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DuPagePads

The Solution to End Homelessness.

view



DuPagePads Volunteers of the Year

The 4,000 volunteers at DuPagePads are vital to our mission to end homelessness. Last year, volunteers donated 66,868 hours – the equivalent of 32 full-time employees.

In April, DuPagePads requested nominations for our annual Volunteer of the Year Award. A committee selected the following winners who were awarded plaques and given special recognition.

Bob Brown

Volunteer Group: Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church

Years Volunteered for DuPagePads: 22+

Bob Brown assists wherever he is most needed. Taking ownership of his tasks, Bob recruits and trains back-up volunteers for the days he is not able to be there-which is not very often. Recently, he obtained suits and shoes to donate for DuPagePads Career Fair.

Brian Hendricks

Volunteer Group: First United Methodist – West Chicago

Years Volunteered for DuPagePads: 25+

Brian Hendricks was a strong advocate for his congregation to become an overnight site. As the Site Coordinator, Brian recruits and organizes volunteers for his congregation. If there is ever a shortage of volunteers, Brian will work an extra shift or stay through the night.

Dave Morrissey

Volunteer Group: First United Methodist – West Chicago

Years Volunteered for DuPagePads: 25+

Dave Morrissey assists with both the opening and closing shifts at his congregation. Despite his work obligations, Dave always adjusts his schedule to volunteer. His compassion shows through his care for program participants.

Bob Spitzer

Volunteer Group: St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

Years Volunteered for DuPagePads: 7+

Bob Spitzer is both a Support Coordinator during the fall season and a Site Coordinator in the summer. He volunteers for the challenging-to-fill overnight shifts, at times assisting groups other than his own. An advocate for our mission, Bob has recruited other faith-based communities, some of whom have gone on to host their own overnight site.

What makes them inspirational? Here is what our nominators had to say about them...

“Bob (Brown) is the backbone of our set-up and clean-up teams. We could not get the job done without him.”

“Brian (Hendricks) is the most loving and compassionate volunteer I have ever worked with. He is the glue that keeps our site going and makes us all better.”

“When I was recovering from health issues, Dave (Morrissey) covered my 3-4 shifts per month, in addition to the shifts he had already committed. I don’t know what I would have done without him!”

“Bob (Spitzer) truly has a heart for the homeless. He is one of the most dedicated people I have ever met.”



DuPagePads is currently seeking volunteers. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator for more information: 630.682.3846, ext. 3500 or volunteer@dupagepads.org.

Losing a Program Participant - Claudia's Reflection

I first started working at DuPagePads as a Supportive Housing Case Manager almost a year ago. Sharon was one of the first tenants I met. While others might be skeptical of a new case manager, Sharon immediately welcomed me with a friendly and warm smile.

I would visit Sharon twice a month. She was very independent. Mainly, I transported her to pick up her medications, answered her Medicaid questions and provided emotional support. We had many conversations and she would sometimes speak about her challenging past: dealing with domestic violence, numerous health issues and the passing of her two daughters.

Despite those hard life experiences and continual health issues, she was always happy and full of joy. She was a fighter and never despaired. Her tremendous faith comforted her, even through her most painful moments.

Having a place to call home, in her apartment Sharon was able to focus on her health challenges. No longer did she have to worry about where she was going to sleep each night and how she would get there. She could make healthy life choices – she could cook her own healthy meals, have a place to exercise and could make and keep her doctor's appointments – which were numerous.

Sharon's recent passing has been really hard for me. I haven't had much experience with loss, personally or professionally. As a case manager, we are about building relationships and we become invested in people's lives. With Sharon's passing, I'm reminded of how vulnerable our population is and how pivotal housing can be in their lives.

As I think about Sharon's passing, I try to look at it the way she would, seeing the positives. At least she is no longer in pain. At least her family had a place to go to retrieve her personal items. At least she didn't pass away on the street, without a home. Most of all, I'm glad I had the honor of getting to know her tenacious and cheerful spirit.

When I met Sharon's sister at the apartment she said, "Thank you for being there for people in our community. I don't know what my sister would have done without you!"



We want to thank our generous donors, caring volunteers and the community for their continued support of our mission to end homelessness, so that we can work toward a future where no one has to pass away without a home.

FAMILY MOVES HOME

Thank you to Congregation Etz Chaim for providing furniture for a family moving from homelessness to their own Supportive Housing apartment. We are grateful for their assistance in making the family feel welcome and at home.



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DuPagePads First Career Fair - A Success

“The Career Fair is an exciting new way to introduce motivated community members to highly respected, local employers,” says Carol Simler, DuPagePads President & CEO.

On Friday, June 10, 122 community members, including 30 DuPagePads program participants, attended the agency’s First Annual Career Fair. For DuPagePads Career Employment Solution participants, this was the culmination of weeks of preparation and anticipation.

Leading up to the Career Fair, DuPagePads held workshops teaching interview skills and job etiquette. Program participants were able to choose from a selection of suit jackets, dress shoes, button down shirts, slacks, ties, dresses and more to wear for the event. Volunteers assisted participants in updating their resumes and had quality resume paper on-hand. Hair-cuts were provided at the overnight sites and manicures were given.

“We wanted our participants to feel professional, prepared and confident. Our participants are highly motivated to start a new career and gain employment, so we wanted their appearance and demeanor to reflect their drive,” says Lutisha Jefferson, DuPagePads Career Employment Solutions Director.

Using all available space at DuPagePads Client Service Center and Career Employment Solutions building, 16 local employers ready to hire new employees, took resumes and some even scheduled interviews.

A diverse group of employers were featured at this year’s Career Fair: Cintas, DRF Trusted Property Solutions, G4S Around the World, Georgia-Pacific, Grove Dental Associates, Hyatt Lodge at McDonald’s Campus, The Home Depot, Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC), Job Corps, Lexington Health Network, State Farm, Swap.com, UPS, Walmart, WorkNet DuPage and Xerox.

Since the Career Fair, DuPagePads Career staff have heard from participants who have received correspondence and interviews from employers.

Georgia-Pacific’s Tom Coleman, one of the employers present shares, “It’s fulfilling for us to give someone employment. It’s mutually beneficial.”



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DuPagePads

THE SOLUTION TO END HOMELESSNESS.

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Call Janelle Barcelona for more information: 630.682.3846, ext.2220.



DuPagePads Receives GuideStar Platinum Rating

DuPagePads recently received the Platinum GuideStar rating, the highest rating given. To reach this level, we added extensive information to our non-profit profile: contact information; in-depth financial information; and quantitative information about goals, strategies and progress toward our mission.

DuPagePads 12th Annual Run 4 Home, 5K & 10K Run, 5K Walk
September 17, 2016; 8:00am
DuPagePads, Wheaton

Bring your family, friends and coworkers to DuPagePads 12th Annual Run 4 Home. The course will take runners and walkers through scenic streets of Wheaton and back to DuPagePads for a celebration. Take a step to end homelessness and register today – www.padsrun.org!



DuPagePads 14th Annual Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast
November 2, 2016; 7:00am
Benedictine University, Lisle

Enjoy an uplifting morning featuring keynote speaker Dan Hampton, NFL Hall of Famer and 1986 Chicago Bears Super Bowl Champion. Hear from a client whose life has been transformed by DuPagePads housing programs and support services. We hope you can join us for this inspirational event.

Dan Gibbons 33rd Annual Turkey Trot
November 24, 2016; 9:00am
Intersection of Adell Place and Park Ave, Elmhurst

The Dan Gibbons Turkey Trot is a 5K fun run that raises money to feed the hungry. Volunteers are also needed. Save the Date!



Upcoming Events