gabriele Wessendorf (Above Right), Development and Finance Assistant, who were named DuPagePads 2015 Employees of the Year.

Sara and Gabriele were nominated by their peers and selected by DuPagePads Leadership Team. Both employees were recognized for their hard work, attention to detail and dedication to the agency's mission of ending homelessness.

Years of Service

Also recognized was Jennifer Coyer, DuPagePads Client Service Center Director for 15 years of service with the agency. Jennifer is responsible for overseeing the Client Service Center and case management services for the Family Outreach and Medical Respite programs.



Bill Hamik
Retired, McKesson Corp.

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DuPagePads

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DuPagePads 14th Annual Galaxy Bowl
– DuPagePads Strikes Back!
April 16, 2016, 12:00pm
Fox Bowl, Wheaton

The Galaxy Bowl is a fun, family bowling event open to all! Assemble your five-person team by generating \$500 in team fundraising (or \$100 in individual fundraising). Team registration includes t-shirts, pizza, ice cream and more!

Drive For 75
June 26, 2016
Autobahn Country Club, Joliet, IL

Continental Motors Group of Naperville, Autobahn Country Club and DuPagePads have teamed up for the sixth annual 4-hour karting enduro for charity! Teams will compete in raising money for the mission of DuPagePads to end homelessness with a goal of reaching \$75,000 by race day.



DuPagePads 12th Annual Run 4 Home,
5K & 10K Run, 5K Walk
September 17, 2016, 8:00am
DuPagePads, Wheaton, IL

Bring your family, friends and coworkers to DuPagePads' 12th Annual Run/Walk Event. The race course will take runners and walkers through scenic streets of Wheaton and back to DuPagePads for a celebration. Take a step to end homelessness with DuPagePads.

DuPagePads 14th Annual Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast
November 2, 2016, 7:00am-8:30am
Benedictine University, Lisle

More details to follow...



Upcoming Events