

Moments at



Providing Shelter for those in need

August 2010

Please visit us at www.ivpads.com to learn more about the renovations and take a video tour of our Ottawa shelter. Also, view a video about our programs and learn how we are leading by example and creating revenue to support our programs with our new Lily Pads Resale boutique.



Moments of Appreciation

Thank you to all of our volunteers and shoppers who came to our 50% off fundraiser on Saturday, July 10 at Lily Pads Resale Boutique. We had a great day and many people who visited our store for the first time that day have been back to shop with us again!

Letter From PADS Executive Director

The recession has caused a crisis in many people's lives. We ended our service season in April having served more people than any other year in our eighteen year history. We served more family units and first time homeless individuals than ever before.

High unemployment and low paying replacement jobs are causing great stress and families are falling apart. As I write this letter I think about how homelessness is like the storms that have hit our area this summer. After a recent storm we saw trees on roofs, telephone poles snapped in two, and items in places that they normally would not have been. As I think of those families and individuals who have become homeless, I think of how their life may have been like that beautiful tree. The winds of financial difficulties, depression, strife, and hopelessness knock them down and crisis begins.

Where can the disenfranchised go for help? Who will be there to listen? How do we begin to repair the lives of those who are struggling? Illinois Valley PADS is engaged in trying to meet these needs. We work with the homeless through a structured program to find resources to meet their underlying needs while providing emergency housing. You can see how we have helped last year by going to our website: www.ivpads.com. We begin a new season of service in October and will increase our service by 4 hours each day by opening at 5pm and closing at 9am. With God's help and your assistance we will continue to care for those in need.

Carol Alcorn,
Executive Director Illinois Valley PADS

Up To the Moment

During our 2009-2010 season we served 206 individuals, of whom 92% were local residents occupied our 52 beds staying either in the Peru or Ottawa shelters. We served over 8500 meals and provided 8091 referrals to local resources for assistance such as medical, legal, emotional needs in many cases. One client earned his GED. We assisted in finding 39 jobs and helped 92 people into permanent housing. We saw a slight increase in the individuals who are veterans. Due to the economy, we are planning for an equally busy season starting in October 2010.

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This summer we are working to improve our Ottawa facility by building a much needed larger bathroom for the men. We are adding wall partitions in Peru for better use of space and privacy.

Sometimes the "Success Stories" just aren't that big a deal! Often, the quality of success is just the same as the quality of happiness; it only appears in moments, and it's up to us to savor those moments to buffer us in the storms of failure and despair. We have MANY of those MOMENTS at PADS.



Inside Moments...

At PADS, our volunteers are angels who help our clients through their darkest days. Below is a story from a family who has found serving the homeless over the years to be a rewarding family activity.

Nineteen years ago Tom and I and our daughters Kayte (8) and Tricia (5) pulled up to St. Johns Lutheran Church in Peru to report to our first night of helping the Homeless. Tricia saw the guests waiting outside to be let in from the cold. She asked "What is in that bag over his shoulder?" We told her they were his belongings.

She replied "Boy if I had to carry around all my stuff I'd need a wagon to pull it!" Out of the mouths of babes! We have so much to give of our time, talent, & treasure, but do we?

We continue to volunteer helping God's people to help us see Him in each guest we meet.

We now bring our grandsons Hunter (8) & Chase (5) to help out at the shelter. On Hunter's first experience at the shelter there was a guest his age. It was awesome seeing them play together.

Even more of a Godsend was when Hunter took some

of his Christmas money and asked if he could buy food gift certificates for his "friends" at the shelter! Our family feels so blessed to be a part of helping those in need.

-Pam Destri

Quote: Love gives me a vision of all that the client can be with what God has given him/her.

Did you know that Lily Pads Resale Boutique takes donations of clothing, furniture and home items? ALL of the proceeds raised in Lily Pads benefits our community.

Are you interested in volunteering at Lily Pads or the Peru or Ottawa Shelter? Go to our website www.ivpads.com. You can fill out an application after reading our handbook. Financial contributions to support our programs can be given through our Pay Pal donation process.

Success Stories of the Moment...

Several years ago, the Illinois River flooded along with the I & M Canal. A man had been living in a tent on the canal most of the summer. He came to us because we were partnering with the Red Cross as an emergency shelter. He is a veteran so we partnered with the VA. He was able to get into a rehab program in southern Illinois and then returned to us. He has been sober for over a

year, is working and has his own apartment. We are truly exited for him.

A couple lost their home due to the loss of a job. They were very stressed and always communicated that they never thought this would happen to them. They stayed several months until they found employment and housing.

Another lady finally went through rehab after many years in and out of our program. She and her boyfriend went to another shelter in New Orleans where he found work. They are still there and we hear that they are doing well.

We provided funding for parenting classes for a young single mother through Catholic Charities. We wish all the opportunities to help had turned out so well.