

April 2023

**Help for Today ...
Hope for Tomorrow**

www.ivpads.com



Operating Since 1991

New Seasons Bring New Beginnings

As we all just recently pushed our clocks forward by one hour, we are optimistic that we will be welcoming new beginnings in the near future. Here at Illinois Valley PADS, new beginnings look a little different when compared to the rest of the world, and we are blessed to witness these new beginnings all year long. Below is an overview of some of our newest beginnings from the past few months:

- ♥ **New Team Members Have Been Added to Each of Our Four Locations**
- ♥ **New Jobs Have Been Obtained by Shelter Guests**
- ♥ **Additional Volunteer Groups Have Stepped Up to Help Out**
- ♥ **New Homes Have Been Secured by Clients of the Shelters**
- ♥ **Former Volunteers & Donors Have Increased Donation Amounts & Volunteer Hours**

Without the ongoing support from our dedicated community members, we would not have the privilege that we do to work with our homeless neighbors, friends, and families. Perspective is a powerful tool, and here at Illinois Valley PADS, we want to sincerely thank you for helping us remain encouraged as we work to provide help for today, and hope for tomorrow, to each individual who is brave enough to knock on our doors and reach out for help.



Read on to find out what has been going on with us over these past few months.



The Dance Center in LaSalle surprised us again this year with more financial support and a large donation of gift cards. As the result of hosting a Spirit Week and challenging their students to collect for our mission, we were the lucky recipients of over \$800 in financial support along with over \$800 in gift cards. These gift cards will be utilized to ensure that no one in house goes hungry and that we can purchase any supply needs we may encounter in the future.

"To touch, to move, to inspire. This is the true gift of dance."

Aubrey Lynch

Thank you for dancing to make a difference!

Lily PADS

4471 Progress Boulevard – Peru, IL 61354

Here at Lily PADS Resale Boutique, we have a handful of dedicated volunteers and employees who make our overall operation successful. A majority of these selfless team members work very hard behind the scenes. Please allow us the opportunity to introduce you to one of the hardest working people we have been blessed to work with here at Lily PADS.



Roberto started his journey with Lily PADS about 11 years ago now. He has been a true asset to our team, our donors, and our store. Roberto has worn many hats with us these past 11 years and there aren't many tasks that he has not tried at least once. Roberto has been our fixer upper, our furniture picker upper, our "unclogger" (plumber), and our "rewirer" (electrician). This list of jobs that Roberto has fulfilled for us could truly go on forever.

Anyone who has had the privilege of meeting Roberto knows that he enjoys making other people laugh. From building bookcases, to testing out bicycles for us, Roberto has never missed an opportunity to help out. Although we've had to chase him around as he raced bicycles and even electronic cars for children around our store, his care for the work being done within our organization was and always is on the frontline of his every day accomplishments. Despite the fact that Roberto's job description does not require him to have a heart for helping the homeless, he always has gone above and beyond in everything that he does for others.

Unfortunately, Roberto's days here as a Lily PADS team member are numbered. He plans on retiring and spending his valuable time with his beautiful wife, amazing children, and sweet grandchildren in the Florida sun. To say that Roberto will be missed is an understatement, and we wish him nothing but the best in his future adventures.



On that note, we will be looking to fill Roberto's "big shoes" as quickly as possible. If you are up for the challenge, or you know someone who would be a great addition to this open maintenance position, we would love to hear from you!

How do you apply with us?

- ♥ Apply online through Indeed.
- ♥ Send us your resume with a cover letter by e-mail: lilypadsresaleboutique@yahoo.com.
- ♥ Send us your resume with a cover letter by mail to: 4471 Progress Boulevard – Peru, IL 61354.
- ♥ Call us to start the conversation at (815)224-7970.

Loyalty Cards

Have you heard of them? Do you have one? If not, you are missing out. Here's how they work:

Purchase \$10 of Merchandise



5



\$5 Off Your 6th Purchase of \$10

\$2730
Saved by
Lily PADS
Customers
in 3 Months

Peru PADS

1320 Menards Drive – Peru, IL 61354



Last month we had the honor of welcoming 5 new smiling faces here at Peru PADS. This group of ladies came to us from the All Together Now group through our local

Horizon House. All Together Now was started three years ago to help persons served become active volunteers in the broader community. Our amazing team consists of 4 Horizon House persons served, along with their team leader. These ladies come in every Monday at 11:00 am to help get the kitchen ready, prepare food, and serve lunch to our clients.

As if their presence once a week was not enough of a gift in itself, they committed to come in on a second day each week moving forward. During their second weekly visits, they will be utilizing our kitchen to make up some homemade baked goods for our guests to enjoy. These ladies bring a smile to our faces, pride in our hearts, and hope for all of our clients on a regular basis. We are blessed to have them as part of our volunteer team here at Peru PADS.

HORIZON HOUSE

Together Building Futures. Living. Working. Playing.

Do you want to get involved and make a difference in the lives of others?

Click [here](#) to fill out a volunteer application to get started with us right away.



TOP NEEDS

55 Gallon
Garbage Bags

Cleaning
Supplies

Laundry
Detergent

Gift
Cards



Lily PADS Too

411 East Stevenson Road – Ottawa, IL 61350

Did you know that we work with our Ottawa PADS and Peru PADS Homeless Shelters, and other partnering organizations, to fulfill direct needs of our neighbors, friends, and families who have fallen on hard times?

- ♥ Whenever a guest of our shelters finds themselves in need of specific clothing items, we provide these items to them at no charge.
- ♥ Whenever our shelter guests obtain housing of their own, we provide furnishings to help them make their house feel more like a home.
- ♥ Whenever a community member is bouncing back from a disaster or they are trying to maintain their independence in their own home, we provide necessities to them at no cost.



Here are some examples of the various ways we have given back these past few months:

When Deputy Rasmussen from the LaSalle County Sheriff’s Department arrived at our store in search of prom dresses for the local “Mock Prom” event, she was excited to find several options available. She asked if we would hold her credit card as she took a handful of dresses to the involved students to make sure that her findings would be adequate. Deputy Rasmussen was beyond grateful as we helped her load 10 dresses into the back of her squad car without charging her a penny.

We are honored to be able to contribute to the live saving work of our local sheriffs.



January of 2023	February of 2023	March of 2023
5 Clients Received	1 Client Received	12 Clients Received
143 Items	21 Items	344 Items

Grab your shades and check out this donation!

Ameren of Illinois has recently blessed us with an abundance of ENERGY STAR certified lightbulbs. Their intentions behind this donation are to allow their customers to purchase low cost and efficient lighting while reducing their energy consumption.

Thank you, Ameren of Illinois, for making the world a “brighter” place.



Are you ready for a wardrobe change?

Bring your gently loved clothing to our donation center, and then come inside to shop for a new look.

Check out what all we can and cannot accept by clicking [here](#).

Ottawa PADS

1120 Canal Street – Ottawa, IL 61350

207
Clients
Registered in to
Date



49
Clients Ahead
of Last Season

More often than not, second chances are needed in order for new beginnings to bloom. Knocking on the door of a shelter is no easy task, and asking for help is right up there on the list of most difficult things to accomplish in life. To each individual who we are blessed with an opportunity to help, we commend you for your courage, encourage you to keep going, and thank you for trusting in us to cheer you on each step along the way.

Below are just some of our persistent guests who wrote their ways through to the next chapters in their lives:



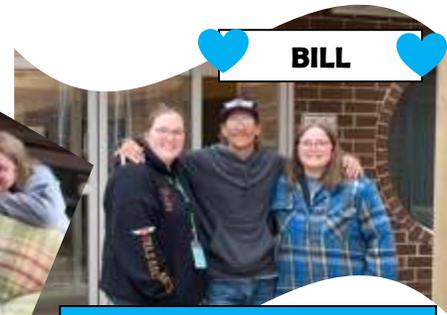
STEPHEN

Stephen always went out of his way to make sure that everyone in house remained as safe as possible. Stephen taught us the importance of using laughter to get through some of the most challenging times.



FRED

Fred was honest and self-aware at all times. Other shelter guests were naturally drawn to Fred, but he refused to let this distract him from his personal goals. Whenever we needed a reminder about patience, Fred was our guy.



BILL

Bill walked into the shelter the same way that he walked out ... with a smile. His genuine happiness and kindness set the tone of the shelter, and his positive attitude was contagious. He was the first person to always offer a helping hand.

We are beyond proud of each guest who has pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones and tackled their personal goals.

“Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.”

♥ Winston S. Churchill

36 New Jobs

9,486 Meals Served

January – March 2023

176 Classes Attended

199 Transports Provided

With roughly 2 months left in our current season, we need your help. We still need 41 dinners to get us through April and May.

Give us a call at (815)433-1292 or e-mail us at ottawapads@gmail.com if you can help us out.



Disclaimer: Funny Chef Hats are Not Provided

There are occasions that arise during our day-to-day responsibilities here at Illinois Valley PADS where we get to witness the work of real-life angels.

During these occasions, we find ourselves being reminded of the reality that new beginnings cannot present themselves without some type of ending occurring first.

Over the course of the past few months, we have been blessed by a handful of local families who have continued to support our mission in honor of a loved one who has passed on.

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

♥ Albert Pike



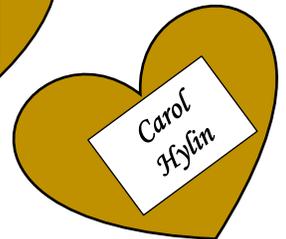
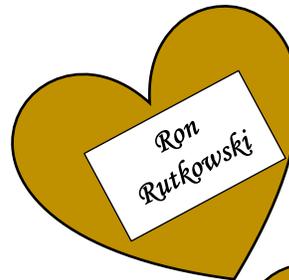
Over **\$12,000** has been donated to our mission these past three months in honor of loved ones gone too soon.



To the friends and families of the following individuals, we pray that you find peace in knowing that your lost loved one continues to live on through the work we do here at Illinois Valley PADS. Help could not be offered today, and hope would not exist tomorrow, without the legacies of your recent loss. Thank you for your life saving contributions.



Beyond financial support, Holy Family Church of Oglesby went one step further to honor Carole Perona. Pictured above are Lana, Carole's sister, Paul, Carole's husband, Gary, Carole's brother-in-law, Mary, Carole's daughter, and three Peru PADS guests after enjoying a dinner sponsored by the Holy Family Church in Carole's honor. Carole's family was invited in to join the clients as the honorary guests, and Carole's heart for the community was felt by everyone who was present. Thank you, Carole, for your many contributions to this world. You will most certainly be missed.



Have you thought about how you can continue making a difference when you leave this earth? Are you passionate about our mission to provide shelter, food, and services to people in need? Click [here](#) to check out our planned giving ideas on our website.

From the Desk of Our Executive Director

Spring is almost here and the sun is a welcomed addition to all our days. It has been a very busy first quarter of 2023 already. More individuals have requested services from our two shelters than at any other time in our 32-year history. We have helped those from newborn infants to the very disabled elderly. There have been many times this year that a person in the shelter has shared their story, and upon leaving, thanked us for being here, listening, and helping them. The work that we do with, and for, those who are homeless, would not happen without the volunteer and financial support of the residents of LaSalle, Bureau, Putnam, and surrounding counties. The two stores are one way we generate income, as well as provide items at an affordable cost.

The new Ottawa Shelter plans are coming together, and we will keep you posted as we get closer to fundraising for this important project.

Fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat, but the generosity and kindness of our partners shine just as brightly. Enjoy your spring with sports, gardening, and do not forget to show your care by helping others.

Carol Alcorn, Executive Director

**"A kind word is like a
spring day."**

♥ **Virginia Woolf**



CONTACT US



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