



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

## For Immediate Release

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### National Homeless Person's Memorial Day

*DuPage County Recognizes December 21<sup>st</sup> as Day to Remember 16 Community Members*

December 21<sup>st</sup> marks the first day of winter and the longest night of the year. On this day, DuPage community members will take time to remember the 10 members of our community who died while experiencing homelessness and the six people who died victims of domestic violence.

This week, DuPage County Board members voted to designate December 21<sup>st</sup> as **National Homeless Person's Memorial Day**. Service providers present at the meeting where the proclamation was read included:

- Carol Simler, DuPagePads President & CEO
- Judie Caribeaux, Executive Director of Family Shelter Service
- Christine Madsen, Director of Programs Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans
- Mary Keating, Director of DuPage County Community Services, Leader of DuPage County Continuum of Care

On Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at all three of DuPagePads Interim (Overnight) Housing shelter sites, volunteers and clients will gather to remember those who have died from illness or conditions directly related to homelessness. "In many cases, this service will be the only commemoration of their lives," Simler says.

Homeless people suffer from a high prevalence of physical disease, mental illness, and a high occurrence of trauma with a **mortality rate at least 3.5 times higher than the general public**.

**"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,**" Simler says, "Our Street Outreach program is working to reach those who are unsheltered in our community and as an agency we are diligently working on reducing the amount of time people are in need of our services." The full resolution and Simler's address to County Board members can be found on DuPagePads website blog.

Community members can take action if they see someone unsheltered by calling DuPagePads toll-free Street Outreach hotline at 866.682.3846, ext. 2275. DuPagePads Street Outreach team responds to these calls to engage those who are experiencing homelessness.

Simler shares, "Every life matters. **When people feel secure in their own housing, they can thrive and reach their full potential,** which greatly enriches our community's social fabric and positively impacts our

municipal budgets. We hope the county will join us in remembering those who have died as we honor their lives by providing solutions to end homelessness.”

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With 32 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 restore hope and 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](http://www.dupagepads.org).



**Left:** Carol Simler, DuPagePads President & CEO addresses the DuPage County Board regarding National Homeless Person’s Memorial Day.

**Right:** Local homelessness service providers present at the meeting. From left Mary Keating, Director of DuPage County Community Services; Judie Caribeaux, Executive Director of Family Shelter Service; Christine Madsen, Director of Programs Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans; Carol Simler, DuPagePads President & CEO and Dan Cronin, DuPage County Board Chairman.

**When someone believes in you,  
everything can change.**