



Ending homelessness by restoring lives.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2011

Contacts: Carol Simler - (630) 699-5220 (cell)

Beth Epstein - (630) 682-3846, x241 (office)

DuPage PADS Celebrates Grand Opening of Client Service Center

DuPage PADS celebrated the grand opening of their newly remodeled Client Service Center in Wheaton with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house May 18th. The Center offers comprehensive case management, workshops, education and employment assistance to clients who are homeless to enable them to acquire the skills necessary to stabilize and restore their lives.

The celebration gave the community an opportunity to learn about PADS' full range of services and about the agency's philosophical evolution in addressing the root causes of homelessness.

"25 years ago there was a need for an overnight emergency shelter system in DuPage County to 'house the homeless.' For many years the focus remained on building a bigger 'homeless system' to accommodate the problem," said DuPage PADS Executive Director Carol Simler.

"As our agency has grown, so has our understanding of the population we serve. We have shifted our focus from managing crisis to actually ENDING homelessness. The solution is housing, coupled with supportive services, education and employment. People do better the faster they get into stable housing with the right support. This new building is a testament to the hard work and transformation our clients undergo to regain their dignity and independence."

At the Client Service Center, a strong professional clinical staff constantly seeks innovative best practices to help clients achieve their highest potential. Comprehensive case management is available to assist with basic needs such as food and clothing, as well as more complex issues like healthcare and legal concerns.

PADS' Employment Program offers access to education and job opportunities to help move people toward greater economic stability. Collaborative efforts with the College of DuPage and Literacy DuPage enable people to gain basic reading and math skills and earn their GED. The Employment team is developing creative community partnerships that enable clients to build skills needed to obtain meaningful jobs with a real future.

"The Employment group and the new computer lab have given me the opportunity to create a good resume and generate new job leads. I have learned positive ways to conduct job interviews, post my resume on-line, and check emails for job leads. DuPage PADS has numerous groups for self-improvement including men's groups, women's groups, AA, Financial Literacy, parenting, GED, and computer classes. I think PADS staff does a wonderful job," remarked Dennis, a DuPage PADS client.

DuPage PADS has proven what just a few years ago seemed nearly impossible – those who struggle with mental illness and substance abuse are not doomed to a life on the streets. Homelessness can be ended for individuals and families. DuPage PADS, working in conjunction with the greater community, continues to strive to provide everyone the opportunity to reach their full potential and to give hope to future generations.

ATTACHED PHOTOS: DuPage PADS' ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the newly remodeled Client Service Center at 703 W. Liberty Drive in Wheaton. Pictured are Sheila Sarovich (left), President of DuPage PADS Board of Directors, Carol Simler (center, cutting ribbon,) DuPage PADS Executive Director and Beth Epstein, DuPage PADS Director of Programs. Ceremony attendees included Wheaton Mayor Michael Gresk and Naperville Mayor George Pradel.



#