

DuPage PADS is committed to end and prevent homelessness in DuPage County.

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DuPage PADS

View

An information newsletter for friends & volunteers of DuPage P.A.D.S.

Housing Is the Cure for Homelessness

Without a place to call home, virtually nothing else works! Very often homelessness is a symptom of underlying challenges. Many of those who are homeless face complex issues - not only being homeless, but also having very low incomes, and some with serious, persistent issues that may include: substance abuse, mental illness, learning disabilities, credit problems, disabling health conditions, criminal backgrounds and poor job skills. These challenges make it difficult for them to function well enough to meet their own needs, much less the housing needs of their children. Many of the people who are homeless are working at low wage jobs, and do not make the \$17 per hour that is needed to afford a two bedroom apartment in DuPage County.

At DuPage PADS we are committed to end and prevent homelessness here in DuPage County.

We are totally focused on seeking long-term solutions to move men, women, and children out of homelessness and into their own homes, where they belong!

We have the solution to end homelessness, and that is providing housing with supportive services. Emergency shelter is no longer enough. Our new paradigm includes providing a Housing First approach - getting people housed into stable, affordable, permanent housing - and thus putting an end to their homelessness. Housing is the cure for homelessness. People do better the faster they get into housing. Shelter is needed, but it shouldn't be viewed as a permanent place to live, rather it is needed for short-term emergency needs.

What a dream - to end homelessness in DuPage County. But I work with a group of people who are making this dream come true.

Rev. Tom Babler, Senior Pastor, Community United Methodist Church, Naperville, PADS Partner



Homelessness is a problem that we can solve! Field-tested, evidence-based innovations can end homelessness; these innovations include permanent housing, a Housing First model, support services and employment readiness assistance.

Some say that ending homelessness is just a dream. We agree, it is part of the American dream that embodies the belief that working together we can end this suffering.

Now is an incredibly exciting time here at DuPage PADS! We are putting an end to homelessness in DuPage County and we need the right people to join us. We need people who can make connections, spread the word, and engage others. We can't do it alone. One government department or one private-sector organization is not enough by itself to get the job done.

We invite you to stand with us as a partner or volunteer. Join us to build solutions, give voice to those who have no voice, seize opportunities for change, and help build community support from government, business, congregations, and communities.

Visit our new website (www.dupagepads.org), join our action league, be part of our committee planning or special events, write your legislators asking them to help put an end to homelessness. Make a commitment now! Be part of the solution with us.

The time to end homelessness in DuPage County is now!



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www.dupagepads.org



Community Partner



Carol

Carol Simler
Executive Director,
DuPage PADS

Downer's Grove Rotary for serving up beer and brats and raising funds for DuPage PADS at their Oktoberfest celebration - St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn for donating proceeds from their successful 2007 Pumpkin Patch Sale - Lombard Assembly of God for providing Thanksgiving dinner for participants in our Transitional Housing program - St. James the Apostle Church in Glen Ellyn for shooting hoops to support DuPage PADS at their Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament - Glen Ellyn Kiwanis and Monarch Landing for their generous donations - the donation support provided by the 24th Annual Dan Gibbons Turkey Trot and all the volunteers who provided event assistance! Special thanks to Naperville Continental Motors Acura & Audi, Platinum Sponsor, West Suburban Bank and ASTA, Silver Sponsors of our A Taste of Hope Event! Naperville Sunrise Rotary for raising funds to support programs through the Rotary Ride 2007

Dear Friends,

DuPage County has the distinction of being one of the wealthiest counties in the nation. However, this distinction masks the hardships and struggles of over 40,000 people — 13,000 of them children — who cannot make ends meet and are living below the poverty line.

The fact is, poverty is rising in our county, and incomes are declining. Homelessness is a reality in DuPage County — and it impacts us all. In one of the nation's wealthiest counties, too many men, women, and children do not have a place to call home. This invisible population is on our streets, drifting from place to place, their children growing up without a place to call their own and without the opportunity to belong to a community.

DuPage PADS has the solution to end homelessness. Together with our donors, volunteers, and Partners, we provide housing with supportive services to our neighbors in need. Thank you — you are part of the solution to end homelessness in DuPage County.

A Volunteer's Prayer of Protection for the Homeless

Protect all children, women and men who are homeless this day.

Protect those sleeping under bridges, on park benches, in doorways and train stations.

Protect those who can find shelter for the night but must wander during the day.

Protect families broken because they could not afford to pay the rent.

Protect those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in.

Protect the broken spirits of those in the grips of addictions and mental challenges who can not afford health care and medicine.

Protect those who are afraid and hopeless.

Protect these people in crisis – may they find safety, rest and hope.

For those of us with warm houses and comfortable beds, may we not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness.

Let me see myself in the eyes of every homeless person I meet

So that I may be empowered through word and deed,

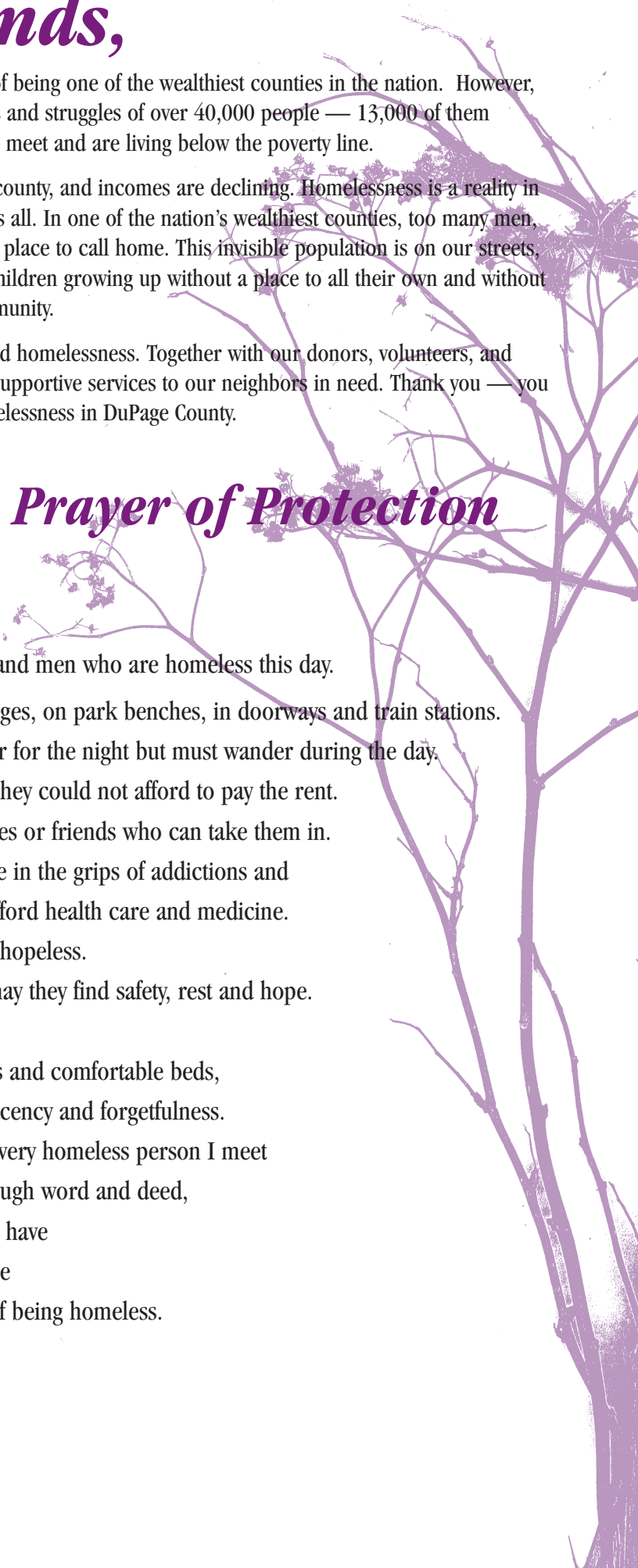
and through the political means I have

to bring justice and peace to those

who are experiencing the crisis of being homeless.

For this I pray.

Carol Penner



Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast

Record Number Gather for Early Morning Inspiration!

At the 5th Annual "Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast," held on November 7, 2007, at Benedictine University, DuPage PADS challenged a record number guests (430) to be part of the solution to end homelessness in DuPage County. The community's business, religious, and civic leaders gathered to raise over \$51,000 for DuPage PADS.

Dr. Sandra Gill, Dean of the College of Business at Benedictine University, welcomed the breakfast attendees. Rev. Tom Babler, Senior Pastor of Community United Methodist Church in Naperville, led the invocation. (Visit our event website to read his observations at www.dupagepads.org.)

Mary Kay Slowikowski, of Slowikowski and Associates, received the inaugural Inspiration Award for her pivotal role in developing the concept for this event 5 years ago. Keynote speaker Wayne Messmer shared his message "The Challenge of Facing Change." Messmer, known as the singer of our National Anthem at many Chicago sports events, addressed the fear and uncertainty that often accompany the process of change — emotions that homeless people in DuPage County face every day.

Catina, a tenant in the DuPage PADS' Permanent Supportive Housing program, spoke of the positive, life-changing impact that DuPage PADS has had on her life. The inspirational messages shared at the event led to a record number of new PADS Partners (34!) who answered the call to support DuPage PADS with an annual contribution of \$500 or more.

Mark your calendars now for the 6th Annual "Wake Up Your Spirit Breakfast," scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2008.



Villa Park Office Equipment Creates New Office Space!

Case Manager, Cornita Kyser and Interim Housing Coordinator, Alison Clark proudly show off the entrance to their new work environment in the Support Center.



UPS Delivers for PADS!

Thanks to UPS staff member volunteers who "delivered" much needed service by organizing program storage rooms.



Wrapping It Up For PADS!

Volunteer gift wrappers for C.O.D.'s Spirit of Service Team were overwhelmed with gifts — the team raised funds to support programs offered at DuPage PADS Support Center.

We are proud to announce the following new Partners:

Karin & Jim Anderson	Thomas & Anne Lysaught
Binder Realty Consultants, Inc.	Donna McCaleb
Ron & Fran Bolson	David & Sue Ann Mead
Patricia Bush	Jack & Carol Medor
Denis & Robin Carroll	Wayne Messmer
Gerald Cassioppi	Thomas Olp
Rebecca Connery	D. Jean Ortega-Piron
Deb Deeter	Rev. Tom & Gayle Ostrander
Greg & Beth DeGeeter	Thomas & Pamela Radle
J. Michael Drancik	Bill & Sharry Schwass
Richard Dunn	Rev. Gerald J. Simonelli
Mary Ellen & Bob Fieseler	Sally Sommers
Charles Fischer	John J. Stanaway, Jr.
David & Beth Johnson	Jim & Audrey Stein
Julie Kaczor	Patti & Russ Taruscio
Elise & Carl Kramer	Rosemary Vallarata
Dean Leffelman	Tom & Paula Worniak

Join us and help plan for next year's breakfast!

Call Kathleen Johnson at 630.682.3846 x222.



Volunteer Opportunities

You Can Make a Difference!

Overnight Shelters -

Congregations/organizations and individual volunteers are needed to expand the Interim Housing Program and help us reach our goal of providing shelter 365 days a year. We are 94% of the way to reaching our goal — with your help, we'll be at 100% this year. Call Alison Clark at 630.682.3846 x265.

Support Center -

Groups or individuals are needed to donate and serve lunch for 40 people once a month, Mondays through Fridays, at the Support Center. Call Sue Madden at 630.682.3846 x262.

Computer Resource Center -

Volunteers are needed to maintain our computers and work with participants as they use the computers to seek employment. Call Jennifer Coyer at 630.682.3846 x232.

Administrative -

Assistance is needed for database records, filing systems, and mailing projects. Call Lynne Rowe at 630.682.3846 x224.

Speakers Bureau -

Become an ambassador for DuPage PADS. Volunteers are needed to speak to groups about our mission and the impact of DuPage PADS' programs. Call Kathleen Johnson at 630.682.3846 x222.

Special Events Committee -

Energetic people are needed to plan/coordinate fund-raising events. Call Kathleen Johnson at 630.682.3846 x222.

Marketing Communications -

Assistance is needed to prepare publications and develop Public Relations projects. Call Cheryl Bohm at 630.682.3846 x252.

Donations -

Call 630.682.3846 x234 for a Wish List or visit our website: www.dupagepads.org.



Don't miss our 5th Annual Bowl-A-Rama
April 19, 2008
(See Save the Date)

DuPage PADS, Inc. is a nonprofit organization committed to end and prevent homelessness in DuPage County.

Essig Printing

Save the Date

Thursday, February 28, 2008 6:00–9:30 p.m.

2nd Annual: A Taste of Hope: Chefs Uniting to End Homelessness
Abbington Distinctive Banquets, Corner of Rt. 53 and Butterfield Rd., Glen Ellyn

"A Taste of Hope" is back by popular demand! Leading chefs and restaurants will prepare and serve samples of their signature dishes, all with the common goal of funding the programs and services of DuPage PADS. Music, silent and live auctions, and a unique raffle will round out an evening of dining delights. Join the fun. Help plan and coordinate this high-energy event! Call Kathleen Johnson at 630.682.3846 x222.

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 6:00–7:30 p.m.

PADS Partners Evening of Hope and Possibility
DuPage PADS Support Center, Wheaton

Join us for dessert, coffee, and warm thanks! See how your investment in our work is making a difference and hear an inspiring story from someone who has benefited from your support. For more information, call Kathleen Johnson at 630.682.3846 x222.

PADS Lenten Sundays

Join congregations throughout DuPage County in the spirit of Lenten almsgiving and prayer. Participating congregations will take up a special collection at Sunday Lenten services to benefit men, women, and children in crisis. To include your congregation, please call Kathleen Johnson at 630.682.3846 x222.

Saturday, April 19, 2008, Noon–3:00 p.m.

6th Annual (& much anticipated!) Bowl-A-Rama
Fox Bowl, 1101 Butterfield Road, Wheaton

Join us as we take to the alleys once again to raise money for a great cause! We have 30 team spots available. Put together a team of five bowlers, each committed to raising at least \$140 (or \$700 as a team). Each team will be treated to three games of bowling, all-you-can-eat award-winning pizza, soda, ice cream, raffle prizes, and more! What could be better than bowling with a purpose? Call Kathleen Johnson at 630.682.3846 x222 to reserve your place.

Thursday, May 1, 2008, 8:00–10:00 p.m.

Whole Foods Market Community Day for DuPage PADS
Whole Foods Market, 151 Rice Lake Square, Wheaton

The Whole Foods Market in Wheaton has designated May 1, 2008, as a Community Day to benefit DuPage PADS. A total of 5% of all your purchases will be donated to DuPage PADS. Shop on May 1 and make your grocery bill count!

Coming Soon! PADS Run/Walk 2008
Saturday, September 6, 2008

DuPage PADS Support Center

Volunteers are needed to prepare for the PADS Run/Walk 2008. Run or walk this road course through picturesque Wheaton to raise funds to benefit DuPage PADS programs.

Call Kathleen Johnson at 630.682.3846 x222 to volunteer

New Developments

Interim Housing Program Expands

We are pleased to welcome Cornita Keyser as the new Interim Housing Case Manager. With your donor support, we have been able to add this full-time position to bolster our Interim Housing program and expand services for our participants.

Special thanks to **Villa Park Office Equipment** for donating services and materials to install new offices in our Support Center. These new offices are needed to accommodate our growing team.

Don't Forget!

Think of us when you are cleaning out your closets this winter. You can drop off donations of clothing and soft goods such as bedding or towels at our green Fundraise and Recycle Donation Bin, located at 705 West Liberty in Wheaton. Fundraise and Recycle Now! will pay us for all of the donations collected, which will help us raise funds for programs that assist people in crisis. And, because none of the donations will go into landfills, you are helping keep our community green!

Visit our website for more information. www.dupagepads.org