



601 West Liberty  
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**DuPagePads**  
The Solution to End Homelessness.

Thank you members of the DuPage County Board, for your commitment to insure the quality of life here in DuPage County.

As Chairman Cronin said, I am Carol Simler President/CEO of DuPage Pads. This morning, I stand together with the other providers of Shelter and Support for the men, women and children who are homeless in our county. Judie Caribeaux ED Family Shelter, Christine Madsen Midwest Shelter for Veterans, Karen Ayala Executive Director DuPage County Health Department and Mary Keating Director of Community Services here at the county. Today we stand together to renew our commitment to end homelessness here in DuPage County.

On December 21<sup>st</sup> on the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, we will take pause to remember the 11 individuals who were members of our community who died while experiencing homelessness and the six people who died victims of domestic violence. We recognize the toll that homelessness and violence takes on the health and the longevity of people.

This year we will gather with volunteers and clients at all three of the DuPagePads overnight shelter sites to remember those who have died this year without a permanent home. Our goal is to commemorate the lives of the mothers or fathers, sons or daughters who died while being homeless, who died from illnesses or conditions directly related to their homelessness. For many, this service will be the only commemoration of their lives.

Each night in our county we have over 500 individuals who are homeless who are in our shelters. Homeless people suffer from a high incidence of physical disease, mental illness, and trauma with a mortality rate at least 3.5 times higher than the general public. We are aware of the impact of homelessness on our social fabric and the cost to our municipal budgets.

Our Street Outreach is working for those who are unsheltered in our communities. We invite you and members of our community to help us engage unsheltered individuals in our community to provide support and needed services by calling our Toll-Free number 866.682.3846 x2275.

Now, members of our Street Outreach Team travel throughout DuPage County responding to those who are experiencing homelessness.

We know that housing is good health care! We know that housing that people can afford is sorely needed in our county.

In this season of generosity and sharing, let us call to mind our DuPage County citizens who are less prosperous, living in poverty, and without homes; particularly during these winter months that pose extreme hardships and challenges.

Homelessness is truly a sign in our community today that forces each one of us to ask the hard question - what is ours to do? Homelessness isn't just my problem, homelessness is a community problem and it's your problem, it's our problem, it's everyone's problem.

Join us on December 21st, by remembering the 11 individuals who have died and those 6 who died because of domestic violence as we honor their lives by working to provide solutions to end homelessness in our county. Stand with us that night as every life matters to us in this county.

Thank you!