



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.



FEBRUARY 2026

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Thank You, Elgin Association of Firefighters, IAFF Local 439!



We're so grateful to the Elgin Association of Firefighters, IAFF Local 439 and the members of Station 4 for spending their Saturday cooking, delivering, and serving a firehouse-prepared meal for our guests and our outreach community members.

Meals like this are about more than food—they're about care, connection, and community. Thank you for showing up for our neighbors in such a meaningful way.

Want to get involved? Community groups, families, and businesses can sign up to provide a meal or support this work with a donation.

Learn more at the link on our website --
www.padsfelgin.org

Grateful for the Paul L. Jehle Mission Grant



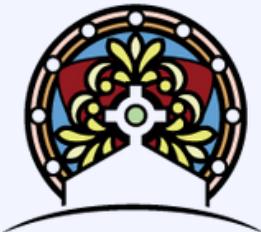
PADS of Elgin extends our sincere thanks to First Congregational United Church of Christ for awarding our organization the Paul L. Jehle Mission Grant.

This generous support helps sustain the critical, relationship-centered work happening each day inside our shelter and outreach programs. Through this grant, PADS is able to continue providing shelter, meals, and individualized case management that supports neighbors working toward stability, housing, and wellness.

We are deeply grateful for First Congregational United Church of Christ - Elgin's longstanding commitment to serving neighbors with compassion and dignity.

Partnerships like this strengthen our shared vision of a healthier, more connected Elgin community. Thank you for standing alongside PADS and the neighbors we serve.

If you'd like to see the full award acceptance ceremony, visit <https://bit.ly/4kzyp6Q>.



First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST | ELGIN, IL



This February, we're inviting our community to spread the love in a simple (and meaningful) way—by donating honey.

Honey has been in especially high demand this winter, as many of our guests rely on warm tea for comfort during the colder months. It's a small but powerful comfort—perfect for tea, toast, and shared meals—that helps make the shelter feel a little more like home.

Instead of chocolates or flowers, consider donating a jar (or two!) of honey to

support neighbors experiencing homelessness. You can even dedicate your donation to your “honey,” and we'll happily share the love with a social media shout-out if you'd like. 

Winter Harvest Reflections: A Series Wrap-Up



Over the past several weeks, we've shared our Winter Harvest Reflection series—voices and stories that look back on what Winter Harvest has meant to our community.

While we are not hosting Winter Harvest in 2026, this series gave us space to reflect on what has always mattered most: people stepping forward with care, creativity, and commitment to neighbors they may never meet.

We are deeply grateful to Tia Aagesen, Dan Fox, Kyla Brittain, and Brian Piñon for sharing their thoughts and experiences so openly and eloquently. Their reflections remind us that Winter Harvest was never just a single event—it was a way of showing up.

If you haven't yet—or would like to revisit them—we invite you to watch the full Winter Harvest Reflection series on our blog or YouTube channel.



Thank you for being part of this community, for honoring the past with us, and for continuing to walk alongside PADS of Elgin as this work carries forward.

To watch the full Winter Harvest Reflection series,

PADS OF ELGIN

The choreography may change...
But our commitment to the mission remains the same.

 **CLICK HERE**

A Partnership Opportunity in our Community



KENDRA
SCOTT



*Elgin PADS Signature Give Back
Piece*

*Elisa Pendant with a Cobalt
Cats Eye Stone*

*From February 8-
15, shop with
Kendra Scott and
support Elgin PADS
at the same time.*

*Del 8 al 15 de
febrero, al comprar
en Kendra Scott,
estarás apoyando
directamente a
Elgin PADS.*

This Valentine's season, choose a gift that gives back.

20% of Kendra Scott purchases during this give-back week will support Elgin PADS, helping provide shelter, meals, and relationship-centered care for neighbors in our community.

Whether you're shopping for someone you love—or treating yourself—your purchase helps spread care beyond the moment.

Shop online: kendrascott.com

Code: GIVEBACK-LBRJM

**Or visit the Naperville store:
55 S Main St., Suite 111**

Thank you for sharing the love with our community.

Impact in Action: 2024–2025 Annual Report

OUR IMPACT



137

guests sheltered
including 21 children



12,397

nights of shelter



37,190

meals served



38

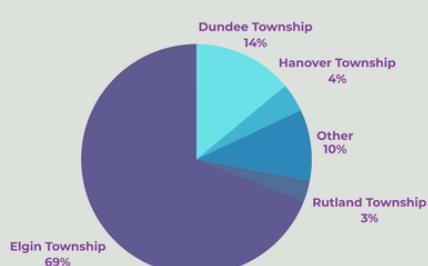
guests housed



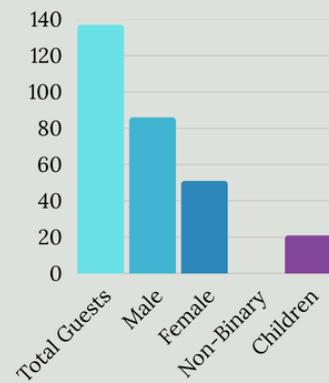
3,205

outreach meals
served

OUR SERVICE AREA



OUR DEMOGRAPHICS



537 volunteers donated 1130.75 hours for a total dollar value of \$37,868.82.

3 | 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025 marked a pivotal moment for PADS of Elgin.

As the year closed, the COVID-era federal funding that had supported emergency shelter and outreach efforts ended, without comparable replacement funding. At the same time, the need in our community did not diminish. More individuals and families remained unsheltered, and the complexity of their needs continued to grow.

Y25 reminded us that emergency services cannot rely on temporary solutions. They require durable systems, transparent stewardship, and a community willing to show up when higher-level support disappears.

Read the full 2024–2025 Annual Report

CLICK HERE



Because of you, PADS remains a place of stability where people are met as human beings first, and where the path from crisis to possibility remains open.