PADS of Elgin

The Journey Towards Home

PADS OF ELGIN, INC.

Volume 6, Issue 1 Winter, 2011

Winter Harvest for the Homeless 2011!

We can barely believe it is already 2011. This year's Winter Harvest for the homeless is just weeks away, which means your chance to start the year off right with food, auctions, dancing and fun is fast approaching.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, January 29th at a new venue, the Holiday Inn in Crystal Lake (800 Route 31, in Crystal Lake), and will begin at 6pm.

This year we celebrate the 5th anniversary of our Stars Dance for PADS of Elgin dance contest, with routines sure to please. Joining us again this year will also be last year's celebrity judges Norm and Heidi Lucky (as seen in the movie "Straight Talk" with Dolly Parton) to provide expert commentary.

You can help decide the fate of our dancers in two ways, by coming to the event in January to vote for the winner or by voting online for your favorite couple, each dollar pledged to your favorite team counts as one vote (There is a $10 minimum for online votes, but checks or cash in any amount are always accepted at the PADS office).

But wait, the dance contest isn't the only reason to join us in January. You can also pick up some great items at our silent auction. Just a few prizes include a Sony Reader, Box Seats to a Chicago Cubs Game, and a chance to win a brand new Ipad. With so much fun to be had for such a great cause, there is no reason not to start off your year with the Winter Harvest!

Visit the news and events section of padsofelgin.org for a pdf of the invitation or to view videos of past dance contests.

Ticket cost is $85 per person. Silent Auction and sponsorship opportunities are still available by contacting the PADS office at 847-608-9744.

Vote Online to Support Your Favorite Team!

They've been perfecting their steps but they can't win without your help.
This year you can vote online for your favorite dance team by visiting:

www.events.org/pads2011

Team 1-Kerry Kelly and Rich Jacobs, Instructor Abbie Eklund
Team 2-Dominique and Marvin Jr. Wilson, Instructor Elena Tsirlin
Team 3-Marian and Arlen Cordoba, Instructor Patricia Kassanits
Team 4-Laura and Jeff Swoboda, Instructor Celia Lopez
Team 5-Laura and Steve Newman, Instructor Jamie Vargo

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I read with interest a letter to the editor in a local newspaper recently. I seldom take much creed in these things and have never responded to one personally. However, this letter was so lacking in facts that I felt a response was needed.

The letter was from a Hampshire resident that felt that a transitional housing program was needed in Elgin because of all of the young homeless people living on the streets with no home and no help from anybody. She goes on to say that "Some stay at PADS homeless shelter in Elgin, which they don't help you with getting a job or living on your own." Clearly this writer has no actual knowledge of our program or case management activities. Then, she actually comes to the fact of the matter when stating, "When youths move out when they are 18,most aren't responsible enough to support themselves."

Agreed. But I find it interesting that Emergency Shelter should be responsible for accomplishing in a few weeks or months what a person's family was unable to do in 18 years. However, that is exactly what PADS of Elgin's case management program is doing. Here are the facts:

According to a national study, 34% of generation "Y" are not capable of handling their own finances because of poor math skills and lack of needed life skills. PADS focuses on financial literacy as a primary goal for all of our guests. We also aid in developing resumes, successful interview skills and education.

Last year we sheltered 70 young adults between the ages of 18 and 30. Over one third suffered from the effects of parental substance abuse either as a fetus or young child. 14 others were affected by some other form of developmental disability of mental health problem. The good news is that over half attended either GED classes or Community College while with us and 9 received some sort of certificate or degree.

In addition, our overall successful housing placement last year was second to none. 74% (2.5 times the national average) of our exited clients were successfully housed somewhere and only a few of those have returned to us this year. Sadly the number of children and young adults in shelter continue to grow. We have already served almost double the number of children in six months that were sheltered all of last year. At the same time, state support for homeless services has been cut 48%. The challenges continue to grow, but the staff, with your continued financial and volunteer help, is committed to meeting them.

-Dennis Hewitt, Executive Director

GET ONLINE WITH PADS!

Happy new year to all of our supporters! And with a new year comes new ways to keep up with PADS online.

Resolve to join us on facebook (search for PADS of Elgin, Inc.) where you can get the latest updates on news and events as they happen. And see photos and videos of what is happening at the shelter.

And while you're typing, don't shut down your computer without checking out the new PADS annual report, which can be found in pdf format on our website under the "News and Events" page.

This report covers the most recently completed shelter season (June 2009-July 2010) and includes narrative summaries of the year as well as facts and figures about services provided and our vision for the future of the PADS organization!

Looking for a place to stay after the Winter Harvest? Contact the Holiday Inn in Crystal Lake to reserve a room at

(815) 447-7000 or book online at www.hicrystallake.com.

Trim, Snip, Chop!

Here is a look at the haircutting festivities at the PADS shelter this December. Thanks so much to the stylists from Regis Salon in Spring Hill Mall who came out and gave haircuts to 20 of our guests. Everyone looks simply marvelous!

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Email_____

Phone_____

I would like more information on:

◊ Upcoming events

◊ Volunteering in the shelter

◊ Volunteering for special events or in the PADS office

PADS OF ELGIN, INC.

I would like to donate to PADS of Elgin to help fight homelessness in my community, please accept my gift of:

__$25 __$50 __$75 __$100 __$200 __Other

Please make all checks payable to PADS of Elgin

Please fill out this form and return to:

PADS of Elgin, Inc.
1730 Berkley St.
Elgin, IL 60123

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1730 Berkley St.
Elgin, IL 60123

Phone: 847-608-9744
Fax: 847-608-9746
E-mail: Info@padsofelgin.org
Office Hours: Mon-Friday 9:00-4:00
www.padsofelgin.org

For yesterday and for all tomorrows, we dance the best we know how.

-Kate Seredy

PADS of Elgin, Inc. is committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness by addressing the needs of the local homeless population. PADS provides temporary overnight shelter and counseling services to individuals in need.

PADS has been the catalyst in fostering community and social service agency partnerships that effectively and efficiently provide coordinated services in support of short-term as well as longer-term customized care targeting client growth, development, and self sufficiency.

Get Involved With PADS of Elgin

There are many different ways to volunteer with PADS.

Individuals are needed to help at shelter sites. Volunteers check in the guests, distribute blankets and sleeping pads, and assist serving coffee and snacks.

Volunteers are also encouraged to assist with organizing and operating fundraisers and special events. PADS operates several such events a year, including The Illinois Railway Museum's Thomas The Tank Engine Event, and The Winter Harvest Dinner Dance and Auction.

Finally, PADS accepts donations of food supplies and personal items. These items are distributed to our guests to help fill basic needs. Some examples of required items are listed to the right. For details and sizes needed for clothing items please contact the PADS Office.

To Volunteer in any way please contact the PADS Office at 847-608-9744.

PADS Ongoing Needs

Toilet Paper

Coffee

Peanut Butter

Jam or Jelly

Sugar Packets

Sugar Substitute Packets

8oz Foam Coffee Cups

Plastic Spoons

Plastic Forks

Napkins

Foam Cereal Bowls

Luncheon Plates

Liquid and Powder Laundry Soap

Kool Aide Packets

Large Plastic Garbage Bags

Travel Size Foot Powder*

Travel Size Kleenex*

Rain Ponchos

Men's Work Boots

Men's Sneakers

*Personal hygiene products in travel size only, please