

January 2012

Issue 2

ILLINOIS VALLEY PADS

(Illinois Valley Public Action
to Deliver Shelter)

All About Us

Peru Shelter
1320 Menards Drive
815-224-3407

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

What is homelessness? The answer to this question remains both the same and also changes from year to year. The weak economy is the leading indicator causing increased loss of jobs, housing, and medical help. Due to new political requirements, agencies are not able to deliver services with past practices, so the prerequisites for individuals to be eligible have changed. Services are not found because of these changes or lack of funding at the agency.

We at PADS are still endeavoring to meet the need. This is our 21st year of service to our communities. Our staff and volunteers work in partnership to provide shelter, listen during case management, and make referrals to local resources. This is a daunting undertaking and our staff have my utmost respect for their efforts. Assessing the root need, finding local resources, and then sometimes providing the necessary motivation to utilize those resources is the work that we do everyday.

We are so appreciative for those who give to meet our needs as we provide a resource for those in crisis. Your increasing support of our resale store, Lily Pads, is a tremendous help to us. You can find great values there because you donate great items. Thank for donating supplies and volunteering your time at Lily Pads or either of the two shelters. If you are interested in volunteering, please go to our website and apply.

Looking forward to the good that is possible.

Carol Alcorn

UP TO THE MOMENT

Since opening on October 1, we have

- served 102 individuals
- 9 were children.
- 6 families using the shelter program
- Provided 5614 meals
- Made referrals and follow up contacts 5002 times.
- 4 are attending IVCC
- 2 are getting a GED

This year we have developed and begun a new program of Life Skills Classes.

Employment Skills:

One client has shared that he is filling out applications with a better attitude and skill. He is not intimidated by the process. We hope that this will proceed to employment and then housing.

Budgeting: One client wishes that he had this information from this class last year. He saw how he wasted his time and money by not having knowledge of credit and budgeting.

Computer: We are introducing clients to Microsoft Word and Excel programs. We anticipate that these skills will make them more employable since computers are integrated in almost all employment opportunities.

Inside Moments...

We have found that the successful outcome is not always the biggest deal. It is often the journey which includes some “AHA” moments. That is when all the dots come together and the client is clear about a new important life lesson. That can be a really big deal for them.

There was a man who found our services because of addiction to alcohol. Addictions affect about one third of our clients. This had left his life in shambles and depression was the result. We insisted that he attend AA and remain sober while with us. His sobriety opened his eyes to the state he was in. While visiting with staff in case management, we found he had a dream of a career. Staff encouraged and worked with him to obtain his GED and register for classes at IVCC in his chosen field. For the first time in years, he sees that he really has a future that can be better. He is going for the brass ring.

Success Stories of the Moments...

In every successful program there are rules and consequences. Our Do Not Admit list includes some individuals who have earned that consequence. There are those who return requesting a second chance. This is a story about one of those individuals.

This particular client had addiction and anger management issues. He had caused issues with staff and volunteers, and had services terminated. After a period of time, he came back to his family in the community and needed a place to stay again. He had been diagnosed with cancer. This had been his “AHA” moment. This brought clarity that his life is short, and he needed to make life changes. He stopped drinking, determined to work on his anger issues and step up to the plate for his son. He took cancer treatments, found a job and left us for his own housing. . He has become a reliable married partner in his son’s care. Today he is in remission and has become the man he needs to be for his family. He has established a relationship with God that he claims is a great support. While staying with us, we were amazed at the changes he has accomplished in attitude and deed. He apologized to every volunteer who had witnessed his previous behavior.

We helped him furnish his apartment. We also met his son. This previous angry man now has become a family man who shares that he could not have accomplished so much so fast had it not been for our services and caring staff. We choose to gamble on a second chance for this man who previously did not have much of a promising future. We took his word. It is wonderful to see him so happy and his son’s big smile is priceless. We have found that he is paying it forward. He is helping others in need. He returns to us for assistance in helping his neighbors.



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.