

June 2011

Issue 1

ILLINOIS VALLEY PADS

(Illinois Valley Public Action
to Deliver Shelter)

All About Us

Peru Shelter
1320 Menards Drive
815-224-3409

Ottawa Shelter
1120 Canal St.
815-433-1292

Lily Pads Resale Shop
4471 Progress Blvd.
Peru, IL
815-224-7970

Visit us at our website:
www.ivpads.com

You may also join us on Face
Book to see weekly specials
at Lily Pads, right click-open
link



or to see what is new this
week at the shelters, right
click- open link



HELP
FOR
TODAY.....

HOPE
FOR
TOMORROW.....

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE
IN YOUR COMMUNITIES
SINCE 1991

MOMENTS AT



Letter from the Executive Director

We have been serving our communities for twenty years. This is surprising to us because it has gone so quickly. We are grateful that we still exist to help those in crisis. We are grateful to all those who have worked hard to help us.

The years have come with struggles but we have persevered and gotten better just as we try to help those who arrive at our doors. The economy and other factors have changed for the better and worst over these 20 years while we have found the situations causing homeless change very little.

It is interesting to see how outside social-economic forces affect the amount of individuals and families experiencing the same issues at the same time. The total number of individuals helped and meals served continue to increase while the day to day work we provide has become more efficient and effective. We are not only ministering to the body but to the future of those who seek our assistance. We are grateful to all those who provide with us with financial and material support.

We will continue to make volunteer opportunities to partner with us as this is an integral part of our program. Let's look to the future and work to be an oasis in the desert of crisis in the lives of our community members in crisis.

Carol Alcorn

UP TO THE MOMENT

This season has been an incredible journey. The economy continues to wreak havoc on lives- especially those who are barely hanging on to normal. Below you will see some of the information about our work. The complete report will be placed on the website.

- 239 individuals served
- 13,133 meals provided
- 90% were local clients
- There were 15 children
- Beds were full 5, 932 times
- Veterans served- 19
- Referrals to local, state and federal services- 6,052
- Jobs found- 33
- Housing found- 65
- Treatment facilities found- 12
- GED-1
- Prescriptions filled- 33
- Job training- 4
- Nursing home-1
- Transportation 176
- Clothing given-761 times

The clients who come to us realize that they are the lucky ones because they have found "breathing space". They can regroup, rebuild, and re-energize before they make a new start. They find people who care and listen. They find a structured, safe place to begin. They find a community of support for their work of re-establishing their lives.

Inside Moments...

We are always working to improve our service to those in crisis. Last year we stayed open four extra hours each day. We found this to be very helpful in so many ways. We have sent staffing to training for all state and federal programs. We now understand these programs and can enroll clients in them at our shelters. We are building relationships with all social services in our area. We are currently working on life skills classes provided to our clients in the shelter. The classes we are going to begin with will be budgeting, computer and employment skills. This is an important and big step forward for our shelters. We are working on facilities, materials, equipment, and curriculum for these classes. This may be a new level for volunteers. Please share your interest with us about these new opportunities through our website.

Success Stories of the Moments...

When we are able to help some people overcome barriers to succeed, we rejoice. So it is with rejoicing that we share a few stories about our success.

- An elderly man who had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's was in the shelter for several years off and on. His condition was getting worse but we could not locate any family members to work with him to admit him to a nursing facility. Our staff worked through the many barriers with several local healthcare professionals to find a qualified nursing facility to accept him. He is safe and doing as well as can be expected. We still are looking for the family members.
- One client received his GED.
- A lady with no income and serious mental health issues arrived not being able to plan for her life. We are working through the Social Security Administration by applying for Disability due to her health conditions. We found help for her to find help for her rent and utilities until her claim is determined. Little by little, her "ducks are lining up in a row" and life is not looking quite as complicated and overwhelming.



Have some extra time on your hands, Lily Pads would love to have you volunteer and share your talents with them, or if you just love hidden treasure stop by and see what treasure you can find at Lily Pads.



Not sure how you can help the shelters and are interested in volunteering, go to the website www.ivpads.com, click on the "How can you Help" tab and check out the fulfilling possibilities that await you.

Are you interested in helping but just don't have any spare time to volunteer, you can always make a monetary donation by going to our website www.ivpads.com. We appreciate our volunteers and those who can also support our financial needs.