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DuPagePads

The Solution to End Homelessness.

view

Summer 2013

Three Inspirational Volunteers Selected out of 4,000

DuPagePads Announces Volunteer of the Year Award Winners

Volunteers are the heart and soul of DuPagePads. In honor of this, the agency requested nominations for the Volunteer of the Year in two categories: Adult and Youth (age 13 to 18). A committee selected Diane Brown, Adult Winner and Ben Hall and Riya Uppal, Youth Winners.

In the early 1990s Diane Brown recommended that her congregation begin supporting DuPagePads. Since then, she has organized 80 volunteers each month, successfully

Ben and Riya have been volunteering ever since they can remember. Riya said, "Every time I volunteered, it made a difference in one someone's life...I enjoy seeing the positive impact that one person can have."

Moved by their experiences, in 2010 the two created a cookbook and donated all of the proceeds to DuPagePads. The pair have sold more than 500 copies and have just released the 2nd edition, "Cooking for Pads: The Sequel."

Ben and Riya received their award as a surprise in front of their peers at Hinsdale Central's Award Night. Ben said, "I was excited when they called our names. A lot of people help Pads in many ways, so it was surprising to know that our work had made an impact."

DuPagePads currently has more than 4,000 volunteers and is recruiting more.

Our volunteers are vital to our mission of ending homelessness. Their efforts continue to ensure that the families and individuals we serve will have food, support and a safe place to sleep."

— Carol Simler

advocated for showers to be included in church renovation and for her church to offer overnight sites Saturdays during the summer. Diane received her plaque as a surprise during a Sunday service and shares, "I accept this honor on behalf of my church family who has worked just as faithfully throughout the years."

Adult Winner:
Diane Brown
(Centered in picture above)

Volunteers at: Glen Ellyn
Covenant Church

**Years Volunteered for
DuPagePads:** 20+

What makes her inspirational? One nominator wrote, "...Our congregation has become more interested in ministries of compassion. We attribute that 'growth' to the way Diane engages new and old alike...We cannot think of a more appropriate way to recognize her 20+ years of service as a model volunteer."



Youth Winners: Ben Hall, Riya Uppal

Volunteers at: Congregation Etz Chaim in Lombard

Years Volunteered: Ben – 10 years, Riya – 7 years

What makes them inspirational?
A nominator wrote, "Ben and Riya show that the ability to make a difference is not bound by age or experience. Their success is inspiring."



Scan this QR code to discover volunteer opportunities or visit us at www.dupagepads.org

Meet the New President of the Board of Directors... Bill Hamik



"I really believe in DuPagePads' tagline, 'When someone believes in you, everything can change,' and I think that is the bottom line for what we are accomplishing here at DuPagePads. I have passion for the work we are doing and believe we are headed in the right direction. I think

it is important that we continue to tell those we meet how DuPagePads is helping people get back on their feet and work toward their full potential. Through recruiting new volunteers and supporters, our mission to end homelessness will become stronger." — Bill Hamik

DuPagePads Volunteers Honored at

Volapalooza



Thank you to all who attended and to The DuPage Community Foundation, BMO Harris Bank, Giving DuPage and North Central College who made this event possible.

A Celebration of Volunteerism was held May 8th at Wentz Concert Hall at North Central College. The event honored volunteers and awarded DuPagePads a \$30,000 grant from

the Spirit of Volunteerism Fund of The DuPage Community Foundation. This grant will enable our agency to create online volunteer training.



"It's Been a Great Ride," Highlights from Sandra Hill's 21 Years of Service



During the blizzard of 2011, Sandra Hill's alarm rang at 2 a.m. Sandra struggled to walk to First Church of Lombard for her morning DuPagePads shift, encountering snow drifts up to her hips. A few cars passed by and Sandra recalled, "They didn't even stop to see if we were ok. Then it hit me, this is what happens daily to those who are homeless. I felt empathy and I was grounded."

This is a moment that has stayed with Sandra as she reflects on her more than 21 years of volunteering with DuPagePads. For 14 of those years she has been the Outreach

Coordinator at First Church in Lombard. Before moving to New Orleans, Sandra reflects on her years of service and shares, "I'm excited for the future of DuPagePads."

While DuPagePads programs continue to evolve Sandra says, "What folks without homes really need is to become engaged with experts, and in this county it is DuPagePads. I would encourage others to support the mission of DuPagePads. We live in one of the richest counties, we should be outraged that homelessness exists and we should do something about it."

Striving to Drive — Thank You for Helping Sarah's Dream Come True

65 year old Sarah had been homeless while suffering through many major medical problems: Hepatitis, Emphysema and Congestive Heart Failure. Fortunately, two years ago Sarah received her own apartment in one of DuPagePads' 76 Permanent Supportive Housing units. Though grateful to have a home of her own, Sarah longed for the days when she was able to drive herself to appointments.

While many doubted her ability to pass the driving test, she proved them wrong and attained her license.

Through a community partner, Sarah secured a car donation and she is overjoyed, "Though I continue to struggle with my health, I can now enjoy the freedom of driving myself wherever I need to go. I cannot thank DuPagePads enough for encouraging me to believe in myself. My dreams have come true."

Thank you for supporting us and helping us empower Sarah to realize her dream.



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DuPagePads

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**9th Annual Run
4 Home 5K & 10K
Run, 5K Walk
September 7,
2013; 8:00 a.m.**

DuPagePads, 703 West Liberty,
Wheaton

Bring the family out to DuPagePads' 9th Annual Run 4 Home. This year's NEW COURSE will take runners and walkers through scenic streets of Wheaton!

Participants can look forward to a door prize drawing, food, music and more. The group with the largest number of participants will receive special recognition and a prize.

Take a step to end homelessness with DuPagePads. To register, visit www.padsrun.org.

**DuPagePads night at
the Kane County Cougars**
July 17th, 2013; 6:30 p.m.
34Woo2 Cherry Lane, Geneva

All are invited to a night out at the ballpark. Reserved Seating tickets are on sale through DuPagePads for \$12 each, a portion of which will benefit our mission. To order tickets, go to www.dupagepads.org, Events, Outside Fundraisers.



Soup's On!
October 20th; 11:30 a.m.
to 4:30 p.m. Naperville
Central High School, 440
Aurora Ave, Naperville

Soup's On! is Rotary Club of Naperville's fundraiser which features food and entertainment. More than 30 area restaurants will serve delicious food and students from District 203 and 204 will perform. A silent auction will also be featured. A portion of the proceeds will benefit DuPagePads. Tickets will be available at www.soupsonrotary.com.
www.soupsonrotary.com.

**DuPagePads 11th Annual
Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast**
November 6th, 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
Benedictine University, 5700 College
Rd, Lisle. *More details to follow.*

Upcoming Events