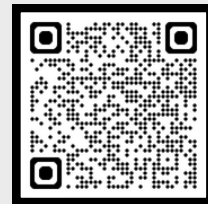




The Way Home Newsletter

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



APRIL 2026 IN THIS ISSUE:

- **BED FRAME DRIVE UPDATE**
- **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH**
- **HOW YOU CAN HELP**
- **UPCOMING EVENTS**



Thank You For Helping Them Dream

At PADS of Elgin, we often talk about stability, dignity, and rest—but sometimes, the simplest changes make the biggest difference.

For many of our guests, coming into shelter requires trust and vulnerability. While we’ve always provided clean, comfortable mattresses, they’ve traditionally been placed on the floor—something that can be physically uncomfortable and emotionally discouraging.

That’s why we launched our bed frame initiative and, with the support of our community, we raised \$5,000 to combine with funds we received from an IDHS grant, to purchase 30 twin bed frames – transforming our sleeping spaces into something that feels more like a place to rest.

Because of you, our guests now have more than just a place to sleep. They have a space that supports reminds them they deserve comfort while they rebuild.

Thank you for being part of that change.....

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • LAUDERDALE ELECTRIC | • WANDA | • DAN & KAREN FOX |
| • CHERYL GRAY | • WALTER KOPP | • JIM & TERRI HALVERSON |
| • THE FAMILY OF JOHN F. EARLY | • SHIRLEY MAY BYRNES | • SCOTT & BUNKY NORDLUND |
| • DICK POND - ST. CHARLES | • RAPHAEL JABBAR | • SACHEDINA FAMILY |
| • JIM & RITA CORBETT | • GARRICK BALK | • J. NICHOLAS SISLER |
| • JEAN TROFIMUK | • TOM ARMSTRONG | • JENN EVENSEN |
| • HENDRICKS WEALTH & ESTATE MANAGEMENT | • JOANN STINGLEY | • MARY DELONG |
| | • JABBAR FAMILY | |
| | • CUSTOM ALUMINUM PRODUCTS | |



April is Volunteer Appreciation Month—a time to recognize the people who make this work possible.

At PADS of Elgin, volunteers aren't just part of what we do—they are how we do it.

Every day, meals are prepared and shared. Linens are cleaned and reset. Donations are picked up and distributed. Volunteers are welcomed, scheduled, and supported. These things don't happen by accident—they happen because people in our community choose to show up.

People like Sandy, whose decision to act became a steady role helping with laundry—creating a space that feels clean, comfortable, and dignified.

People like Donna and Brad, who turned a conversation about food waste into a multi-site food rescue effort that supports our daily meal program.

People like Angie, who first connected as a meal donor in 2018 and now helps coordinate volunteers and ensure our guests are served three meals a day—including 365 dinners a year provided by our community.



That's 365 nights a year that someone is thinking about PADS—and choosing to show up.

And sometimes, it starts even earlier. As a high school student, our Development Manager Jen volunteered at a shelter with her friend Heather. Decades later, Heather returned with her family to serve a meal—and by the end of the night, the kids were already asking when they could come back.

Because at PADS, there is no single way to make a difference and no single person to take that work on – it takes a village.

Read the full stories: www.padsfelgin.org/blog

From Shelter to Home: Help Us Build Move- Out Baskets

At PADS of Elgin, moving into stable housing is more than a milestone—it's the beginning of a new chapter.

As guests transition out of shelter, we provide move-out baskets filled with essential household items to help them settle in with dignity from day one. These baskets turn an empty apartment into something that feels like home.

Right now, six guests have either moved—or are in the process of moving—into housing, and we're working to make sure each of them has what they need. With your help, we're hoping to build four more baskets.

These are simple items—but they make a meaningful difference. They support cleanliness, comfort, and stability during a major life transition.

If you're able to contribute one item—or a full basket—you're helping someone take the next step not just into housing, but into home.



Interested in donating? Contact us or visit our website to learn more.



Each basket includes:

- Laundry basket
- Silverware set & tray
- Dish soap
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Toilet brush
- Plunger
- 2 bath towels
- 2 washcloths
- 2 hand towels
- 2 kitchen towels
- Kitchen sponge
- Bed pillow



How Can I Help?

Monthly donations give us the ability to focus on what matters most—providing transportation, shelter, meals, and support as our guests work toward stability.



\$12 /month

3 bus passes



\$45 /month

1 night of shelter



\$160 /month

1 week of groceries



\$300 /month

10 hours of Case Management

<https://padsofelgin.org/donate/>

Get involved with **PADS OF ELGIN**

- ✓ **ATTEND OR SPONSOR AN EVENT**
- ✓ **PROVIDE DINNER ONCE A MONTH**
- ✓ **JOIN OUR MONTHLY GIVING TEAM**
- ✓ **ORGANIZE A DONATION DRIVE**
- ✓ **PARTICIPATE IN A SERVICE DAY**
- ✓ **SERVE A MEAL IN THE SHELTER**
- ✓ **BECOME AN EVENT VOLUNTEER**
- ✓ **DONATE BREAKFAST MONTHLY**
- ✓ **SHARE EVENT LEFTOVERS**
- ✓ **SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER**

SCAN



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
VISIT WWW.PADSOFELGIN.ORG
CALL 847-608-9744
EMAIL: INFO@PADSOFELGIN.ORG



TOGETHER WE CAN END HOMELESSNESS.

EVENTS SCHEDULE



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND, VOLUNTEER, AND/OR SPONSOR

**SUN
5/31**

ELGIN FOX TROT

PADS of Elgin is a charity partner for this iconic race. Opportunity to donate to PADS or volunteer.



Race



Volunteer

**SUN
6/7**

A GARDEN PARTY

Join us for brunch, an Executive Director update, live art auction, and raffle prizes.



Attend



Volunteer

**TUES
8/4**

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

2nd Annual FREE Celebration of Community
PADS of Elgin, 1730 Berkley Street



Volunteer

**THUR
9/10**

HOPS FOR HOMES

4th Annual Oktoberfest
Plank Road Tap Room, Elgin



Attend

For more information:



www.padsfelgin.org

Together we CAN end homelessness.