

One of DuPage County's Many Success Stories: DuPagePads Helping the Homeless Find Housing & Gainful Employment

"As a veteran, I never thought I would be struggling, living on the streets. I honestly didn't think anyone would help me, until I met someone from DuPagePads," Kenny shared.

Kenny first learned about DuPagePads when he encountered one of the agency's Street Outreach case managers.

This program responds to concerns from police departments, businesses, community-based organizations and citizens about people experiencing homelessness. Skilled case managers engage those who are disconnected from community resources.

A newer service, this program provides critical need supplies, such as food, water, hygiene kits, and referral information. Case management services include assistance in obtaining all eligible mainstream benefits that eventually lead to stable housing. The Street Outreach phone number is 866-682-3846, ext 2275.

OVERNIGHT SITES

For many families and individuals, their first experience with DuPagePads is at one of its 30 interim (overnight) housing program sites.

These sites are at congregations throughout the county where clients receive meals and safety for the night, with many sites offering showers and other basic needs services.

Last year, more than 41,000 nights of

shelter and 130,000 meals were provided—360 meals a day for those who would otherwise go hungry.

CLIENT SERVICE CENTER

On weekdays, the DuPagePads Client Service Center in Wheaton assists participants in obtaining financial stability and permanent housing.

Case managers collaborate with community partners to facilitate groups on financial fitness, nutrition and healthy eating, communication skills, music therapy, housing workshops and many more topics. Last year this program served over 1,000 clients.

CAREER EMPLOYMENT SOLUTIONS

Housed in a separate building, employment specialists at DuPagePads Career Employment Solutions focus on career compatibility, development, placement and retention.

The goal is for clients obtaining financial stability through employment. Participants are matched by skill level and interest with DuPagePads network of more than 98 local employers.

SUPPORTING HOUSING PROGRAM

DuPagePads Supporting Housing Program provides 82 apartments for those who are chronically homeless and have a documented disability.

This program provides continued case management to participants to work on goals and increase their self-

sufficiency. Last year alone, this program saved taxpayers over \$3.5 million.

"I will never forget the day I heard that I would have my own DuPagePads Supportive Housing apartment," said Kenny.

"Every morning when I wake up in my own bed, I smile. I'm still dealing with my own challenges, but now that I have my own roof and stable meals, I can focus on my future."

DuPagePads has an extraordinary support network of over 4,000 volunteers, more than 160 congregations and over 50 health and human service partners. Together, they help transform lives.

In 2016, DuPagePads ended chronic veteran homelessness for those served and is now working towards ending chronic homelessness for all families and individuals the agency serves.

DuPagePads invites the community to join them in ending homelessness in DuPage County. The solution to end homelessness lies with all the residents of DuPage County.

DuPagePads believes that every man woman and child deserves to have a "key to a door" to call home.



Olympus Place, located on Olympus Drive, Naperville, Illinois, which provides housing for some Pads clients.



A Pads client making use of one of the Pads computers, looking for employment



The Pads Administrative Building at 601 West Liberty Street in Wheaton.



A Pads family getting ready for sleep time at one of the Pads facilities.

Fewer Polling Sites

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"This is a local election, without state or nationwide contests on the ballot," said Bob Saar, DuPage Election Commission Executive Director.

"Typically, fewer people therefore show up at the polls," he added.

In the national election held on Nov. 8, 2016, eleven polling sites were set up in Winfield Township. In this election seven sites are planned.

"Local elections are important too, but for different reasons. They address concerns that often hit closer to home," Saar added.

"I strongly encourage everyone to vote. But they need to know where to go to cast their ballots. The polling sites may not be the same as they were in the previous elec-

Townships Targeted for Reform & Renewal

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Highway Commissioner disagreed. He said he did not believe that the city could do the work for the amount proposed. The contract, he said, was "unsustainable."

The City of Naperville, he explained in a letter, "has not proven it can do the work for less and save the taxpayers' money in the long term."

The Naperville Township Board, however, sided with the City of Naperville. It took action by cutting Wojtasik's \$540,000 from his budget, the amount that would have been saved in 2016 had he taken Naperville's deal.