



Investing in Relationships: The Work You Make Possible

Dear PADS of Elgin Family,

At PADS of Elgin, we often say that shelter is more than a bed. It's connection. It's trust. It's the steady presence of someone who knows your name, your story, and your hopes for the future.

This week, case manager Calenne Tyler walked through the kitchen where our guests were gathering before dinner. She called out, "Okay, I'm really going home now!" Immediately the room lit up with laughter:

"Sure you are!"

"See you in the morning!"

"Don't forget the Christmas ornaments!"

It was a small moment—but it revealed something powerful: the deep relationships our guests form with the people who walk beside them.

Calenne joined our case management team during a rapid staff transition—stepping in exactly when we needed her most. The first time I overheard her working with a guest, I stopped in my tracks. As a former pastor, I recognize what it takes to hold space for someone with the right balance of nurture and empowerment. Calenne does it instinctively. That day, the guest she was supporting smiled, nodded, and got up to take care of something no one else had been able to encourage him to do.

Since July, Calenne and our bilingual case manager Christina Soto have helped nearly 30 guests move into sustainable housing. Christina walks with our predominantly Spanish-speaking guests, helping them navigate housing systems, healthcare, and a world that doesn't always meet them in their own language. Her presence is often the bridge between fear and possibility.

This is what your year-end gift makes possible. Your support keeps our doors open and ensures people have a warm, safe place to sleep. But more than that, your generosity fuels the relationships that change lives. It sustains the case management, advocacy, and human connection that help individuals and families reach their goals.

This holiday season, you can give the gift of home—and the community that helps people find their way there.

Thank you for supporting the work that happens not just inside our shelter walls, but within the relationships that make transformation possible.

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

With Gratitude,



Katie Shaw Thompson, Executive Director

P.S. Gifts made by December 31 are tax-deductible for this year and help ensure we can continue investing in the relationships that carry this work forward into the new year.

