



705 W. Liberty
Wheaton, IL 60187

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Don't miss our 4th Annual
Taste of Hope: Chefs Uniting to End Homelessness
March 4, 2010 (See Save the Date)

DuPage PADS, Inc. is a nonprofit organization committed to end homelessness in DuPage County.

Essig Printing

Save the Date

Thursday, March 4, 2009, 5:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
4th Annual Taste of Hope: Chefs Uniting to End Homelessness
Abbington Distinctive Banquets, Corner of Rte. 53 & Butterfield Rd., Glen Ellyn

Join DuPage PADS and 25 area chefs and restaurants as, once again, we offer a late winter's feast, featuring the outstanding dining choices available in DuPage County. This year, we are thrilled to announce that Chef Amaury Rosado from Chef Amaury's Epicurean Affair in Aurora will join us as the 2010 Honorary Event Chair. "Foodies" from all around will enjoy this evening of gastronomical delights, live music, and silent and live auctions — all while helping to provide housing solutions for people who are homeless in DuPage County. CBS2 News Reporter Dave Savini will join us as the emcee/ host of the evening. Special thanks to our Platinum Sponsor, Continental Motors Group in Naperville, our Gold Sponsors, West Suburban Bank in Wheaton and Illinois Tool Works with the Hansen family. Buy your tickets online at www.dupagepads.org or call Jen Williams at 630.682.3846 x242.

PADS Lenten Sundays

Join congregations throughout DuPage County in the spirit of Lenten almsgiving and prayer. Participating congregations will take up a special collection at Sunday Lenten services to benefit men, women, and children in crisis. To include your congregation, please call Jen at 630.682.3846 x242.

Saturday, May 1, 2009, Noon–3:00 p.m.
8th Annual (& much anticipated!) Bowl-A-Rama
Fox Bowl, 1101 Butterfield Road, Wheaton

Join us as we take to the alleys once again to raise money for a great cause! We have 30 team spots available. Put together a team of five bowlers, each committed to raising at least \$160 (or \$800 as a team). Each team will be treated to three games of bowling, all-you-can-eat award-winning pizza, soda, ice cream, raffle prizes, and more! What could be better than bowling with a purpose? Call Jen Williams at 630.682.3846 x242 to reserve your place.

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New Developments



Keep Informed!

Join our Action League to receive updates on what DuPage PADS is doing to end homelessness in our community and how you help make it happen! Go to www.dupagepads.org and click on the Action League icon.

How Time Flies!

DuPage PADS will be celebrating our 25th anniversary this year. What a difference a quarter of a century makes in the lives of men, women, and children who are homeless. With the support of the community and the commitment of our volunteers, donors, partners, and staff, we have been able to accomplish great things...and the future looks even brighter!



This Year, Resolve to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

One simple way is to drop your gently used clothes, shoes, bedding, jewelry, kitchenware, toys, books, and more in our green donation bin, located at 703 West Liberty in Wheaton. PADS receives payments based on the volume of all donations collected. The payments help fund our programs and services. For more information, visit our web site at www.dupagepads.org.



DuPage PADS Earns the Seal of Approval

We are proud to announce that DuPage PADS has been awarded the Standards for Excellence Institute's Seal of Excellence for successfully completing its rigorous certification program. Standards

for Excellence are based on fundamental values such as honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility, and accountability. DuPage PADS is one of the first organizations in Illinois to be certified under the National Standards for Excellence Institute's accreditation program that began in 2006. This program provides a model for how the most well-managed and responsibly governed nonprofits operate. Thanks to our board, staff, and volunteers who helped us achieve this national recognition!



DuPage PADS
is committed
to end
homelessness
in DuPage
County.

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Focus: Empowering individuals and families leads to self-sufficiency

Winter 2010

D u P a g e
PADS

View

An information newsletter for friends & volunteers of DuPage P.A.D.S.

GED Graduates Make the Grade!

While they have not yet donned a cap and gown, we want to congratulate two tenants in our Permanent Supportive Housing Program who are on the road to better opportunities! DuPage PADS initiated a partnership with the College of DuPage and Literacy Volunteers of DuPage to offer basic literacy and **General Educational Development** (GED) course preparation classes onsite at our Daytime Support Center. Catina and Michael completed the GED preparation classes and have now obtained their GED certificates. "It's not just the feeling of accomplishment for having reached this goal, but it is the chance to encourage other people to do the same. It's like, I did it, so can you," says Catina, the new graduate.

Instructors from the College of DuPage assist PADS participants in developing pre-GED reading and math skills in a PADS learning setting so that they are well prepared to take the exam and obtain their GEDs. "With this partnership in education and human services, we take a step that moves us closer to empowering people to become self-sufficient," according to Carol Simler, DuPage PADS Executive Director.

Earning their GEDs makes dollars and sense for Catina and Michael — and other program participants — not only in terms of better employment options, but also for the economic stability of their community. The long-term economic consequences of not graduating from high school are a reduction in lifetime earnings and contributions. "Getting a GED can be the difference between having and not having a job," says Sherry May, Adult Education and Workforce Development Program Manager at the College of DuPage. "This could be the doorway to a better job and going on to higher education and better pay."

Larry Cada, Employment Coordinator for DuPage PADS, adds, "This is another example of skills building to enable participants to find employment that will help them obtain and sustain housing. The ultimate goal is employment that will ensure housing

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of accomplishment
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to encourage other people
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It's like, I did it, so can you.*

— Catina, Permanent Supportive
Housing Tenant, and new GED graduate

stabilization. Education, employment, and housing function together in helping end homelessness."

In addition to Catina and Michael, three participants in our Interim (Overnight) Housing Program have also obtained their GED certificates. This success would not be possible without the dedication of the College of DuPage instructors, Amy Elston, Janet DiSilvestro, Tracy Burton, and Ellen Schumaker. For more information about the Employment Program and GED Preparation Classes, contact Larry Cada, Employment Coordinator at lcada@dupagepads.org.



Recent GED Graduates Catina (left) and Michael (right)



Carol

Carol Simler
Executive Director,
DuPage PADS

Dear Friends,

We are proud to announce that DuPage PADS has been awarded the Seal of Excellence by the Standards for Excellence Institute®. Independent reviewers completed a rigorous check of our operations, work, and accomplishments. This seal shows we have voluntarily taken every step to ensure we're serving the community and operating according to the highest standards of accountability. DuPage PADS' work on behalf of the men, women and children who are homeless in our county exemplifies both our dedication to our cause and to meeting the highest standards of organizational best practice. Thanks for everyone's commitment and hard work!

Parenting Support Empowers

FAMILIES



Last fiscal year, DuPage PADS served 119 families and 152 children, representing a startling 49% increase in the number of families seeking assistance and a 43%

increase in children who have no place to call home. Of the children served, 75 were under the age of 5.

Children experiencing the crisis of homelessness suffer physically and emotionally. The instability that results from homelessness causes tremendous stress for parents that can affect their psychological well-being and parenting behaviors. To address this issue, Case Manager Jill Tregler initiated Parenting Support Groups that focus on the struggles of parenting in a transient environment. Parents learn effective strategies for dealing with stress, using positive discipline, ensuring proper health and nutrition, and navigating the school system. The goal of the groups is to empower participants to parent successfully and transition out of homelessness and into their own homes. In addition, parents work one on one with dedicated case managers to identify and link them with the services they need to regain stability and move toward housing.

Volunteers Make the Holidays Bright!

Adopt-a-Child

DuPage PADS initiated the agency's first Adopt-a-Child program this holiday season for children in our supportive housing programs. Children were "adopted" by volunteers who purchased items from their wish list. Each child also received a stocking thanks to the Megers from Naperville that took on the task of making the stockings.



Holiday Food Bags

Our 2nd Annual Holiday Food Bag drive was an enormous success! Through the kindness and generosity of our volunteers, the Thanksgiving

and Holiday Food Bag program provided a holiday meal to all of our tenants living in our supportive housing programs. To those of you who provided a

bag (or many bags) and helped with the delivery of the bags, we want to say a very special "Thank You!!!"



Halloween Costumes

Children were given a treat this past Halloween thanks to the many volunteers who donated new and used costumes. Each child was able to select their favorite costume, whether frightening or funny. Volunteers also donated Halloween bags and buckets to make trick or treating a snap for the children (and their parents!).

THANKS

A Softer Place to Lay Their Heads



Volunteers deliver new blankets and pillows to DuPage PADS overnight site at the First Presbyterian Church in Glen Ellyn

When Jeanine Zanoni, a volunteer from St. James the Apostle saw the condition of the blankets and pillows at the DuPage PADS Interim (overnight) Housing site at the First Presbyterian Church in Glen Ellyn, she knew that something needed to be done. Jeanine engaged the help of her son, Joe, Glenbard South High School, and St. James the Apostle School in Glen Ellyn. Together, they organized fundraisers, and soon they had raised several hundred dollars.

A PADS volunteer who works at the Downers Grove Kohl's store approached the store and asked if they would offer a discount on the purchase of blankets and pillows. Another volunteer approached the Downers Grove Target. The response from both

“What a gift for all of us to see the faces of the guests when they knew they would be able to sleep on fresh pillows and blankets.”

— Jeanine Zanoni

stores was a resounding "Yes!" The blankets and pillows were purchased at a large discount, and parents and students brought them to the Glen Ellyn site on a very cold Thursday evening.

DuPage PADS would like to thank the following individuals, schools, and stores for identifying a need and collaborating to find a solution:

Jeanine Zanoni, Joe Zanoni, Karen Pipal, Maria Vana, Elaine Daschler, Jane Yasak, Kevin Kron, Brianne Vana, Emma Colangelo, PJ Duffy, Collen O'Brien, Aly Rume, Lindsey Grupp, Molly Green, Kate Marxkors, Glenbard South High School, St. James the Apostle Church and school, Kohl's store in Downers Grove, and Target store in Downers Grove.

PADS Partners

"Our PADS Partners' key financial support strengthens our ability to remove barriers to housing and provide crucial services for people who are homeless in our county."

-Kathleen Johnson, PADS Partner & Director of Development

Welcome New Partners!

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ahrens
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gavin Althoff

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Barcelona
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Binder
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Boardman
Ms. Deborah Bott
Mr. Todd Busteed
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence P. Conroy, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Cvengros
Mr. and Mrs. Gary D. Eggert
Mr. and Mrs. Brent Flynn
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Haines
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Knobloch

Mr. and Mrs. Michael B. Lange
Mr. and Mrs. P. Anthony Lechiara
Mr. and Mrs. McDevitt
Peter Newell
David Hugh Parsons
Georgine Rukavina
Lynn Schopler
Rt. Rev. Dismas B. Kalcic
Mr. Ronald E. Szmurlo and Ms. Judith A. Wivell
Mr. and Mrs. David Vandenbosch
Ms. Amy J. Wenz and Mr. Todd E. Bruhl
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Zimmer



Visit our website for more information and to join the Action League at www.dupagepads.org. Discover simple ways to make a big impact in the lives of the people we serve.

Hope & Possibility

Cup of Inspiration

390 early morning risers attended the DuPage PADS 7th annual Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast on November 4 at Benedictine University. Businesses, congregations, and civic leaders were inspired by the messages of keynote speaker Gary Moore, author of *Playing with the Enemy* which is currently being made into a major motion picture by Academy Award winning producer, Gerald Molen.

“Gary illustrated profoundly the importance of “interventions” in our lives – those encounters we have with people at critical crossroads – and the difference this makes. This has particular significance for DuPage PADS staff and volunteers working with people who are homeless and in crisis.”

says Carol Simler, Executive Director.

We thank our sponsors Van Kampen Investments, Benedictine University, Casey's Foods, DRF Installations, Inc., Karen and James Milonas, Robert and Cheryl Olsen, and Oxford Bank for generously supporting this special event. Also a special thanks to Anderson's Bookshop for providing Moore's book for purchase and donating a portion of the proceeds back to DuPage PADS.



The early morning gathering dawns bright for the Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast guests.



...to the following community foundations whose critical support helps us continue to provide housing solutions, supportive services, and employment training for individuals and families who are homeless:
Alfred Bersted Foundation – \$15,000 and \$10,000 matching challenge,
Boeing Employee Community Fund – \$15,000, **Ecolab Foundation** – \$2,000, **Community Memorial Foundation** – \$25,000, and **Naperville Exchange Club** – \$15,000. Thank you for investing in our mission to end homelessness in DuPage County!