

January 20, 2021



A New Year Brings New Hope To IV PADS

The year 2020 was most challenging for us by all accounts. We made it through by prayer, social distancing, masks and cleaning, cleaning, cleaning. There was a breakout in the Ottawa PADS shelter in November but all are testing negative as of today. Let us all hope and pray that 2021 will include more positive outcomes. As we recently begun to open up for new clients after this outbreak we look forward to accomplishing our mission to help the homeless in the new year.



IV PADS is again able to admit new clients to our program. See new application guidelines below.

Neither the Grinch nor Covid Could Stop Christmas from Coming!

Christmas Quarantine Activities

It was vital to keep spirits high throughout the holidays so our staff, volunteers, and donors went above and beyond and got creative.

- Every client was able to experience the Celebration of Lights at the LaSalle Rotary Park.
- Trivia nights among our guests were filled with laughter and memories.
- A cookie decorating contest taught us more about some hidden talents.
- A volunteer group coordinated Christmas donations to be sure that every client received something special and personal as a gift on Christmas Eve.
- Volunteers and church groups prepared true feasts for the shelters.
- Board members and other volunteers served a prime rib dinner on New Year's Eve.

Several clients were particularly touched by the love shown to them and remarked that this was the best Christmas that they could remember in several years.



Christmas gifts stacked high at Ottawa PADS on Christmas Eve



Beautiful Christmas desserts at Peru PADS about to be served



Peru PADS clients opening gifts



Blessings and Successes Were Not on Hold as We Battled with the Covid Outbreak

- a mother of five has saved enough money to purchase a vehicle
- 2 State ID's were obtained
- a new job was obtained this month and other interviews have been attended
- 5 clients have been moved to the top of the housing list
- 3 clients are waiting to hear back on apartment applications

2021 Is Looking a Lot More Hopeful for Roque

Meet Roque, a 37-year-old man who has been bouncing around from prison to transitional living programs and homeless shelters for the past 3 years because of his struggle with addiction. Since checking into Ottawa PADS in October, Roque has found and successfully maintained a job. In addition to employment he has also addressed his spiritual needs by finding a home church, getting baptized, and sharing how he lives his life for God every day. This man has not only successfully recovered from COVID-19, but he has found his way and purpose in life again. He has rebuilt his relationship with his children, paid off some of his fines, and maintained his sobriety from drugs and alcohol for a year. As of this week, he has officially signed a lease for his very own apartment. He enjoyed dinner with the staff and shelter guests one last time before moving into his new home. We are looking forward to delivering his household furnishings from Lily Pads Too to him next week.

Lily Pads News

Despite having to temporarily close due to Covid restrictions, Lily Pads of Peru and Lily Pads Too of Ottawa were both able to re-open to support the IV PADS mission. Generous donations continue to pour in at both locations and loyal shoppers have kept our doors open. We can't wait to see you all in 2021!



- Loyalty cards have been very popular and customers are excited to receive their punches and cash in their reward. If YOU don't have your loyalty card yet, just ask at the counter!
- We know you're putting those Christmas decorations away. Check out our new selection of upcoming holiday décor!
- Lily Pads Too of Ottawa was able to furnish an apartment for a client who moved out of Ottawa PADS and Lily Pads of Peru is preparing to do so for at least 2 more Peru PADS clients who are searching for housing.
- Remember to shop Lily Pads and Lily Pads Too first for your household and clothing needs. Spring into spring with a new wardrobe at fantastic resale prices.

Will this be your Volunteer Year?

There are really no words adequate to express our gratitude, but we will say THANK YOU.

WE COULD NOT CONTINUE THIS MISSION IF IT WASN'T FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS.

In November, Ottawa PADS staff had to start the process of calling each dedicated volunteer to tell them that they could no longer enter the building due to a Covid outbreak. MANY of those volunteers asked how they could still help and were able to provide in amazing ways without stepping foot into the shelter.



Similarly, Peru PADS has maintained a core group of regular volunteers, but many others have been able to provide meals or supplies to be dropped off to the shelter. Peru PADS is excited to announce that all meals for February are already scheduled. To provide a meal in March or April please call Peru PADS at (815) 224-3047.

Currently, Ottawa PADS is in great need of additional volunteers.

Can you help?

- Attend Volunteer Training Session & Sign-Up for a Scheduled Shift
- Sponsor or Prepare a Meal for the Shelter Guests
- Pick Up Hospital Food Donations
- Transport Shelter Guests to Appointments
- Host a Collection Drive to Gather Shelter Needs

Our volunteer training sessions take place on every Monday and Friday morning from 10:00 am until 11:00 am and again on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm. Volunteers are more than welcome to just show up for training if they are interested. To schedule a meal please call Ottawa PADS at (815) 433-1292.



Reminder that any staff member or volunteer entering any IV PADS property needs to be masked.

Current Rules for Admission for Clients

1. Need to go to a local testing site to be tested for Covid PRIOR to admission
2. A negative test result allows you to be admitted where you will remain in a separate space and be masked for 5 days when you will be tested again to be allowed in congregate setting
3. A positive test result will be sent to LaSalle County Health Department. We will provide transportation for you to a location in Streator for isolation and will provide food for your your first day and night.
4. You will be provided with supplies from another organization until your isolation period is over and you can safely be transported to PADS.
5. If there is no testing immediately available and you have no safe place to wait to be tested we will provide a hotel room for you for one night until we can get you to an open testing site.

*These new regulations may change if we are able to obtain on-site testing which we are working on.

Help IV PADS Start the year strong

Top 10

1. Paper Plates and Napkins
2. Plastic Utensils
3. Paper Towels and Toilet Paper
4. Hand Soap
5. Disinfectant Spray and Wipes
6. 39 gallon Garbage Bags
7. Melatonin
8. Tylenol PM
9. Coffee
10. Drink Mixes



Shelter donations may be dropped off on weekdays from 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

From the Executive Director

Happy New Year to all! Before we know it, Valentine's Day will be here. The winter holidays are always very busy in the shelters. This is not only due to our work with homeless individuals but also the interaction we have with the community who step up to provide for the clients. Each client received a very nice packet of gifts donated by community individuals who chose their names. The doorbell rang with gifts from many with food, cash, supplies, and well wishes. It is exciting and it is all thanks to those who care. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all who contributed in any way.

