Opening doors.

Building futures.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS.
OUR SOLUTION

OUTREACH & Engagement

NEW IN 2012: The Street Outreach & Engagement (O&E) program targets individuals and families who have lost their housing and are living in places not meant for human habitation.

One year after launching the program in June 2012, we had engaged with 90 people who were unaware of, or unwilling to connect with, available services. 17 of them have been housed! By getting them off the street and linked to case management, the O&E team helps shift their focus from daily survival to the resolution of long-term needs.

SUPPORTIVE Services

Our day-time, year-round Support Center, located in Maywood, provides access to an array of resources for regaining stability.

Basic services include showers, laundry, clothing, computers and phones.

Case management focuses on clients’ income, health and housing needs, with the goal of reducing the length of their homelessness.

Life Skills programming covers a variety of topics related to interpersonal skills, self care, financial literacy, prevention and management of medical and mental health, and substance abuse treatment.

Homeless PREVENTION

The Homeless Prevention program prevents the loss of housing by providing:

One-time rental and/or utility assistance for individuals and families who are at imminent risk of losing their housing, or a security deposit and/or first month’s rent for individuals and families leaving homelessness.

“AfterCare” case management for PADS “graduates” to improve housing retention and prevent their return to homelessness.

EMERGENCY Services

Emergency services reduce the length of homelessness for our overnight shelter clients and help them work toward achieving and sustaining self-sufficiency.

The Emergency Shelter program provides an immediate, temporary crisis response for 40 to 70 homeless men, women and children every night from 7:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. at 10 rotating houses of worship - from mid-September through mid-May.

The Summer Transitional Shelter for up to 15 participants includes intensive case management, support group activities and life skills training, operating June-August.

EMPLOYMENT Readiness

The Employment Readiness program helps individuals increase their eligibility for sustainable employment.

One-on-one counseling addresses the root causes of clients’ job insecurity and provides coaching on topics such as “online job boards” and “preparing a resume.”

Career Passport is an intensive group program for participants who have made a commitment to identifying and resolving their long-term barriers to employment.

Supportive HOUSING

Interim Housing at the West Cook Y offers a bridge between the emergency shelter and stable housing for male clients who are participating in the Employment Readiness program or have an income. (10 units)

Rapid Re-Housing provides short-term financial assistance and services to quickly house those who are homeless. (20 units)

Transitional Housing is designed for working homeless individuals, veterans and families. (34 units)

Open Door Housing provides permanent supportive housing for individuals who are homeless and have a disabling condition. (13 units increasing to 80+ by 2016.)
2012 IMPACT

We opened our doors to 866 people in crisis.
130 children. 95 Veterans. 416 seriously disabled. 866 living below the poverty line.

125 received 15,430 nights of stable housing.

570 received 12,732 nights of safe shelter and 38,196 meals.

62 increased their income and gained employment readiness skills while participating in the Career Passport program.

40 received 12,732 nights of safe shelter and 38,196 meals.

325 worked with case managers to address income, employment & health issues.

138 households used “AfterCare” Services to avoid a return to homelessness.

50 of whom were linked to medical, mental health & addiction treatment services.

49 people living on the streets were outreached between June & December.

15 of whom moved into permanent housing.
Chris had years of experience as a heavy machinery operator but he lost his job to downsizing and found himself competing for fewer jobs with a larger pool of much younger, more tech-savvy candidates. PADS case managers helped him create a self-sufficiency plan emphasizing financial and computer literacy training, interview practice, and tools for accessing online job postings.

I was trying to find survival jobs with a poor resume. PADS helped me transform how I presented myself to potential employers, to set aside the stigma of homelessness, to target my dream career.

Within six months, Chris gained full-time skilled employment. He moved into PADS’ Interim Housing program at the West Cook Y while he was enrolled in the Career Passport program, then moved into PADS’ Transitional Housing after he began working full-time. Chris became a “PADS graduate” in November 2012.

Suzanne and her son lost almost everything when there was a fire in their apartment building. Suzanne’s medical assistant salary was not enough to cover the costs of starting over in a new place. She couldn’t afford a security deposit plus first and last month’s rent. She lacked the education and training to get a higher-paying job. She did not have a safety net of family and friends whom she could trust to care for her son. On a cold, rainy day in March, Suzanne and her pre-schooler son became officially homeless. They found food and safe shelter with PADS. Suzanne went to work every morning at six a.m.; her son went to kindergarten. PADS case managers for the Family Transitional Housing program helped Suzanne enroll in a two-year nursing program and set up a savings plan. Within two months, she had signed a lease for her very own two-bedroom apartment. On move-in day, a team of PADS volunteers donated and delivered furniture for all the rooms in Suzanne’s new home.

Today, she is contributing 30% of her monthly income toward her rent and paying her own utilities.

PADS gave us so much more than a home and hope for the future. PADS gave us back our dignity. For that, we will be forever grateful.

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One of PADS’ strengths is our comprehensive network of community, government and corporate partners that maximize resources available to clients. We partner with Access Community Health Network, Hines VA Hospital and Thrive Counseling Center for medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and with Community Economic Development Association and South Suburban PADS for transitional housing. Permanent Supportive Housing programs are offered in collaboration with Pillars, Thresholds, Thrive and Vital Bridges. Client referrals come through local municipalities, the Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry, Prevail, the Emergency Shelter, churches and social service agencies.

**Emergency & Summer Transitional Shelter Host Congregations:** Euclid United Methodist Church (Oak Park), Fair Oaks Presbyterian (Oak Park), First United Church of Oak Park, First United Methodist (Oak Park), Grace Episcopal Church (Oak Park), Oak Park Temple, Resurrection Lutheran Church (Franklin Park), St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church (Oak Park), St. Giles Catholic Church (Oak Park), St. John’s Lutheran (Forest Park), St. Mary of Celle Church (Berwyn), St. Paul Thai Lutheran (Forest Park), Unity Lutheran Church (Berwyn)
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FY 2012

To request a copy of our independent auditor’s report, please contact our Business Manager at (708) 338-1724 ext. 263.
We gratefully acknowledge ALL of the donors who make the work of West Suburban PADS possible.

The following list reflects total contributions made during 2012 (January 1 - December 31).

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- Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township
- Cook County Department of Planning & Development
- Corporation for National & Community Service (AmeriCorps)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Proviso Township Mental Health Commission
- Village of Oak Park
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
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