Dear Friend,

The best day at PADS is the day someone leaves.

It is the day a guest signs a lease, carries their belongings through a new front door, and sleeps in a bed that is truly their own. It is a day we are ecstatic about their success and also sad to say goodbye. Last year, we celebrated that day 39 times.

PADS OF ELGIN
1730 Berkley Street
Elgin, Illinois 60123



In all, this tiny shelter served 106 people, providing more than 11,000 nights of safety, and more than 40,000 meals. And for 39 of our guests, their time at PADS ended with a home of their own. We accomplished that with fewer staff and fewer beds—and helped one more person into housing than the year before.

Among those housed were three young adults exiting the foster care system, a woman who fled domestic violence and spent three days alone in the woods, and a veteran who served our country honorably but had nowhere else to go. Today, all of them are housed.

Thirty-nine best days are worth celebrating. But we want more.

This December, guests aged 4 to 80 are spending the holidays at PADS. They will not be sleeping outside, in a car, or somewhere unsafe. They will have a warm bed, nourishing meals, and people working beside them toward what comes next. That matters enormously. But shelter is not the destination. Our hope is that soon they will fall asleep in beds of their own and in homes their families can sustain. They could be among our next best days.

Your year-end gift keeps our neighbors safe tonight and helps them find their way home. Donors like you made 39 best days possible last year. **Please give today and help us create even more best days in the year ahead.**

With gratitude,

Katie Shaw Thompson
Executive Director

P.S. Please join us this winter for The Best Day, a fundraising celebration of every guest who finds their way home! Watch for more details soon.

All guest photos and stories are shared with their express permission.

FY2026 impact



11,393
nights of shelter

3,129
outreach visits





40,000
meals served



39
guests housed



106
guests sheltered including children

PADS of Elgin's mission is to respectfully and compassionately empower persons and families who are in need of housing to become self-sustaining by providing shelter, needed services and professional guidance.

PADS OF ELGIN