

- Larry's Inspirational Story
- Run/Walk's Record Setting Year
- Meet the New President

DuPage PADS is committed to ending homelessness in DuPage County.

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#### DuPage PADS

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## A Place to Call Home

Larry admits his journey has been a long difficult one and says, "Without DuPage PADS, I would not be here today." On October 4, 2011, Larry moved into his own apartment after four years of being homeless. This became possible because of the caring staff at DuPage PADS and their Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Larry openly shares his story.

In 2007, Larry lost his job after his employer went out of business and he then found his way to DuPage PADS. A lack of housing was not his only concern. Larry suffers from severe arthritis and neuropathy, and recently had a stroke. "My pain is progressing. My legs go numb and I just fall," he says. Larry currently uses a cane but fears he will soon need a walker.

Larry had another setback in 2010 when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. "I have been going through radiation and the cancer is in remission," Larry reports, "but my medications were so expensive, I would sometimes have to make decisions about which ones to take."

Larry's pain did not go unnoticed. Beth Epstein, Director of Programs at DuPage PADS, became aware of Larry's ailments. "I do not usually work with clients directly, but I had the opportunity to meet Larry and focus on his situation. It was hard to see him in so much discomfort and not being able to afford his medication. One day a light bulb went off in the back of my mind. I remembered Larry saying that he was a veteran," Beth shares.

In the past, Larry had tried to obtain veteran benefits, but there was an error in the system regarding his status. Fortunately, DuPage PADS partners with

the DuPage Veterans Commission and they worked with Larry to rectify the error in the system. Because of this correction, Larry was able to receive assistance for his much needed prescription medications through a local VA Hospital, as well as utilize their psychiatrists and group sessions.



In addition to helping Larry receive the medications he needed, DuPage PADS is also assisting him in obtaining social security and disability benefits. Beth states, "One of many services we provide is helping our clients get the benefits they deserve or need. This is only possible because of the many collaborative partnerships DuPage PADS has established in the community."

When asked what brings a smile to his face, Larry quickly answers, "My apartment. It has really given me something to look forward to, getting things into it. DuPage PADS even got me a bed - though I didn't have a chance to set up my bed last night, I just spread my blankets out on the floor. I really appreciate everything I have received."

# More than 600 People Take a Step to End Homelessness

On the early morning of Saturday, September 10, more than 600 people gathered in downtown Wheaton as part of the 7th Annual DuPage PADS Run/Walk. Runners and walkers were encouraged by many volunteers who handed out everything from water to t-shirts to cheers. Not only did many runners achieve their personal goals, but this year's race was DuPage PADS' most successful to date!

The Run/Walk brought in more than \$92,500 to support DuPage PADS programs which provide housing, job training and other supportive services to assist men, women and children who are homeless. As we move through our 26th year as an agency, our mission to end homelessness is stronger because of our supporters. We know what works to end homelessness and that is housing coupled with supportive services, employment and education assistance.

"This event would not be possible without our generous sponsors," said Carol Simler, Executive Director of DuPage PADS. "Their partnership helps us provide the solution to end homelessness and for that we can't say thank you enough." Some of this year's Run/Walk gold sponsors include Mike Runs 100, K2 Industrial Services, Ray & Mary Schulte, Republic Bank and T2 Capital Management.



## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



People do amazing things every day to support DuPage PADS and our mission to end homelessness in DuPage County. But once in a while someone will take an extra step—or in this case, many extra steps to help the homeless. Over the past two years, Mike DeMeritt has raised more than \$20,000 in support of the DuPage PADS Run/Walk by collecting a dollar from supporters for every mile he runs.

"I am very grateful to those that helped me achieve this goal of bringing more than \$20,000 to benefit DuPage PADS and helping to end homelessness in DuPage County! These experiences bring everything else into sharper focus and make me realize how much I have to be thankful for and how important it is to lend a hand or a couple of feet for others in need. I am once again, this year, deeply touched by the incredible outpouring of support from everyone," said Mike DeMeritt.



We want to thank Mike for his inspiring initiative as well as his numerous supporters for helping to make the 7th Annual Run/Walk an overwhelming success.

Thank you to our dedicated runners, walkers, volunteers and sponsors for taking a step to end homelessness in DuPage County by participating in and contributing to the success of the 7th Annual DuPage PADS Run/Walk!



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## Junior High School Students Create Camp Compassion

What happens when four imaginative junior high school girls use their time and talent to reach out to others over the summer? Camp Compassion is born!

Kailee Nardi, Emily Peterson, Julia Dubnick and Mary Kate Murphy all wanted to work on a service project this past summer. Babysitting and dog walking just would not do, so they recruited twenty of their most responsible friends to become 'counselors' and act as role models for girls in their neighborhood, ranging in age from age five to nine years old. During the last week of June, approximately 50 campers and counselors gathered to unite and work on projects in the spirit of compassion. A family friend of Kailee's, Dave Murphy, generously donated t-shirts for the girls to wear during their weeklong adventure.



The Compassion Campers quickly organized and collected more than \$600 for DuPage PADS and participated in other beneficial projects including creating blankets, writing birthday cards and assembling welcome bags for those in need. In addition, the campers were able to contribute nine boxes of personal care items. These 50 young girls are an inspiring testimony that anyone, no matter what their age, can make a real difference in their community when they use their time and talents in a positive way.

DuPage PADS is very grateful for each and every camper for her support!

*Based on an article by Kim Cernek*

Join us for our...

Wake Up Your

**SPIRIT**  
on November 2nd

*DuPage*  
**PADS**

An inspirational breakfast. See page 4 for details.

## DuPage PADS Welcomes New Board President Sheila Sarovich

DuPage PADS is happy to introduce the new President of the Board of Directors, Sheila Sarovich. A resident of Naperville, Sheila works as a marketing consultant for the Beard Group. We had a chance to ask Sheila about her passion and vision for DuPage PADS.



### How did you become familiar with DuPage PADS?

About six years ago, board member Mary Schulte asked me to join the Run/Walk committee, and I was hooked. Working on a committee was the perfect way to learn about DuPage PADS, experience the mission, and witness the devotion of the staff and board.

### Why DuPage PADS, instead of all the other nonprofits out there?

We live in one of the wealthiest counties in the country. And yet we serve thousands of individuals and families with young children who have no place to live. We could talk at length about the causes and contributing factors of homelessness, but what we must acknowledge is that homelessness is a community issue – and community issues need community solutions. Ending homelessness cannot be the responsibility of a few suburbs or social service agencies – it must be the combined responsibility of the greater DuPage community. And I believe that DuPage PADS is uniquely qualified at this time to lead the community effort to end homelessness in our county.

### Describe your passion in working with DuPage PADS.

Hearing the joy in Carol Simler's voice when she shares how the agency secured an apartment for a veteran like Larry or for a family with young children who have lived on the street for months validates everything we do. Looking into the eyes of clients – young and old – at our overnight sites as they thank the volunteers for their meals and bedding for the night, there is grace.

### As board president, what is your vision for the future of DuPage PADS?

We have a strategic and visionary board – committed to our mission with a palpable sense of urgency. And we have one of the most talented and respected Executive Directors in Carol Simler, coupled with a dedicated and selfless agency leadership team. Our vision is to create the environment to think and act innovatively to find solutions to end homelessness and engage the greater community as committed partners. As Carol likes to say, "Hold on and buckle up!"



Ending homelessness by restoring lives.

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## Save the Date

**Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 7:00am-8:30am**  
**9th Annual DuPage PADS Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast**

*Benedictine University, Lisle, IL*

Join business, congregation and civic leaders from the surrounding community for an inspirational event with our special keynote speaker, Eddie Slowikowski, who is sure to uplift everyone in attendance.



Eddie's story has always been about taking the lead and going the extra mile. Throughout his years as a world-class runner and now as an internationally known Speaker/Trainer, you can count on Eddie to be in front. Throughout all his accomplishments, Eddie sought to enrich his life with service and empowerment, proving that a successful balance of life and service to the community can be achieved. His dynamic approach creates an interactive experience for the audience that is unforgettable!

Proceeds will support programs that provide housing, support services, and employment readiness training to assist men, women and children who are homeless in DuPage County. Help us end homelessness in DuPage County.

Mark your calendar to join DuPage PADS for this special guest speaker and event. For more information or to reserve your tickets today, visit [www.dupagepads.org](http://www.dupagepads.org).

**Thursday, November 24th, 2011 at 9:00am**  
**28th Annual Dan Gibbons Turkey Trot**

*Intersection of Vallette and York Roads, Elmhurst, IL*

The Turkey Trot is a 5K fun run enjoyed by thousands of runners, joggers and walkers each year. A portion of the proceeds will benefit DuPage PADS programs. For more information, visit [www.dangibbonsturkeytrot.com](http://www.dangibbonsturkeytrot.com).



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

*Abbingdon Banquets, Glen Ellyn, IL*

The Taste of Hope offers guests the luxury of having dinner from 25 different restaurants in one evening. Leading area restaurants will serve samples of their signature dishes to raise funds for the programs and services of DuPage PADS. Music, auctions and a unique raffle will round out an evening of delicious dining. Proceeds will support programs that provide housing, support services, and employment readiness training to assist men, women and children who are homeless in DuPage County. For more information, visit our website at [www.dupagepads.org](http://www.dupagepads.org) or call 630.682.3846 x252.



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