



The Man at the Window: A Story of Quiet Generosity

Dear PADS of Elgin Family,

For at least five years, he's been coming.

Every year around the holidays, an envelope arrives at our front window—hand-delivered by a man who doesn't want recognition, doesn't want a tour of our facilities, doesn't want a meeting with our Executive Director. He knows our work. He believes in our mission. And he shows up, year after year, with a check that changes lives.

As Development Manager, building relationships with donors is literally my job. I've reached out to him before—gently, respectfully—hoping to introduce him to our new leadership, hoping to understand what moves him to give so generously to PADS. His answer has always been the same: he wants to stay anonymous. He wants to support the work, not be celebrated for it.

This year, he came earlier than usual.

I was standing by the window during our daily staff meeting when I saw him approach. He handed me an envelope with a company name printed in the corner, and in that moment, I realized who he was. This was him—the man we'd been quietly grateful for, year after year. I couldn't help myself. I walked out into the lobby.

"Can I shake your hand?" I asked.

And then, before I knew it, we were both crying—genuine tears—and I was hugging him, thanking him, wishing him a Merry Christmas. Two strangers connected by something bigger than either of us: the belief that every person deserves shelter, dignity, and a path forward.

He was just a normal guy, wearing normal clothes, doing an extraordinary thing.

His gift this year, like every year before it, will provide approximately 250 nights of shelter at \$50 per night. That's 250 nights when someone won't sleep in the cold. That's 250 nights when a family has a safe place to rest. That's 250 nights of hope.

Since July 1st, we've successfully housed 25 guests and provided over 1,600 outreach meals. Outreach requests have risen 372% over last year. The need has never been greater—and neither has the generosity of people like this man, who show up quietly, consistently, and without fanfare.

I don't know his full story. I don't know what compels him to give. But I know this: his kindness matters. His consistency matters. His willingness to show up—year after year—matters.

And in a world that often feels loud and chaotic, there's something deeply beautiful about the quiet generosity of a man at a window, handing over an envelope and asking for nothing in return.

If you've been moved by this story and want to join this legacy of quiet generosity, please consider making a gift today. Every dollar provides shelter, stability, and hope to our neighbors in need.

[Give today at padsofelin.org/donate](http://padsofelin.org/donate)

Your gift—whether \$50 for one night of shelter, \$500 for ten nights, or any amount—makes a tangible difference in someone's journey from homelessness to home.

With Gratitude,



Jen Keller, Development Manager

