

How You Can Help

For those who live within the homeless condition, hope can be found in a good meal; a safe shelter; a steady job, which pays a living wage; and a smile to reaffirm the humanity of a person when circumstances seem to have stripped it away.

Volunteers

You can impact and support guests by volunteering to help within the shelter. Daily help is needed to check in guests; distribute pads and blankets; and serve coffee and snacks.

Monthly help is needed to move the shelter to a new church host. Each month, bins, pads and equipment are loaded on a truck and moved to a new location.

Each year, PADS of Elgin, Inc. hosts several fundraising events to support its operations. A variety of skills are needed to plan and organize each event, maximizing the fundraising potential.

Contributions

Goods and services to support the shelter are in high demand. Please ask for our current needs list.

Financial contributions are necessary for the shelter's continued operations. To keep the shelter's doors open, your financial support is vital.



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A United Way Agency



**Homeless
doesn't have
to mean
hopeless.**



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How Does PADS of Elgin, Inc. help the homeless within our community?

PADS of Elgin, Inc. is committed to providing safe shelter, support services and advocacy to people who are homeless in Dundee, Elgin and Hanover Townships.

Each day, the overnight shelter offers a safe environment to 40 - 50 men, women and children. Staff and volunteers provide an evening snack, breakfast and support services, including connection with mental health, housing, healthcare, recovery and educational services.

The overnight shelter is housed in different churches each month between October and May. The shelter opens nightly at 7:00 p.m. and closes each morning at 7:00 a.m.

Trained site coordinators, case managers and volunteers staff the shelter. Mental health professionals and volunteer advocates are available to assist guests with basic needs and

to connect them with additional services.

PADS of Elgin, Inc. coordinates services with partner organizations, such as the Ecker Center for Mental Health, Community Crisis Center,



Soup Kettle, Renz Addiction Counseling Center, Greater Elgin Family Care Center and others.

PADS of Elgin, Inc. is breaking the cycle of homelessness by comprehensively addressing the needs of the local homeless population.

We have been a catalyst in fostering community and social service agency partnerships, which effectively and efficiently

provide coordinated services in support of short-term, as well as long-term, customized care, targeting client growth, development and self-sufficiency.

Who are the homeless?

The men, women and children who confront homelessness often shake our perception of the “street person”. Families with children are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population.

Sixty percent of adults, who call PADS of Elgin, Inc. their temporary home, work. When in the shelter, they rise before dawn, put away their sleeping pads and leave for work. They are the working poor.

A large number of those served through PADS of Elgin, Inc. suffer from mental illness or developmental disabilities. This group tends to remain homeless for longer periods of time, have less contact with family and encounter more barriers to employment.

Homelessness results from a complex set of circumstances, which require people to choose between food, shelter and other basic needs. Homeless individuals often lack support systems.