



Providing Shelter for those in need

Moments at

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



Moments of Warmth

Thank you to the many organizations, schools and churches who had coat drives this winter. Coats were given to clients, given to people from our area who had vouchers from churches or local agencies, or sold at our new Lily Pads Resale Boutique to help fund services within the shelter program.

Letter From PADS Executive Director

The Haiti earthquake was devastating to the people of Haiti and their situation is dire. Our prayers are with them. This catastrophic event has brought the plight of the homeless to news headlines this last couple of weeks. These tragic images and stories are dramatic, but it is important to remember that homelessness is not only a circumstance of the victims of the earthquake but also a reality for many people here in our local community. This year at our shelters in Ottawa and Peru, we have found an increase in clients who have become homeless for the first time due to loss of job and housing. The economic situation is making the American dream harder to hold on to. We are seeing more married couples who have recently lost everything and need our help to start over. Jobs are much harder to find and the competition is greater. Some of our clients have marketable skills and some do not. Some have been able to find only part-time jobs which provide insufficient income for housing. Many of these clients are on waiting lists for public housing. Some of our clients also have physical and mental challenges. Our staff members assist in finding resources to help them overcome these challenges and get them back to an independent life style. All of this is just a part of the wonderful work that are staff is able to accomplish with the volunteer assistance from many in our communities. We would not exist to provide this needed service to those in crisis if you did not support us. We are grateful for the material and financial gifts we receive every day.

Carol Alcorn,
Executive Director Illinois Valley PADS

Up to the Moment...

In the three short months between October 1 and December 31, PADS has served 103 individuals of which 9 were children. Since January 1, 2010 we have registered 20 more new clients. Over the winter of 2008-09 PADS served 188 individuals, 92.5% of them were local. There have been many nights when all 52 beds have been

full and additional cots are being used to meet the need of our clients. We have worked diligently to provide referrals to resources for clients who have additional needs. Two clients were counseled in rehab for substance abuse. Two clients were referred to mental health facilities. Nine clients were assisted in finding housing other

than moving back in with family or friends. Nine clients are veterans and the VA programs have been very helpful in serving them. We have aided clients in finding jobs and in securing new housing. We are moving many out to other shelters or to relatives in other areas to find jobs.

ILLINOIS VALLEY PADS

1320 Menards Drive
Peru, IL 61354
(815) 224-3047

1120 Canal Street
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 433-1292

www.ivpads.com

The Nine Patch Quilters have donated a beautiful quilt for us to raffle at Lily Pads as a fund raiser. Stop in Lily Pads Resale Boutique to see the quilt and buy a chance to win the quilt. We will draw the winner on Valentines Day.

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...

We have just passed through the Christmas season and for many of our clients, this has been the first time in their adult lives that they were not in control of their celebration. Instead of baking cookies, shopping for loved ones or participating in long held traditions, they found themselves homeless. For some, this has caused pain that they can hardly bear. A married couple with physical health is-

sues lost their housing due to their inability to pay the utilities. We provided showers for them most of the summer and then in the fall, they were evicted. They stayed with us a short while and now are in public housing they can afford. A young man who has recently separated from his wife and filed for divorce had no place to go until he could rearrange his life and income to provide for housing. He stayed with

us a little over a month before moving on to his own place. A young man who is unemployed and does not have enough to live on is staying with us while waiting to get called back or finding a new job.

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...

By Marion Schultz, PADS Staff Member

Early in our 2009-2010 season, we had a lady who had obvious mental issues along with a car that was no longer usable. We helped her by providing her with showers, guidance, and located someone to dispose of her vehicle. Then, when she returned from the shelter we sent her to, we helped her relocate to a residence near her daughter. She now has her belongings, self respect, and the support of her family.

We recently had a man in denial about the severity of his addiction to prescription medications. The long hours spent in trying to find him a rehab program were wasted as he would back out rather than leave the security of his drugs. He was non cooperative and out of control. Since he refused to comply with the shelter rules, we could not allow him to stay. It was then that he realized how badly he needed help. Since leaving out shelter, he has gone to rehab is now clean and doing well.

A Mother of several children was contentious and angry at us and everybody else in her world. One of our workers recognized that she was likely suffering from post-partum depression. We were able to refer her to a clinic where she received the medication and counseling help she needed. We were then able to help her obtain housing and the furnishings she needed to provide a real home for herself and her young children. We continue to receive reports that she is making good progress.