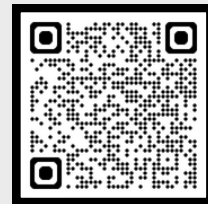




The Way Home Newsletter

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



MAY 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **STAKEHOLDER MEETING**
- **LORDS PARK ELEMENTARY**
- **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Homelessness Is Never Just About Housing

On Tuesday, May 19th, PADS of Elgin gathered community stakeholders at First Congregational Church of Dundee for an honest, hopeful conversation about where we've been, where we're headed, and what it will take to get there.

The evening began with a story: A woman came to our shelter after fleeing domestic violence. Before finding safety, she had spent several days alone in the woods.

Over time, her bruises healed. She found work. She found stability. And she found community — people who checked on her, who noticed when she was struggling, who reminded her she still mattered. Before moving into her own apartment, she told us she would miss the community she found inside the shelter.

Her story captures something essential: homelessness is never just about housing. It is about safety, stability, trauma, healing, and whether people believe they still matter.

And yet the housing crisis is real. More than 1,700 people experienced homelessness in Kane County last year, against a rental vacancy rate hovering around 1%.



Photo credit: Steve Kroiss

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The goal at PADS of Elgin is not to manage homelessness indefinitely – it is to make it rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Our Path to Sustainability runs through three things: diverse funding streams, evolving programming, and strong partnerships. We shared honestly what that requires – and we celebrated what we've already built, including the news that for the first time in our history, guests at PADS are sleeping in beds with real bed frames.



Ready to be part of what comes next? Become a monthly donor. Introduce us to your networks. Invite us into the conversation. It takes all of us.

Want to hear the full address? 

[CLICK HERE](#)

Watch the recording here:

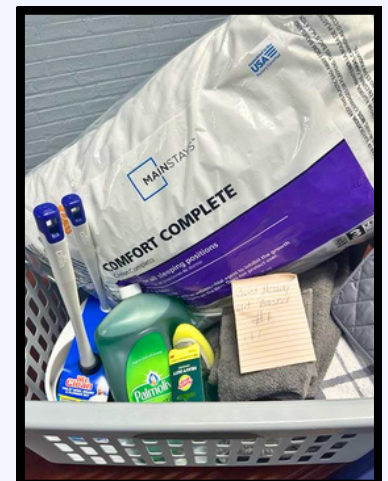
<https://www.youtube.com/live/z6ORb2PtfZI>

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

Each basket includes:

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

 [CLICK HERE](#)



INTERESTED IN DONATING?

CONTACT US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE.

Lords Park Elementary Shows the True Power of Community

We talk a lot about the power of community – and moments like this remind us what that truly looks like.

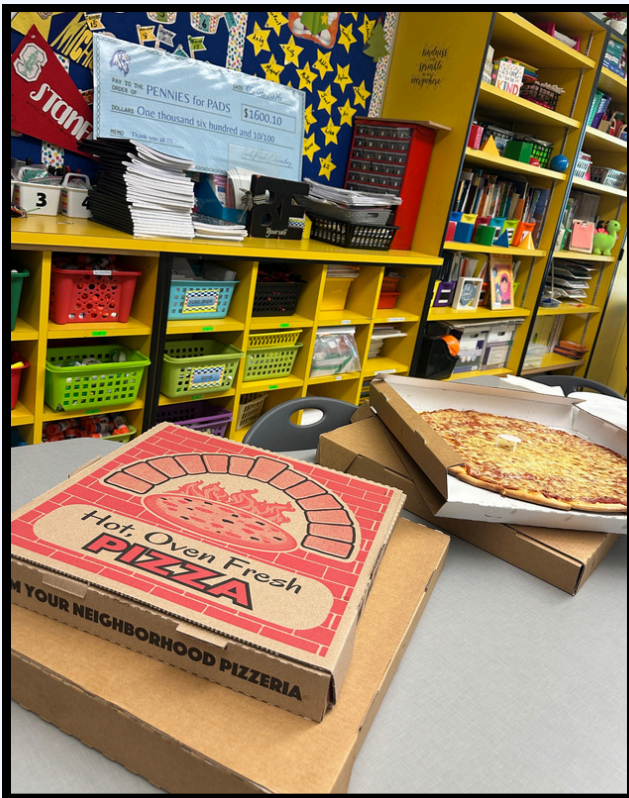
Recently, Lords Park Elementary School, led by Sharon Berger and the Student Council, presented PADS of Elgin with nearly \$1,600 raised during their annual “Pennies for PADS” fundraiser. Even after the fundraiser officially ended, students and families continued bringing in extra change and donations because they understood the need and wanted to help.



That simple bag of extra coins meant more than words can express. It reminded us that generosity is not just being taught at Lords Park – it’s being lived out every day.

One classroom alone raised nearly \$500, earning a pizza party celebration with PADS of Elgin. Thank you as well to Geno Nottalini’s for generously helping make the celebration possible.

To the students, families, teachers, and staff at Lords Park Elementary: thank you for showing our community what compassion in action looks like. Your kindness is making a real difference.



Do you have a group, school, scout troop, church, or organization that would like to host a donation drive or fundraiser for PADS of Elgin? We would love to partner with you! Contact Catie Early at cearly@padsofelgin.org to learn more!

Last Chance for Tickets to A Garden Party

Join us Sunday, June 7th as we honor the artistic legacy of Theresa Nollette and celebrate the way creativity can bring people together, spark connection, and leave a lasting impact.

Guests will enjoy a gourmet brunch, local art up for auction, meaningful conversation, and time with a community that cares deeply about our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Only a few tickets remain – we'd love to see you there!

🌿 Tickets & sponsorships:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/agardenparty/event/agardenparty2026/>

Thank you to our sponsors:

Garden of Hope Sponsorship



Garden of Grace Sponsorship



Community Foundations



Bed of Kindness Sponsorship



Seeds of Shelter Sponsorship



Centerpiece Sponsor



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

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/>