



Helping the
Homeless
Find a Way



Summer 2017

Homeless Prevention & Shelter Diversion



There are many times that someone will come to PADS thinking that they have fallen into homelessness, or soon will, and shelter is the only option for them. The average person would probably make that same assumption—when you are homeless, you go to the homeless shelter.

But what if there was another way?

PADS has what is called a Prevention & Diversion Program (P&D). This program is designed to stop individuals and families from even entering shelter. By providing an earlier intervention, the individual or family can have greater success by staying housed.

Here are a few examples in which we can see how these successes are achieved.

P&D services focus on assisting the individual with some one time help and short term case management. Perhaps the individual has fallen behind on rent and is facing eviction. PADS P&D Case Manager can connect the individual with some

financial assistance in the community, but also ensure that the situation does not repeat itself. The individual's homelessness is *prevented* via this intervention.

Another example is to provide medication to stay in a current residence. For example, an individual may have a family/roommate dispute, or a disagreement with a landlord. While the individual may think they would be forced into a homeless shelter in the past, they can be successfully *diverted* from even entering it.

It seems simple—by providing that earlier intervention, we can ensure that the person that is facing a housing crisis is stably housed. Rather than wait for them to fall into homelessness, we stop homelessness from even happening.

The program has also proven to be tremendously successful. During our last fiscal year, 186 people went through the program. Of those, only 4 wound up needing shelter. ***That is an incredible 98% success rate.***

It is also 182 people who avoided shelter altogether. They were able to be in a stable housing situation. And isn't that our goal to get people into that situation anyway? So why not do it earlier? ■

"Shelter Season"

It's starting to get into a new season. Some look forward to fall. Others look forward to football season. We might even be lucky enough to want to watch a baseball postseason. But throughout Lake County, dozens upon dozens of intrepid volunteers are gearing up for what they call "shelter season."

As most people know, PADS operates shelters at rotating sites from October 1 through April 30. While shelter is provided year-round through its other programs, this "shelter season" is what PADS is best known for. Volunteers preparing various spaces to welcome "guests" that are experiencing homelessness.

It is always so impressive to see the enthusiasm with which these incredible individuals serve. They are constantly giving of themselves, volunteering countless hours. They are an inspiration to many, including the staff and Board of PADS.

We see the groups coming together. The retired schoolteachers. The girl and boy scout troops. The high school sports teams or national honor societies. So many different people giving a little bit together to meet a collective goal of providing shelter for the homeless.

We can't say thank you enough. Volunteers are undoubtedly the lifeblood of the PADS shelter system. It could not operate without their dedication and compassion.

We look forward to another wonderful season with all of you. And we look forward to welcoming more people to the PADS family of 3,000 volunteers. Thank you again for all you do. ■



Emoji—U+1F3E0

The way we communicate is certainly changing. The mere thought of a text message 20 years ago was reserved for a small segment of the population. Then we started to evolve into “text speak,” using garbled language *b/c it wuz ez*. Then we started using characters to signify things—the smiley face was a colon and parenthesis together :). Some could get really creative and shrug 🙄.

Now we have our famous emoji characters. They even made a movie about it. They may look a little different, but everyone seems to know what they are. Each emoji is put together by the Unicode Consortium, which provides consistency across platforms. The Unicode Consortium also allows people to “adopt” characters. An anonymous supporter of PADS decided it would be pretty neat if PADS adopted the “House” emoji. And as you can see, we are now the proud adoptive sponsors of the character—which just makes sense for us.

So next time you are typing in emoji, use the code U+1F3E0 to make the house. And think of PADS as you do. ■



Unicode Consortium
@unicode

Follow

PADS Lake County: now a Bronze sponsor of HOUSE BUILDING! #UnicodeSponsor
unicode.org/consortium/ado...



Calling All Golf Fans!

PADS is excited to once again be able to participate in the PGA Tour's BMW Championship which will be held at Conway Farms Golf Club September 14-17. Tour pros will be playing in the third of four FedEx Cup playoff events. It's an exciting event for anyone with even a passing interest in golf!



Now the really exciting part—you can get in to the tournament to volunteer at one of the concession stands! For each volunteer that comes in through PADS, the catering company will make a donation to PADS. Let's fill all the shifts we have!

Volunteers must be over 16, or over 12 if they attend with a parent/guardian.

Sign up for your preferred shift at www.padslakecounty.org/BMW



Getting to know...

Stephen Love

In this space, we'd like to highlight one of the many people that make PADS work. This time, we will share our new Director of Development Stephen Love's story...

My name is Stephen Love, and I am very excited to be joining PADS as its Director of Development. Some of you may remember me as I had served in a different role at PADS in the past. I am pleased to return.



A bit about me personally...I am married with three (about to be four) wonderful children. I grew up in the Vernon Hills area and currently live in Round Lake. I also serve as Assistant Pastor of New Life Fellowship Church in Vernon Hills.

One of the things I am most excited about in this new role is the opportunity to hear from more of you as to why you support PADS. What is it that leads you to believe in this organization and the people we serve? The connections that people have to us often go back many years, through multiple family generations. Grandparents and grandchildren serving together; a family that sets aside some of their lifetime earnings to give to PADS; someone who once had a family member become homeless and know how important a place like PADS is.

I look forward to connecting with many of you and learning more about what you love about PADS. We hope to continue that enthusiasm by making you proud of what we do with your support.

We are honored to have Stephen rejoin our team here, and look forward to hearing from him what he hears from all of you. ■



PADS is honored to have a long-standing and wonderful partnership with Wines for Humanity. Led by Anton Steinhart, Wines for Humanity was founded to provide people with an "extraordinary time with great wines and good friends, but a portion of the proceeds from every bottle promoted directly benefits families in their community who find themselves on the brink of homelessness for reasons beyond their control."

When people host wine tastings, PADS is the fortunate beneficiary of some of those funds to use for the people we serve. At Wines For Humanity's recent conference, PADS Executive Director Joel Williams spoke to the many "Wine Advisors" about the way their work is benefitting so many. Thousands of dollars have been donated to PADS over 10 years, with more to come.

Would you like to host a wine tasting with a portion benefitting PADS? Just visit www.winesforhumanity.com to set one up. Thank you again for all the support! ■



After School Helpers

PADS continues to see a good number of children come through its doors as a family experiences homelessness. Their schoolwork never stops, and they often struggle to get their homework done, either because of a lack of appropriate space or the need for extra help.

Knowing this, PADS asked an Eagle Scout to build some desks for kids to use for homework. These desks were completed this summer, and will be an excellent space for the children to work.

Now, we are in the process of seeking people who can provide some homework help. You don't need to be a teacher or certified tutor—but just someone who can help with some general help with typical homework.

Sign up at:

padslakecounty.org/volunteer





PO Box 428
North Chicago, IL 60064

Office: 1800 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085

Phone: 847.689.4357
E-mail: info@padslakecounty.org

Volunteer Your Talent

Do you have a particular skill or talent that could benefit PADS? Perhaps you are handy with small construction projects. Maybe you are a retired CPA. Or it's possible that you are a school teacher. All of these skill sets can help PADS and the people we serve!

Fill out a volunteer application at www.padslakecounty.org/volunteer. We'd love to find a fit for your skill or talent. Maybe it's only a couple hours a month, or maybe it's more. But we could use all sorts of different type of help. Everyone can contribute in some way!



Shopping online? Go to smile.amazon.com and select PADS Lake County as your charity. The AmazonSmile Foundation will then donate a portion of your eligible purchases to PADS!

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