



DuPagePads
The Solution to End Homelessness.

Volunteer Newsletter

Spring 2018



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
Celebrate Service

Thank YOU, Volunteers!

Thank YOU to our Volunteers!

National Volunteer Week is April 15th-21st and we want to acknowledge YOU, one of our 4,000 volunteers, for your dedicated support of our mission to end homelessness.

Did you know last year:

- DuPagePads volunteers donated **76,033 hours**, the equivalent of **37 full-time employees**;
- Interim (Overnight) Housing was offered 365 nights a year and provided a total of **39,978 nights of shelter**;
- 127,248 meals were served last year, an average of **349 meals a day**;
- 383 people moved into **stable housing**.

Your commitment made these results possible!

Together with your partnership, we are transforming lives by moving people from a pad on the floor to a key in the door.

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We Can't Do it Without YOU!



Thank YOU from our Clients

“Thank you for giving your time to help people in need. You are truly appreciated and I want to thank you for your selfless acts of kindness.”

“Thank you volunteers for your kindness, patience and generosity.”

“Thank you for being there when I had no one else to turn to.”

“You have been a ray of hope in our lives. Thank you.”

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You come out in the cold and snow, showering us with your hospitality and kind hearts.”

“I’m grateful for you taking the time to serve us with your warm food, clothes and shelter.”

“Thank you for safety, great food and a warm bed.”

“I appreciate your time and most of all your warm smiles.”



Greetings from the Interim Housing Director

My sincere gratitude goes out to each and every volunteer. Your passion and dedication to serve is greatly appreciated and we could not end homelessness without you.

Libraries

We are continuously building upon the services we provide. A new service is the Downers Grove Public Library offering DuPagePads clients library cards. The library card allows clients to fully access their educational and training database online and access an array of services.

Ending Homelessness Faster

In other exciting news, DuPagePads decreased the average length-of-stay in the Interim (Overnight) Housing program by 21% over the last two years. This is due to an increase in coordination with housing providers. The average length-of-stay for clients was reduced from 52 days in 2016 to 45 days in 2017. In 2018, our goal is to decrease the average length of stay to 40 days. This would not be possible without your hard work and support in our mission to end homelessness in DuPage County.

Thank you,

Will Salmon, Interim Housing Director



Volunteer Spotlight: Michelle Bratton

For the last 7 years, Michelle Bratton has been the Site Coordinator at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle.

“I started out by donating food to the site. One afternoon they were short-staffed, so I stayed a few hours to help in the kitchen. After meeting the guests and seeing what a difference we made as volunteers, I was hooked. About a year later, I was asked to help organize volunteers and have been the Site Coordinator for almost seven years now,” Michelle shares.

Michelle comes back every month because, *“I want all our guests to feel welcome and that someone cares about them.”*

Michelle’s experiences at DuPagePads have motivated her to continue her education.

“After serving at the sites for many years, I decided to go back to school and get a master’s degree in social work, to learn more about how

to help people get the support and services they need to thrive in life. I will graduate this May!”

“Serving at DuPagePads is a life changing experience, especially when you realize how many people are affected by homelessness in our own communities. By each of us doing a little, we do a lot to help end homelessness.”



If you know an exceptional volunteer and would like to make a recommendation for our next Volunteer Spotlight, contact:

Josie Mattern, Volunteer Coordinator
630-682-3846 ext. 3500 or
jmattern@dupagepads.org

Where Dreams Happen- Diana and Gabriel’s Story

Single mom, Diana, was injured in a car accident. Unable to work, bills started piling up, and she found herself unable to afford rent, resulting in Diana and her 5-year-old son, Gabriel, being evicted.

That was when they found DuPagePads.

DuPagePads assisted Diana and Gabriel with shelter and meals through our Interim (Overnight) Housing program, medical referrals for Diana’s condition and books and supplies for Gabriel.

“Gabriel loves books!” Diana smiles.

When Diana was cleared to return to work, she was able to obtain a fulfilling career thanks to DuPagePads Career Employment Solution program, and was provided first month’s rent and security deposit thanks to DuPagePads Housing Now program.

After two-and-a-half months of being homeless, Diana and Gabriel began renting a house. Now Diana can read Gabriel’s favorite books every night before he gets into his very own bed. Diana says, *“I’m so grateful to DuPagePads and their supporters...You gave us hope and that hope is powerful.”*



Program Spotlight: Supportive Housing

What is Supportive Housing?

DuPagePads Supportive Housing provides affordable apartments and support services to individuals and families.



Currently DuPagePads is the largest provider of Supportive Housing in DuPage County with 94 apartment units.

What does Supportive Housing offer?

- Subsidized housing for individuals, families and veterans who have been homeless
- Case management and 24 hour crisis intervention
- Support with children's concerns and parenting issues
- Community referrals

Stronger Communities

As a result of Supportive Housing, communities become safer and taxpayers experience cost savings in medical services and the justice system. These units saved taxpayers more than \$2.5 million last year.



Street Outreach

Help us engage unsheltered homeless individuals in our community to provide support and needed services. Our outreach team travels throughout DuPage County responding to concerns about people experiencing homelessness from police departments, businesses, community-based organizations and concerned citizens.

To report any unsheltered homeless individuals or families you observe in your community, please contact:

DuPagePads Outreach Number
630.682.3846 ext. 2275

Toll Free 866.682.3846 ext. 2275

Please leave the following information:

- Your name
- Your contact information (for possible follow-up)
- Individual's/family's name(s)
- Location (last seen)

Meet the new Community Outreach Coordinator- Kathy Schank

We are excited to welcome Kathy Schank as our new Outreach Coordinator. In her new position, Kathy works to engage our current congregations and recruit new groups to support our mission to end homelessness.

Kathy and her family have volunteered for DuPagePads for almost 20 years. She was a Support Coordinator and continues to volunteer with groups in Naperville.

Kathy is excited to share her passion for DuPagePads.

