



DuPagePads

The Solution to End Homelessness.

Summer 2014

DuPagePads Volunteer of the Year Awards

DuPagePads' 4,000+ volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. To celebrate their achievements in honor of National Volunteer Week (April 6-13, 2014), we received peer nominations for Volunteers of the Year. A committee selected the winners, who were awarded plaques and given special recognition. With more than 80 years of combined volunteer experience, DuPagePads selected:

- Adult Winners: Paul Kalinich, Maureen Parker, Cindy Sheely
- Youth Winner (age 13-17): Riyah Basha

Paul Kalinich

Volunteer Group:

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn
Years Volunteered for DuPagePads: 25+

Ever since First Congregational became an overnight site, Paul has volunteered on Sundays. He greets program participants and visits with everyone like a neighbor. A seasoned volunteer, Paul has the wisdom to handle any issues. Now retired, he acts as a spirited volunteer recruiter.

Maureen Parker

Volunteer Group:

St. Joseph Church, Downers Grove
Years Volunteered for DuPagePads: 28

Maureen rarely missed a shift since she began volunteering 28 years ago. She has helped wherever needed, from setting up to checking in program participants, to cooking meals.

Cindy Sheely

Volunteer Group:

Roselle United Methodist Church
Years Volunteered for DuPagePads: 28

Cindy has been helping DuPagePads since her congregation began volunteering 28 years ago. For 26 of those years, Cindy has been her congregation's Support Coordinator, recruiting and managing approximately 100 volunteers.

Riyah Basha

Volunteer Group:

Islamic Foundation
Years Volunteered for DuPagePads: 1

Riyah, a junior at Hinsdale Central High School, is one of the youngest Support Coordinators. In addition to recruiting volunteers, Riyah sold hot chocolate in her mosque and raised \$1,500 to cover food costs. On the first Wednesday of the month she volunteers at 4:30am, supervises breakfast and cleanup, then heads to school. She has even driven through a blizzard to serve.

What makes these volunteers so inspirational?

Here are just a few things their nominators had to say:

“Paul Kalinich embodies all that DuPagePads is about and aspires to be. He is a role model to me and others in our church and community.”

“Maureen’s dedication and demeanor have a way of making everyone feel special; she knows the name of most of the participants when they walk in.”

“...Cindy is always faithfully serving, helping in the evening and again in the mornings. She is a very dedicated volunteer who continually inspires others to get involved with DuPagePads.”

“Riyah is amazing. She is a role model and inspiration to other youth in our community.”

Paul

Maureen

Cindy

Riyah



DuPagePads is seeking volunteers now for the summer. Learn how you can help: www.dupagepads.org.

DuPagePads Earns 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

Recently, DuPagePads received the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the premier evaluator of non-profit organizations. This exceptional rating demonstrates that we are worthy of trust; committed to accountability and transparency; and differentiates DuPagePads from its peers.

Charity Navigator celebrates and evaluates charities of all types: local, national and global. To determine the non-profit's rating, Charity Navigator reviews each agency's website and IRS Form 990.



Charity Navigator's ratings are an expression of how efficiently a charity uses its support today and how well it has sustained its programs and services over time.

“Approximately a quarter of charities we evaluate have received our highest rating, indicating that DuPagePads outperforms most other charities in America.”

- Ken Berger, Charity Navigator President and Chief Executive Officer



I have a Bachelor's degree and over 15 years of clerical-administrative experience. During 2013, I was working in an office until I suddenly lost my job and eventually my apartment. I never thought I would be homeless – it was quite a shock.

When I first came to DuPagePads, my Case Manager immediately referred me to the Employment Coordinator who assessed my skills, advised me on resume writing and interview techniques and helped me search for job opportunities that met my experience with their more than 30 community employers. Before my interview, my Case Manager took me to get fitted for a suit jacket - I felt like Cinderella.

My interview went really well and I got the job! Now I'm a recruiter for a bus company, which allows me the rewarding opportunity to come back to DuPagePads and help others find a career. I have definitely been inspired and want to give back to DuPagePads.

“
DuPagePads has been a blessing for me and I feel like we are a family.
They have helped me turn the lemons in my life into lemonade.”



Yolanda's Story – “I Never Thought I Would Be Homeless”



Community Comes Together for Overnight Site after Flood

Heavy rains flooded the basement of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Downers Grove last year. Consequently, the church's DuPagePads overnight site faced immense water damage.

However this storm cloud truly had a silver lining, as First Congregational turned the flood into an opportunity to update their site amenities to better serve DuPagePads' clients.

Prior to the flood, the church had one shower, washer and dryer. The redesigned space now has four showers and two large washers and dryers. “Before we could do about ten showers a night, now we will be able to do four times that amount,” Site Coordinator Tom Williams said.

While insurance covered the flood damage, the church had to raise \$82,000 for the enhancements. “What amazed me was the wide-spread community support we received. We communicated that we were raising money for this project and one amazing surprise after another kept coming in,” said Williams.

Help came from a Downers Grove Village Trustee, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, St. Paul United Church of Christ, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, the Downers Grove Junior Women's Club and “100 Women Who Care”. Fundraisers were held at First Congregational Church, Tom & Eddies in Lombard and by Downers Grove North High School students.

“When we were considering redoing the space we thought, ‘What is the price of human dignity?’ If we give people a respectful place to shower and clean up or if they could have clean clothes for a job interview or to take their kids to school, we are helping to restore dignity,” said First Congregational's Pastor, Scott Oberle.

“We have found that the greatest gift you can give is letting people know ‘you are not alone,’ and our renovated space is a reflection of that.”

- Pastor Scott Oberle, First Congregational UCC Downers Grove



Pastor Scott Oberle (left) and Tom Williams (right)

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DuPagePads

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10th Annual
DuPagePads Run 4 Home
5K & 10K Run, 5K Walk
September 6, 2014, 8:00 am
DuPagePads, Wheaton, IL

Bring the family out to DuPagePads' 10th Annual Run/Walk Event. This year's CARA certified race course will take runners and walkers through the scenic streets of Wheaton. Participants can look forward to a door prize drawing, food, music and much more. Take a step to end homelessness with DuPagePads. Register today: www.padsrun.org.



Soup's On!
October 19, 2014, 11:30 am-4:30 pm
Naperville Central High School, Naperville, IL

Rotary Club of Naperville is presenting Soup's On, a fun, family event. Area restaurants will serve delicious food and students from District 203 and 204 will perform. A silent auction will also be featured with a portion of the proceeds benefiting DuPagePads. Tickets will be available at www.soupsonrotary.com.



DuPagePads 12th Annual Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast
November 5, 2014, 7:00 am-8:30 am
Benedictine University, Lisle, IL

Enjoy an exhilarating morning featuring keynote speaker Jarrett Payton, son of famous Chicago Bears' player Walter Payton, who will deliver an inspiring message. Hear from a client who has benefited from services and is now rebuilding their life. We hope you can join us for the feel good favorite event!

Upcoming Events