



It Takes A Village: Angie's Circle of Care

Dear PADS of Elgin Family,

As we close out our Volunteer Appreciation Month story series, I want to introduce you to someone who helps make all of it possible – our Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager, Angie. In 2018, she connected with PADS the way many volunteers do: she heard about a need and decided she could help. She was between jobs when a board member spoke at the Moose Lodge, and her thought was simple: I can feed 40 people once a month. So she and her sister got to work – crockpots going all day, shredded pork, mashed potatoes, gravy. They had it down to a science.

On her first visit, Angie recognized familiar faces among the guests – people she had known earlier in life. It made the work personal in a whole new way. Not long after, she saw an open position at PADS, applied, and started just two days later. She’s been building the program ever since.

Today, Angie is often the first person a new volunteer meets – answering emails, coordinating schedules, and helping ensure our guests receive three meals a day, with 365 dinners a year donated by individuals, organizations, and businesses. That’s 365 nights a year that someone in this community is choosing to show up, and Angie is the one holding all of those moving pieces together.

Throughout this month, you’ve met volunteers like Heather, Sandy, and Donna & Brad – each with a different story, but all connected by one simple choice: to show up. When I asked Angie what makes a great volunteer, her answer was simple: someone who communicates, someone reliable, someone who shows up – and lets her know when they can’t. Someone who sees a need and takes care of it. Just like Angie.

And to every volunteer who has ever sent Angie an email, signed in at the front desk, or shown up on a Tuesday night – you are part of what she’s built here, and we are so grateful for you.

Every story you’ve read this month started the same way: someone chose to show up. You can too.

Explore volunteer opportunities: <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,



Development & Grants Coordinator

**P.S. Looking to make a monetary donation?
Here's the link for that:
www.padsofelgin.org/donate**

**To read all of the stories in their entirety, head to our blog:
www.padsofelgin.org/blog**



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Celebrating Volunteer
Appreciation Month**