



# 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.*



## MARCH 2026 IN THIS ISSUE:

- A YEAR OF STABILITY
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- GRATITUDE TO COCA-COLA
- HOW YOU CAN HELP



## One Year of Leadership. A Year of Impact.

On February 18th, we marked one year since introducing Katie Shaw Thompson as Executive Director of PADS of Elgin. That announcement became the most-viewed Facebook post in our history – a sign that our community was paying attention.

In FY25, PADS of Elgin provided 12,397 nights of shelter, served 37,190 meals, delivered 3,205 outreach meals, helped 38 neighbors move into housing, and strengthened partnerships across Elgin, Dundee, Hanover, and Rutland Townships.

Since July 2025, we have already helped 28 guests move into housing, putting us on track to nearly double last fiscal year’s total.

Because of this community, these numbers represent more than services. They represent bridges to stability for neighbors working toward home.

**Read the FY24-25 Annual Report:**  
<https://bit.ly/4bjCqM>



# Something Beautiful is Coming in June

Spring weather may be a little unpredictable, but we're already dreaming about gardens, teapots, and community.

On Sunday, June 7 (11 AM – 2 PM), we'll gather for **A Garden Party Benefiting PADS of Elgin, honoring the legacy of Theresa Nollette** and supporting the work happening every day at PADS: providing shelter, meals, case management, and pathways to housing for neighbors working toward stability. Guests will enjoy brunch, raffle prizes, and a live auction featuring artwork from local artists.

As we prepare, we're still looking for a few community partners to help make the event bloom:

- Donations of teapots to use as garden-themed centerpieces
- Local artists willing to donate artwork for the auction
- Event sponsors
- Guests ready to join us for a beautiful afternoon

Get tickets: <https://padsofelgin.org/upcoming-events>

Prefer to register by phone? 847-608-9744

*We hope you'll join us for a Sunday that blooms with purpose.*



We're grateful to the team at Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling in West Dundee for organizing a donation drive to support our neighbors at PADS of Elgin.

Because of their generosity, our shelves are now stocked with essential household items like paper towels, bath tissue, and other everyday necessities that help us provide comfort, dignity, and stability to the individuals and families staying at the shelter.

Moments like this show how community support turns everyday items into real stability for our neighbors.

If you've ever wondered how to help, donation drives like this are one simple way people in our community make a difference.



# Final 100-Day Countdown to the Fox Trot : The countdown is on!

It's almost time for the 49th Annual Elgin Valley Fox Trot, and this year is especially exciting for PADS of Elgin — it's our first year participating as an official benefactor of this beloved Elgin tradition.

We won't be hosting our annual Home Run 5K this year, so the Fox Trot is a wonderful opportunity to still get out, race, and give back to PADS.



**Choose your distance: 10 Mile, 5K, or 2K**  
**Save 10% on 10 mile or 5K with code: PADS26**  
2K walk and youth already receive discounted pricing



We also need at least 12 volunteers to help support race day. Contact Angie at [adeleon@padsfelgin.org](mailto:adeleon@padsfelgin.org) for more information on volunteering.

Register for the race here: <https://elginfoxtrot.org/>

## Rest with Purpose

### What if taking time to rest could also create impact?

Join us for a sound bath experience with Marshmallow Moon Sound Bath—an immersive meditation using crystal bowls, gongs, and chimes designed to calm the body and mind.

We're grateful to Marshmallow Moon for making PADS of Elgin the beneficiary of this special evening at The Haight.

When you attend, you're not only caring for yourself—you're supporting neighbors working toward stability and housing.

**[Click here to register!](#)**

April 15<sup>th</sup> at The Haight

MARSHMALLOW  
MOON  
SOUND BATH

Rest.  
Restore.  
Give Back.

Register here

# Celebrating Leadership in Our Community

We're proud to share that two leaders connected to PADS of Elgin have been nominated for the 2026 YWCA Leader Luncheon Awards.



*PADS of Elgin Leaders  
Nominated for  
2026 YWCA Leader  
Luncheon Awards*



*Kristal Thompson  
nominated for  
PUBLIC SERVICE*



*Jen Keller  
nominated for  
SOCIAL SERVICE*

We're proud to celebrate Jen and Kristal and all of the incredible nominees who are helping to strengthen the Elgin community.



Kristal Thompson, PADS of Elgin Board Member, has also been recognized for her leadership and impact in the Elgin community.

Jen Keller, our Development Manager, has been nominated in the Social Service category, recognizing her work supporting individuals and families on their path toward stability and housing.

We also want to celebrate all of this year's nominees. Elgin is filled with remarkable leaders who show up every day to strengthen our community, and this recognition reflects the collective impact happening across our region.

At PADS, we often talk about investing in relationships—and Jen and Kristal embody that work in action. Through leadership, compassion, and commitment, they help build the bridge from crisis to stability for our neighbors.

We're grateful to be part of a community where this kind of leadership is recognized and celebrated.

**Learn more about the Leader Luncheon:**  
<https://www.ywcaelgin.org/leaderluncheon>