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DuPagePads

The Solution to End Homelessness.

view

Summer 2015

DuPagePads Volunteer of the Year Awards Two Selected Out of 4,000

“Thank you volunteers for spending your time with all of us: staying up late, waking up early, providing food, shelter and offering an ear. Everything done is greatly appreciated,”

- DuPagePads Program Participant

Volunteers are vital to our mission to end homelessness. Last year, 4,000 volunteers donated 65,000 hours – equivalent to 31 full time employees. For the past four years in honor of National Volunteer Week, DuPagePads has requested nominations for our Volunteer of the Year Award. A committee selected the winners who were awarded plaques and given surprise recognition among their peers.

- **Adult Winner: Gerald Massie**
- **Youth Winner (age 13-17): Mario Jayes**

Gerald Massie

Trinity Episcopal Church, Wheaton
Volunteer for DuPagePads: 6 Years

“What makes Gerald inspirational is his passion for service and his spirit of camaraderie,” one nominator wrote. As a site coordinator for his Church, Gerald Massie recruits and coordinates volunteers from his congregation. In addition to his clear communication style and thoughtful email reminders, Gerald often goes above and beyond when there is a need. He has done it all: covering shifts for volunteers who have

last minute emergencies, picking up clean bedding from hospitals, providing extra food when needed and scrubbing sleeping pads. Consistently serving others out of a spirit of hospitality and care, Gerald even purchases birthday cakes for participants.

Mario Jayes

St. Isidore Catholic Church, Bloomingdale
Volunteer for DuPagePads: 2 Years

14-year-old Mario helps set up the site, serves dinner, makes bag lunches for the next day and even helps move sleeping pads at the end of the season. Mario makes both program participants and volunteers feel welcome, “All the guests and volunteers know him and love him... Whatever he is asked to help with, he gladly jumps right in,” one nominator wrote.

Why do they volunteer?

“When our church hosts a night for DuPagePads, upwards of 60 volunteers take part, all giving something of themselves one way or another. It inspires me to feel a part of a community that is committed to the welfare of others.”

- Gerald Massie



Colleen Conwood and Janelle Barcelona, DuPagePads staff with Gerald Massie.

“I like making people happy. People will tell me they walked two extra miles to get to our site. Hearing such difficult circumstances, I’m amazed that anyone going through hardships can show gratitude...I’m looking forward to turning 18 so I can take over as St. Isidore’s Site Coordinator.”

- Mario Jayes

Mario Jayes (center), Youth Volunteer of the Year; with his parents Greg and Felicia.



DuPagePads is currently seeking volunteers now for the summer. Learn how you can help: www.dupagepads.org.

Welcoming One of Our Newest Sites: The Chapel–Hinsdale

The congregation at The Chapel–Hinsdale was looking for a new service project and one congregant, Jennifer Moran, suggested DuPagePads.

“I met with leaders from the agency who took time to listen to my concerns and thoroughly addressed all of my questions,” Pastor Jeff Knitt says.

For the next three weeks Pastor Jeff brought up the possibility of The Chapel volunteering to be a site for DuPagePads Interim (Overnight) Housing Program and welcomed open dialogue from his church members. “To my surprise no one had anything negative to say. I heard ‘we should do this – this is what our faith calls us to do,’” Pastor Jeff shares.



Since The Chapel-Hinsdale has become an overnight site, they have received great feedback. “Families coming to our door say this is such a warm and welcoming place,” Jennifer says and Pastor Jeff adds, “It has been fun to see our church family rally around this mission and see the connections that occur when people come together to serve.”



Debra Meyers and Jennifer Moran, volunteers at The Chapel-Hinsdale.

“The families are like you and me, but homeless. People coming to our doors need help to get back on their feet – it is a blessing to serve alongside DuPagePads.” - Jennifer Moran

DuPagePads is grateful for all of our 160 congregation partners and 4,000 volunteers who help provide meals, shelter and safety 365 nights a year for families and individuals who are homeless. With this support, our case managers can help people develop a personalized plan to rebuild their lives and move to a place to call “home.”

Currently we are in need of volunteer groups and meals for the summer; contact Colleen Conwood, DuPagePads Volunteer Coordinator for more information: 630.682.3846, ext. 3500; cconwood@dupagepads.org.

Maggie’s Story – “DuPagePads Transformed My Family”



Maggie, a mother of two, suddenly faced homelessness after her husband left them. “We could no longer afford to live on our own; my children and I began staying with friends. My kids are very active and I was afraid that we were wearing out our welcome and would soon have no place to live.”

One of Maggie’s friends had referred her to DuPagePads and Maggie worked closely with her case manager on a plan for stable housing. When an apartment became available in DuPagePads Supportive Housing program, Maggie was overjoyed.

“My case manager helped me through everything and really guided me through all the steps I should take to get the assistance my family needed.”

“Prior to moving into our apartment, my kids always seemed to be upset – angry or crying. Now that we have our own home, their whole disposition has changed and they are much happier.”

Even after moving in, DuPagePads case managers continue to link program participants to resources that enable participants to remain housed and thrive.

Maggie’s youngest Casey, was 3-years-old when they moved into their apartment and was struggling with speech development. Through community partnerships, Maggie’s case manager helped enroll Casey in a special needs, full-day pre-school and kindergarten.

Maggie noticed Casey’s improvement, “Now Casey is always excited to read to me. The teachers told me Casey is often the first to raise a hand in class with the correct answer and regularly helps classmates.”

Consequently, it was decided that Casey had improved enough to attend a general education first grade classroom.

Casey is thrilled to be attending the same school as the older brother in the fall, and Maggie couldn’t be happier with Casey’s progress.

“Without my case manager’s advocacy, Casey might have fallen through the cracks in the education system. DuPagePads has helped my family overcome so many challenges and I can’t thank them enough.”



DuPagePads Wins Wheaton Non-Profit of the Year

We are excited to announce that DuPagePads was named the 2015 Large Not-For-Profit of the Year at the Best of Wheaton award ceremony presented by the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce.

Winners were selected based on a combination of their application responses and the number of daily online votes received over a three week period in February. DuPagePads appreciates everyone who voted for us - we are honored to receive this award!



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**11th Annual Run 4 Home 5K & 10K
Run, 5K Walk
September 19, 2015
DuPagePads, Wheaton**

Take a step to end homelessness and bring the family out to DuPagePads 11th Annual Run 4 Home. This year's CARA certified race course will take runners and walkers through the scenic streets of Wheaton. Participants can look forward to door prizes, food, music, awards and more. Sign up today at www.padsrun.org.



**Soup's On!
October 18, 2015
Naperville Central High School**

The Rotary Club of Naperville is presenting its 8th Annual Soup's On. Area restaurants will serve delicious food and students from District 203 and 204 will perform. A silent auction will also be featured with a portion of the proceeds benefiting DuPagePads. Tickets are available at www.soupsonrotary.com.



November 4th, 2015

**DuPagePads 13th Annual
Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast
November 4, 2015
Benedictine University, Lisle**

Emceed by NBC news anchor Dick Johnson, the morning will reflect on DuPagePads 30 years of service. Attendees will imagine a day without homelessness while long-time supporters and past program participants share their inspiring and heart-felt stories of transformation.



Upcoming Events