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.

“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

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.
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.

"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.

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!

Jane Doyle
Board Chair
First Trust Portfolios L.P.

Laura Crawford
Board Vice Chair
Chamber 630

Louis A. Holland, Jr.
Board Vice Chair
Comota, LLC

Joel Weinberger
Board Vice Chair
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Rich Bartell
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Valerie Jungels
Board Secretary
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Kathryn Birkett
Educational Consultant

Pratheen Chathappuram
First Bank & Trust

Juli A. Guminia
Sullivan Taylor & Guminia P.C.

Bill Hamil
Retired, McKesson Corp.

Marc Haasmann
McKinsey Group

Tom Kriger
Graham Packaging Corporation

Karyn M. McCarthy
Power Forward DuPage

Paul Nagele
Olgart Partners, LLC

Jim Ryan
Ryan & Ryan Law Firm

John J. Schmiedler
American Chartered Bank

Karyn M. McCarthy
Power Forward DuPage

Pamela A. Stapp
Wheaton Bank & Trust

American Chartered Bank

Power Forward DuPage

Wheaton Bank & Trust

Transformed My Family”
Upcoming Events

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.

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.

Is DuPagePads in your will or trusts?
Leave a lasting legacy.

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

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.