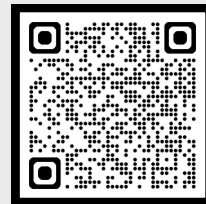




# The Way Home Newsletter

*To respectfully and compassionately empower persons and families in need of housing to become self-sustaining by providing shelter, needed services, and professional guidance.*



**JANUARY 2026**

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- **GRATITUDE**
- **REBRANDING**
- **FOLK MUSIC**
- **DECEMBER GIVING**
- **FINANCIAL UPDATE**



## **Thank You, Elgin Township Board!**

We are deeply grateful to Elgin Township for their \$80,000 investment in PADS of Elgin. This significant support strengthens our ability to provide safe shelter, warm meals, and consistent case management to neighbors across Northern Kane County.

Public funding partnerships like this one ensure that individuals and families experiencing homelessness have access to stability, dignity, and a path forward. We are thankful for Elgin Township's leadership and commitment to caring for our most vulnerable neighbors.



# With Gratitude to the Seigle Foundation

---



We are honored to thank the Seigle Foundation for their \$30,000 general operating grant supporting our shelter and housing-focused services. Flexible funding like this allows us to respond in real time to the needs of our guests—whether that means keeping doors open during extreme weather, sustaining staffing during periods of high demand, or removing barriers on the path to housing.

The Seigle Foundation's continued partnership strengthens the day-to-day work that makes long-term stability possible.

---

## REBRANDING



PADS OF ELGIN



**Thursday, January 29 | FCC Dundee | 6:00–7:30pm**

We invite community members, partners, and supporters to join us for a special Rebranding Community Conversation.

This gathering will share where we are in our rebranding process, explore how language and visuals shape understanding of homelessness, and invite community voice as we look ahead. Whether you've been part of PADS of Elgin for decades or are newly connected, your perspective matters.

 Learn more and RSVP:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/padsofelgin/event/rebranding/>

If you cannot make it to the in-person brainstorming session, feel free to share your ideas on this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/fVJwi9A2huxtN8q28>

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ **We hope you'll join us.**

# **Upcoming Benefit Concert: Joe Jencks**

**Friday, January 16,  
2026 at 7:00 PM**

We're excited to invite our community to a special evening of music and mission. Acclaimed folk artist Joe Jencks will perform a benefit concert for PADS of Elgin on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM at Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren (783 W. Highland Ave., Elgin).



This is a free-will donation concert, with 100% of proceeds directly supporting neighbors experiencing homelessness through PADS of Elgin. It's an opportunity to come together around music, community, and compassion.

.....

**New to Joe Jencks' music? Learn more and listen here:**  
**<https://joejencks.com/>**

**Can't attend but want to support the concert?**  
**Make a gift online at:**

**<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/padsofelgin/event/folkconcert/>**

***Join us for an evening where art fuels impact  
and community makes a difference.***



# December Giving: Stories That Moved a Community

---

Over the past several weeks, we shared a series of stories that reflect the heart of our work at PADS of Elgin.

Each one offered a glimpse into what it truly means to invest in relationships—and how those relationships help people move from uncertainty toward stability, dignity, and home.



From Shelter to Home:  
The Bonds That Last Beyond  
Our Doors

Together, these stories remind us that shelter is more than a bed. It's trust built over time. It's community showing up. It's people walking beside one another through moments both ordinary and extraordinary.

Each story was different, but they all pointed to the same truth:

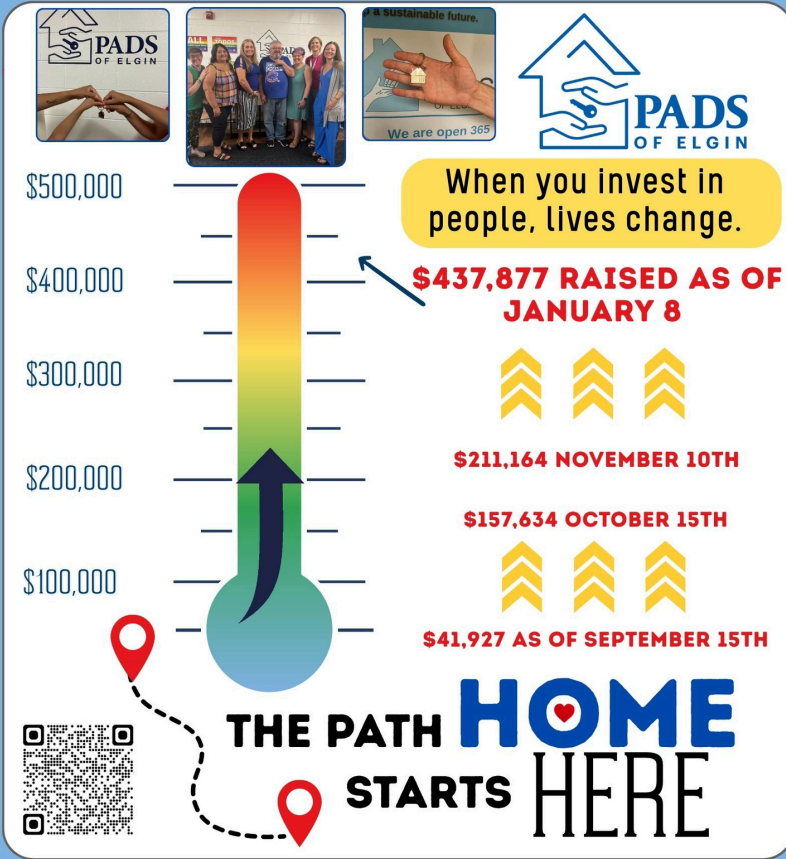
**Transformation happens through relationships—between guests and staff, donors and neighbors, partners and *community members like you.***

Because of that shared storytelling—and the generosity it inspired—we are grateful to report that more than \$100,000 was raised in December to support PADS of Elgin's mission.

↓(Continued below)↓

## December Giving: Stories That Moved a Community (cont.)

As you'll see reflected in our updated community giving thermometer, **since July our neighbors have contributed \$437,877** in donations—each gift a reminder that this work is powered by people who believe in caring for one another.



Thank you for being part of these stories, for listening, for giving, and for standing with our neighbors when it mattered most.

In case you missed any of them—or would like to revisit a story that resonated—we wanted to share the full collection with you. Click on any of the titles below to be redirected to our website where you can read each story in their entirety:

[From Shelter to Home: The Bonds That Last Beyond Our Doors](#)

[Tilting Towards Change: How the Bagwells Used Flipback to Help Others Move Forward](#)

[Investing in Relationships: The Work You Make Possible](#)

[The Man at the Window: A Story of Quiet Generosity](#)

[From Concrete Steps to a Place Called Home: How Community Partnership Changed Thomas' Life](#)



[Interested in donating?](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)