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Mike Recruits Friends to Help Lift 100 Tons for DuPage Homeless

WHEATON, ILLINOIS - How much can you lift? How about your friends? DuPagePads volunteer and advocate, Mike DeMeritt, knows the answer pretty accurately from his fundraiser, **Mike & Friends Lift 100 Tons**. This year they will lift again on Saturday, September 17, 8:00am-4:00pm at CrossFit Carol Stream.

Mike is no stranger to creative and physically challenging fundraisers. From 2010-2013 Mike’s fundraiser was Mike Runs 100, where he collected around \$10,000 each year in donations for DuPagePads to complete a 100 mile race. In 2014, he shifted the focus from running to CrossFit and created the event Mike Lifts 100 Tons, where he would lift 100 tons in under 8 hours. Last year due to doctor’s orders, Mike enlisted the support of his friends to help him reach his goal. With a strong push, they were able to lift an astounding 1 million pounds or 500 tons.

“There was an amazing spirit and sense of community. I was amazed at how much fun we had doing so much work. When you know it’s all to help end homelessness, it’s hard to think of the work as a burden,” says Mike, “No one deserves to be homeless and together with DuPagePads, we can stop the cycle of homelessness.”

Mike’s fundraiser has already raised nearly \$3,000 in donations this year and hopes to raise over \$10,000 by Saturday, September 17, in time for DuPagePads 12th Annual Run 4 Home, 10K and 5K Run and 5K Walk. This year both events are occurring on the same day and community members are invited to participate in the race and then head over to CrossFit Carol Stream to cheer on Mike and friends. Proceeds from both of these events will help fund the agency’s housing programs and support services for those who are homeless.

“We are fortunate and grateful to have such strong advocates, like Mike,” says Carol Simler, DuPagePads President & CEO. “At DuPagePads, we know we have the solution to end homelessness; *it’s you; it’s me*; its housing coupled with supportive services and employment, which leads to improved health and economic sustainability.”

For more information on Mike and Friends Lift 100 Tons and the DuPagePads 12th Annual Run 4 Home, visit dupagepads.org or call 630.682.3846.

Recognizing more than 30 years of service, DuPagePads is the largest provider of services to those who are homeless in DuPage County. DuPagePads’ solution to ending homelessness is housing, coupled with support services and employment to transform lives. The administration office is located at 601 West Liberty, Wheaton, IL 60187. Additional information can be obtained by contacting DuPagePads at 630.682.3846 or at www.dupagepads.org.

