



# It Takes A Village: Sandy's Quiet Care

## **Dear PADS of Elgin Family,**

As we continue celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Month, I want to take a moment to recognize one of our most consistent volunteers – Sandy Ufland.

Years ago, around Valentine's Day, Sandy found herself thinking about women who rebuilding after divorce or after being forced from their homes by violence. She wanted them to know they weren't alone. She wanted them to know they were loved. So, she did something about it.

Through the Women of the Moose, Sandy began organizing Valentine's bath baskets for women at local shelters—small, thoughtful items that say you matter at a time of year that can feel especially heavy. Then came an email from PADS.

It was a call for meal donations. PADS relies on volunteers to provide 365 dinners a year, and those meals account for a significant portion of volunteer hours across the organization. In Sandy's own words, "I don't have the food or the capability for cooking," but in that same message, there was another need—laundry.

Sandy didn't hesitate -- "I can do that." And just like that, she found her place.

Today, Sandy's consistent assistance is part of the rhythm of care at PADS. Every Tuesday morning, she shows up – and has for years. She is a regular face in the office and even sits in on the daily staff meeting.

It's not the kind of role most people see—there's no spotlight on folded sheets or freshly cleaned linens—but it matters deeply. Every load of laundry supports something bigger: rest, dignity, and a space that feels a little more like home.

For Sandy, the reason is simple.

"I want to do this because ... part of our faith is reaching out to other people," she said.

So, she shows up—week after week—doing what she can.

"It's my pleasure to be here," she says. "I love you all here too. It's a home. It's just wonderful here."

And that's what makes the difference. A place becomes a home through people—people who notice, who care, and who find their own way to contribute.

That's the village at work.

Ready to join us? Explore our volunteer opportunities at <https://padsofelgin.org/volunteer/>

Thank you for believing in our mission to empower people and families toward self-sufficiency. You make it possible.

With gratitude,



Catie Early  
Development and Grants Coordinator, PADS of Elgin

**P.S. Looking to make a monetary donation?  
Here's the link for that:  
[Donate | PADS of Elgin](#)**

