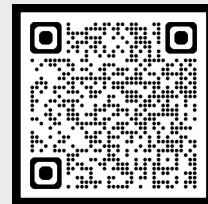




The Way Home Newsletter

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



JUNE 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **GARDEN PARTY**
- **CFFRV GRANT AWARD**
- **UPCOMING MAILING FROM PADS OF ELGIN**
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A Garden Party Blooms Into More Than \$16,000 for PADS



On June 7, friends, artists, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters gathered at **Gather** in Pingree Grove for PADS of Elgin's first-ever garden party fundraiser **honoring the artistic legacy of Theresa Nollette**. Art and community came together



Katie Shaw Thompson with Senator Cristina Castro

in support of our neighbors. **The event raised more than \$16,000 to directly support shelter, meals, case management, outreach, transportation, and housing-focused services at PADS of Elgin.**



Kristal Thompson with Catie Early

Photo credits: James Harvey & Korisa Mayadag

One of the most meaningful moments of the afternoon came when **Kristal Thompson** shared her story and spoke with honesty, compassion, and deep belief in the mission of PADS. The generosity that followed during the paddle raise was a powerful reminder of what happens when people come together around a shared purpose. To every sponsor, artist, auction donor, raffle contributor, volunteer, attendee, and supporter: **thank you.**

You helped cultivate hope.

A \$10,000 Investment in Dignity

PADS of Elgin is grateful to share that we have been approved for a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley to support renovations in our lobby and front office areas.

These spaces are some of the first places people encounter when they come to PADS. They are where guests check in, outreach visitors ask for help, community members drop off donations, and staff begin connecting people to the support they need.



PADS OF ELGIN
DROP-IN LOBBY
A place to refuel, recharge, and reconnect

Open daily to our entire community
7:00 AM - 9:30 PM

1730 Berkley Street
Elgin, IL 60123

- ✓ Breakfast 7:00 - 9:00 AM
- ✓ Lunch 12:00 - 1:00 PM
- ✓ Dinner 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- ✓ Snacks, when available
- ✓ Clothing/ Hygiene Products
- ✓ Free Wifi Access

For more info: **847-608-9744**
Visit us: info@padsfelgin.org

From July 2025 through June 2026, PADS recorded 3,129 lobby outreach visits.

That means thousands of moments where someone came through our doors for a meal, clothing, hygiene items, water, information, or connection to resources.

This funding will help us make meaningful improvements that support safety, dignity, accessibility, and day-to-day operations. Renovations to the lobby and front office will help create a more welcoming, functional space for the people we serve and the staff who support them.

We are deeply grateful to the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley for investing in the work of PADS of Elgin and helping us care for our space in a way that reflects the dignity of every person who walks through our doors.

We are pleased to be working with local business Rieke Office Interiors on this project. Their partnership will help us make thoughtful updates to a space that serves guests, outreach visitors, staff, donors, volunteers, and community members every day. While this grant is an important step forward, we would love to see even more community involvement as the project moves ahead. Anyone interested in learning more, asking questions, or supporting this effort is encouraged to contact the shelter.



Coming Soon to a Mailbox Near You!

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This month, **2,473 letters** were stuffed, sealed, and stamped right here inside our shelter.

Each envelope spent a short time in the same building where our guests sleep, eat, meet with case managers, and work toward stability. These letters are more than mail. They are an invitation to become part of the steady, everyday support that keeps PADS of Elgin moving forward.

This mailing focuses on monthly giving, one of the most meaningful ways to support our mission because small gifts, given consistently, can create lasting impact. A gift of **\$5 a month** may feel simple, but **if each person receiving this letter made that commitment for one year, it would add up to \$148,380** for shelter, meals, outreach, transportation, case management, and housing-focused services.

That is the power of monthly giving: it turns everyday generosity into reliable support our guests and outreach visitors can count on.

The letter also coincides with an email campaign where you can read personal stories from community members about why they chose monthly giving as the best way for them to support PADS. Their reasons are different, but the heart behind them is the same: a belief that our neighbors deserve safety, dignity, and support not just once, but every day.

When your letter arrives, we hope you'll take a moment to read it and consider becoming a monthly donor.

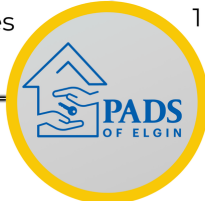
You can also follow along with the email campaign to hear directly from others who have made monthly giving part of how they care for this community.

More information about monthly giving is available on our website. You can also contact Catie Early at 847-608-9744 or cearly@padsofelgin.org to learn more.

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/>



Community Connections with PADS of Elgin

June was also a month of showing up, building relationships, and sharing the mission of PADS of Elgin across our community.



PADS was proud to participate in the **Elgin Pride Parade**, celebrating a community where everyone deserves safety, dignity, and belonging. Thank you to everyone who supported our t-shirt fundraiser, which raised \$70 for PADS of Elgin.



Catie also had the opportunity to visit the Elgin **Golden K Kiwanis** to share more about the work happening at PADS, answer questions, and talk about the many ways community members can support our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

If you are part of a workplace or community group that would like to learn more about PADS, we would be happy to bring a presentation to you. Contact Catie at cearly@padsofelgin.org for more information.



This month also included time with regional leaders and partners at the Carpentersville, East Dundee, West Dundee, and Gilberts **Mayors Breakfast**, as well as connection and conversation at the **Elgin Hispanic Network Picnic**.



Each of these moments matters. When PADS is present in the community, we are not only sharing information – we are building the relationships that make this work possible. Strong partnerships help connect people to resources, open new doors for collaboration, and remind our neighbors that they are not facing a crisis alone.

Upcoming: Eat Good, Do Good at Panera

Support PADS of Elgin at Panera Bread in South Elgin on Monday, July 6, 2026

All day, **30% of sales** will be donated back to PADS.

Panera Bread, 369 Randall Road, South Elgin, IL 60177

Stop by for breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee, or a treat!

