

- Our Employment Program
- Rock Concert Success
- Meet Our Employee of the Year

DuPage PADS is committed to ending homelessness in DuPage County.

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Our Employment Program Education & Empowerment

We have all heard the news reports about the startling unemployment rate in our country. However, even in this challenging economy, DuPage PADS' Employment Program has been able to find jobs for 71% of the clients seeking assistance. We spoke to Larry Cada, Employment Coordinator about success stories, challenges and vision for the future.



Jill Kimak, *Employment Support Specialist* (left)
and Larry Cada, *Employment Coordinator* (right)

How did you become familiar with DuPage PADS?

I worked with homeless families as a volunteer since 1991 with my local church. Two realizations struck me – First, most agencies establish eligibility criteria that exclude many individuals and families from services. Secondly, I wanted to be involved in directly assisting individuals and families through employment services.

During this period, I learned that when someone had no place to go and needed help, DuPage PADS was there – with shelter, meals, linkages to essential services, and supportive and knowledgeable case management.

Is there a particular success story that you are proud to be a part of?

I am happy to be part of the clients' successes, but they are truly their successes. It is the clients who have done the work to learn how to job search, interview and land jobs.

One success story involves a client who wanted his GED. In his forties and with a past history of dropping out, he started in the DuPage PADS GED program. He would always say, "I'll never get my GED." Everyone encouraged him, he worked hard and finally passed all of the requirements. One day, I overheard him tell another student who was saying he would never pass, "I used to feel that way, but hey look - I did it, so can you."

Later, he was selected to give a commencement speech at the COD graduation. He recounted his life, his homelessness, his studies, his success and his commitment to the future. He had obtained financial aid and was attending college. He was committed to giving back to the community by volunteering. He brought tears to the audience's eyes and received a standing ovation. It was his success, but I was proud to be part of it.

(continued on next page)

"DuPage PADS has been a real blessing to me. They provided a number of resources and services: food, shelter, a computer and helped me to put my resume together. My job gives me a sense of accomplishment. Also, with the absence of family, the company employees satisfy my need for family."

- James, DuPage PADS client

Getting to Know Our Employment Program: **Education & Empowerment**

In what ways has the Employment Program evolved?

The Employment Program started mostly as a program of job readiness. There was a group that discussed job search, resume writing, interviewing skills, applications and follow up.



Client Employment Program

In addition to these efforts, we added educational programs – basic literacy through partnership with Literacy DuPage and GED instruction with COD. We began offering Financial and Computer Literacy classes. An Employment Support Specialist, Jill Kimak, was added to the program to actively seek out job opportunities with local employers

We recently introduced a Pharmacy Technician Training Program through a partnership with Jewish Vocational Services which provides 10 weeks of free technical training, payment of licensing test fees and State License, and a three-week internship with CVS Pharmacies. Through this program, a single mother in our Permanent Supportive Housing

Program just received her Professional License as a Pharmacy Technician and looks forward to a meaningful career.

Our current emphasis is to provide job qualified candidates to partnering employers. By forming an advisory board, we identify and develop these partnerships which could also include pre-employment training and result in careers for our clients, not just short term jobs.

Can you describe the biggest challenges the Employment Program is facing right now?

The biggest challenge is to develop client skills that are needed for careers in the modern and evolving U.S. economy. Although unemployment is high, employers say one of the biggest challenges they face is finding good employees with the modern skills they now need.

As the Employment Coordinator, what is your vision for the future of this DuPage PADS program?

I see the Employment Program continuing to grow education, training programs and employer partnerships which provide job-qualified candidates with career opportunities. I see employers working with us in mutually beneficial relationships to satisfy their needs, the needs of our clients and those of a modern, equitable society.

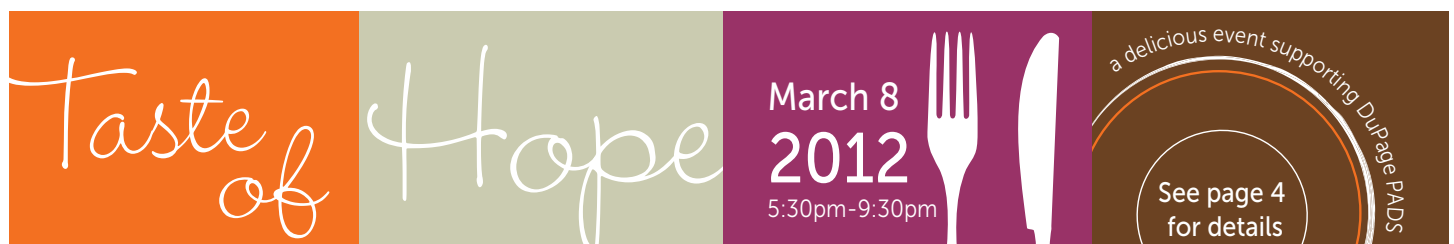
“ There is a shortage of skilled labor in the area. I have had success hiring employees from DuPage PADS.

It's as if DuPage PADS is acting as our HR department, screening employees for free. They are bringing applicants that are job qualified and they have a much better screening process than temp agencies. Finding skilled workers is difficult, but working with DuPage PADS made the process much easier.

The individuals have been highly motivated to get a second chance at a good paying job. The DuPage PADS clients have great attitudes, and that attitude is something you cannot teach. I would highly recommend DuPage PADS to other manufacturers in DuPage County looking for quality employees. ”



Justin Norman, CEO, JD Norman Industries



Taste of Hope
March 8
2012
5:30pm-9:30pm
a delicious event supporting DuPage PADS
See page 4 for details

Local Bands Rock for DuPage Pads

On Saturday, December 23rd, Demito Time Bar & Grill in Villa Park hosted a benefit concert with six local bands to support DuPage PADS. Owner Debbie DeMito and musician Dave Urie planned the event which raised \$1,000 and had approximately 200 attendees.

Dave and Debbie had known each other for a year when they started planning the winter concert. Moved by spirit of the season, they explored the idea of turning the event into a fundraiser.



Dave Urie at concert

“I had a teacher who was very dedicated to DuPage PADS as was my good friend’s late father. It was a great way to pay him tribute and support a worthy organization.”

“We felt like we were in a unique position of power because we would have all of these people in one place. In the spirit of the holidays and with the harsh winter months approaching, I wanted to make sure that we did something good to help our most vulnerable community members. We chose DuPage PADS because I was familiar with them from when I was a student at St. Alexander’s. I had a teacher who was very dedicated to DuPage PADS as was my good friend’s late father. It was a great way to pay him tribute and support a worthy organization,” Dave said.

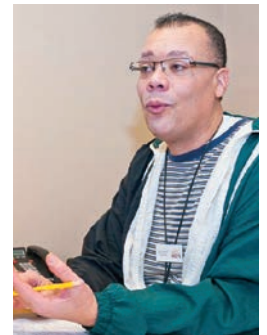
The six bands who shared the stage donated their time and talent. Included in this group was Dave’s own band, Gush, self-described as “loud and obnoxious punk rock with a pop twist.” Other bands included The Bad Habits, Scony Mack, Sirens, Bury Garcia and The Turbo Vamps. Parents of the band members even got in on the act by conducting a fundraising drawing, with Debbie DeMito very generously more than matching the donations.

Dave was very happy with the outcome of the event and shares, “We really wanted to break the stereotype that punk-rock musicians aren’t interested in helping their communities. I’m really proud of what we were able to do! For my first real go-round at throwing a serious fundraiser, it went pretty well. With more experience and more volunteers to drive the cause, I have confidence that we could do exponentially more. I hope to do so in the future.”

Tim Paul Our 2011 Employee of the Year

DuPage PADS has many staff members who are truly committed, compassionate and hard-working, making it a real challenge to select an Employee of the Year. However, this year one candidate stood out and DuPage PADS is happy to announce their 2011 Employee of the Year, Tim Paul.

Tim has worked with DuPage PADS over the last five years as a Client Services Case Manager. Although his position is often challenging, he approaches each day with a positive attitude. Going above and beyond, Tim ensures his clients are receiving the services they need and deserve. Tim has worked with clients that face severe mental illness, physical ailments and aging challenges. No matter what their background, Tim treats all of his clients with respect and dignity. He attends court dates with clients and maintains positive relationships with community agencies. He even drives 90 minutes away to visit a client in a nursing home!



DuPage PADS was happy to honor Tim with this award for his continued passion and commitment.

GRATITUDE FOR OUR GRANTS

The Alfred Bersted Challenge Grant

The Alfred Bersted Foundation has awarded DuPage PADS a \$10,000 grant to support the Interim (Overnight) Housing Program. In addition, they have offered DuPage PADS a challenge grant. DuPage PADS must raise \$10,000 this year in NEW donors! Upon the completion of the challenge, DuPage PADS will receive an additional \$5,000 from The Alfred Bersted Foundation. Please spread the word to any friends and family who would be interested in supporting this fundraising challenge.

Bank of America Supports DuPage PADS

DuPage PADS is grateful for the support of Bank of America, who recently donated \$9,700 toward general operating expenses. Funds from this grant will help develop needed services and expand existing projects in the Permanent Supportive Housing Program, Employment Program and Client Service Center. DuPage PADS would like to thank Bank of America for their generous gift which will provide the flexibility to support innovative programming to end homelessness in DuPage County.



Ending homelessness by restoring lives.

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Save the Date

Thursday, March 8, 2012 - 5:30pm-9:30pm
6th Annual DuPage PADS Taste of Hope:
Chefs Uniting to End Homelessness

Abbington Distinctive Banquets, Glen Ellyn

The Taste of Hope will once again thrill taste buds with more than 25 of the area's elite restaurants serving their signature dishes. An open bar and live and silent auctions will round out an evening of delicious dining.



The event, while full of food and fun, will more importantly fund key DuPage PADS programs that provide much-needed housing, career building, and other supportive services to assist individuals and families who are homeless.

For more information on our events above, visit our website at www.dupagepads.org or call (630) 682-3846 x252.

Saturday, April 21, 2012 - 12:00pm-3:00pm
10th Annual DuPage PADS Bowl-A-Rama

Fox Bowl, 1101 Butterfield Road, Wheaton

Join us at Fox Bowl for the 10th Annual Bowl-A-Rama event! This family fun event is open to all so gather your team and help us strike out homelessness in DuPage County!

You can assemble your five-person team today for \$500 or by generating \$500 in team fundraising online.

Team registration includes a team t-shirt, pizza, soda, ice-cream and more! Plus compete to win prizes while having fun and supporting DuPage PADS.



Find us on Facebook and Twitter to hear the latest news and receive updates about DuPage PADS and our upcoming events.