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DuPagePads

The Solution to End Homelessness.

view

Winter 2015

DuPagePads Responds to Frigid Temperatures

With plummeting temperatures and snowfall this winter, the safety of the families and individuals we serve is our main concern. Waiting for public transportation in the extreme cold and snow is dangerous, especially for children.

As a result of last winter's subzero temperatures and constant snowfall, DuPagePads has adopted a policy to keep the safety of program participants who are homeless a top priority. During severe winter weather advisories:

- DuPagePads staff ensures everyone has warm coats, hats, gloves and even supplies hand and feet warmers.
- All individuals are admitted at the Interim (Overnight) Housing sites despite capacity limits.
- Families and individuals are transported between the Client Service Center in Wheaton, which remains open until 4:00pm and the shelter sites which open early.

Despite the weather and the cost of public transit, **DuPagePads is committed to finding solutions to ensure that transportation barriers do not prohibit individuals from receiving shelter, food and support services.**

Thank you to donors, volunteers and congregations who help enable us respond rapidly to keep families and individuals safe!



You can make a difference...

Consider donating to our **Share the Fare** program.

Every contribution goes a long way in providing the transportation people need:

\$25 = a taxi ride

\$60 = a 30-day unlimited bus pass

\$100 = a monthly train pass

There are also other transportation needs this program addresses including rides to:

- Job interviews and employment
- Hospitals for urgent health concerns
- Doctor's appointments
- Classes at our Career and Employment Solutions Center



"It is hard to get around in the winter. This morning I rode my bike from Glen Ellyn to DuPagePads Client Service Center. My bike was fishtailing and I almost got hit by a car."

- Will, a DuPagePads Program Participant

New Program: Short-Term Housing Employment Program

“I worked the late shift which just ended at 4:00am. The overnight sites close at 7:00am and I have nowhere to sleep. I try to nap where I can,” one woman said at a DuPagePads focus group for participants who are employed.

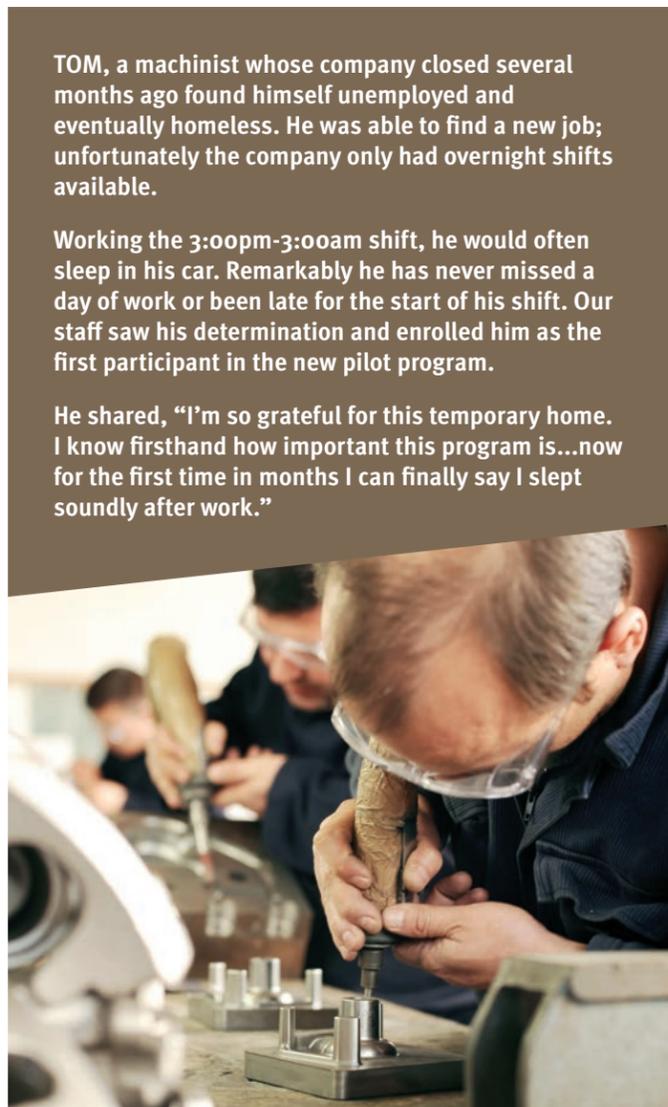
To address this problem, DuPagePads has developed a new pilot program: Short-Term Housing Employment Program.

In addition to housing, this program accelerates the path to stability by requiring individuals to open a savings account to re-establish credit and save for a security deposit. Individuals meet regularly with a job coach and case manager to address workplace topics, develop a plan for housing and access eligible mainstream benefits.

As a result of receiving grant funding from St. Raphael’s Special Appeal, U.S. Bank and Full Circle Foundation, DuPagePads began this pilot program January 2015.

“When an individual who is homeless obtains employment, it is a pivotal moment in their life.”

Providing short-term housing and support services allows people to have the ability to focus on their employment, without the distraction of not knowing where they will sleep, if they will have a shower and a place to keep their belongings,” says Carol Simler, DuPagePads President and CEO.



TOM, a machinist whose company closed several months ago found himself unemployed and eventually homeless. He was able to find a new job; unfortunately the company only had overnight shifts available.

Working the 3:00pm-3:00am shift, he would often sleep in his car. Remarkably he has never missed a day of work or been late for the start of his shift. Our staff saw his determination and enrolled him as the first participant in the new pilot program.

He shared, “I’m so grateful for this temporary home. I know firsthand how important this program is...now for the first time in months I can finally say I slept soundly after work.”

Cleveland’s Story – The Missing Smile

Cleveland stopped smiling in 1987. He was working a steady job when one day he came home to tragic news. His one-year-old son had been beaten to death by his baby sitter. Unable to cope, he stopped caring about his life.

“I just became angry at the world and turned to alcohol and drugs. **I lost everything, my home, my family and ended up in prison.** I could not handle the pain and walked around homeless for years.”

When someone believes in you, everything can change.

Cleveland says the turning point in his life was DuPagePads. In addition to basic needs like food and shelter, the agency connected him with a case manager who helped him find counseling and obtain needed medication.

Now Cleveland no longer uses alcohol or drugs and has reunited with his children. He is a tenant in DuPagePads Supportive Housing Program and says the best day of his life was when he opened his door to his new apartment.

Recently Cleveland was invited to tell his story in front of 450 people at DuPagePads’ 12th Annual Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast where he moved the audience to tears. He shared:

“DuPagePads was the only place that had the patience to work with me. They wanted me to get better, for myself and for my other children. My case managers made me want to be a better person.

One of the biggest changes people notice about me is that I now smile – DuPagePads helped me get to this point.

I want to thank DuPagePads for saving my life. I want to thank all of you for caring about me. God Bless you all!”

DuPagePads Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast - a great success. The agency raised approximately \$100,000 for our mission to end homelessness. Jarrett Payton was the captivating keynote speaker who inspired all through his family stories about philanthropy and working hard to be your best.



From Left: Carol Simler, DuPagePads President & CEO; Cleveland; Jarrett Payton, Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast keynote speaker.

Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Colleen Conwood (Left), Volunteer Coordinator, and Sarah Swiston (Right), Communications & Grants Coordinator, who were named DuPagePads 2014 Employees of the Year.

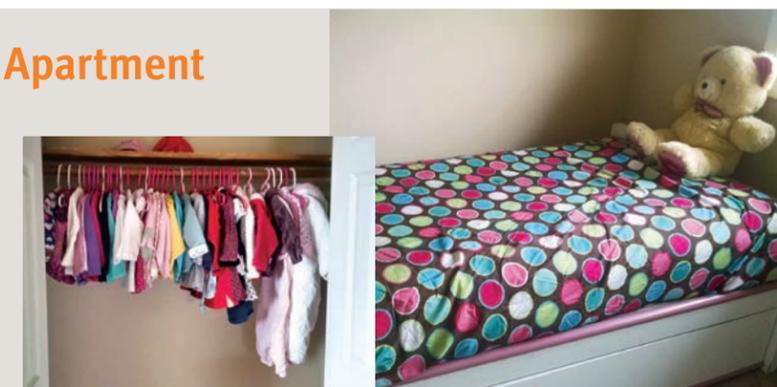
Colleen and Sarah were nominated by their peers and selected by DuPagePads Leadership Team. Both employees were recognized for their hard work, professionalism and dedication to the agency’s mission of ending homelessness.



Single Mother Moves into Furnished Apartment

Thank you to Congregation Etz Chaim who generously furnished an apartment for a mother and her young daughter moving from homelessness to housing.

From furniture to toys to cleaning supplies, the donations helped this family walk in and immediately felt “home” again. (Black and white cover photo shows move-in team.)



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DuPagePads 9th Annual Taste of Hope
Thursday, March 5, 2015
5:30-9:00pm
Abbingdon Banquets, Glen Ellyn

The Taste of Hope offers guests the luxury of sampling signature dishes from 25 upscale area restaurants in one evening. Restaurants will serve samples of their signature dishes with wine pairings and an open bar. Music, auctions and a unique raffle will round out an evening of delicious dining.



DuPagePads 13th Annual Galaxy Bowl
Saturday, April 18, 2015; 12:00-3:00pm
Fox Bowl, Wheaton

The Galaxy Bowl is a fun, family bowling event open to all! Gather your team of five and help us STRIKE BACK against homelessness in DuPage County! Generate \$500 in team fundraising (or \$100 in individual fundraising) to participate. Registration includes t-shirts, pizza and more.



Drive For 75
June 28, 2015
Autobahn Country Club, Joliet, IL

Continental Motors Group of Naperville, Autobahn Country Club and DuPagePads have teamed up for the fifth annual 4 hour karting enduro for charity! Fifteen teams will compete in raising money for DuPagePads mission to end homelessness with a goal of reaching \$75,000 by race day. Racing advantages will be given to top fundraising teams.



DuPagePads 11th Annual Run 4 Home, 5K & 10K Run, 5K Walk
September 19, 2015, 8:00 am
DuPagePads, Wheaton, IL

Bring the family out to DuPagePads' 11th Annual Run/Walk Event. Take a step to end homelessness with DuPagePads.

Upcoming Events