

June 27, 2022



With Hope In Our Hearts

It would be an understatement to say that this past season was challenging. We grieved the loss of our dear friend and Peru Program Director, Bob Rowatt. We quarantined after a Covid outbreak which then led to the combination of our two shelters housing our entire program at our Peru shelter for 111 days.

We also had great triumphs as we served 371 clients including 197 men, 118 women, and 56 children. Our amazing Ottawa Program Director Marissa Trumpeter and her spouse brought a beautiful daughter into the world. We continue to count our blessings.

Until God opens the door, praise him in the hallway.

New Shelter Needed

As many of our supporters know we are embarking on a future journey to build a new shelter in Ottawa. We have been in the media several times during this past season.

Challenges at our current location include the following:

- extremely old building starting to shift under our feet
- client numbers on the rise with our current economic climate, Covid, rapid inflation, and mental health issues at a steep incline
- insufficient bathroom capacity to handle the rising numbers

As we work through these challenges please pray that the City of Ottawa and the powers that be will continue to work with us and provide the best solutions to support our mission to help the homeless find a hand up within our community.

If you are a supporter of our IV PADS mission and would like to learn more how you can continue to support us with this upcoming project that will affect many generations to come, please consider including us in your future donation efforts. You can reach out directly to our Executive Director, Carol Alcorn, at info@ivpads.com to schedule a personal conversation.

Score Red Hot Deals This Summer at Lily Pads



Summer is an ideal time to find the best values at both Lily Pads Resale Boutiques located in Peru & Ottawa. Whether you're looking for gently used clothing, household items, and entertainment for those hot summer days like games or crafting supplies, shop Lily Pads first!

Spending time clearing out your unused items? Don't forget to donate to Lily Pads. Each item sold directly impacts the success of IV PADS.

Boutique hours are Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
Donation Center hours are Mon-Sat 9am-4pm

Happy Retirement to Cheri Stewart

True connections are people sent from God that lift you up and bring joy into your world. Lily Pads Too in Ottawa was blessed with such a connection as soon as we opened our doors in June of 2018.

When our store started as an empty space at 411 E. Stevenson Road in Ottawa, we were in search of brave, creative and caring people as volunteers. Then in walked a ray of sunshine. Her name is Cheri Stewart. Some of you may know her as Pastor Cheri of First United Methodist Church in Ottawa. Others know her as a raving fan, collaborator, decorator, prayer warrior, local networker and kind friend. The list is endless. How blessed we are that one of our Board Members, John, is a parishioner at her church. He said, "you will love her." Well, he was absolutely right! We did and together with several of her congregation we built our first group of volunteers as the backbone to our operation. She was even instrumental in bringing her husband Jon on also as a volunteer.

She delivered her last sermon on June 12th and we wanted to wish her many blessings in her retirement and let her know how much she will be missed. Enjoy your next chapter in this wonderful journey we call life. Cheri our dear friend and prayer warrior will be missed!



Cheri said as an IV PADS volunteer she wanted to embrace the ways of Jesus whose love motivates us to serve! She served as a pastor within this community, but also to be an example of a community servant to her congregation that she served. She absolutely loved knowing that her work in the décor area, cleaning, pricing and putting décor donations has helped make a difference in the lives of the Illinois Valley homeless population even though she didn't make the décor donations herself. If you have ever considered VOLUNTEERING, please reach out to one of our locations today or go to our website and fill out a volunteer application! We all have gifts that if we collectively put together can make us an unstoppable team!



For the past 3 years Cindy Jenkins, owner of Cindy's on 39 in Oglesby, has been funding, preparing, and personally delivering dinners on a regular basis to IV PADS in Peru. Even when numbers have been at near max capacity, she and her staff continue to provide healthy well-balanced meals. Thank you, Cindy, for your support! If you haven't been to visit Cindy's on 39, stop by today and support a local hard-working woman who continues to support those in need.

The Ottawa PADS Sunday Dinner Facebook group has taken it upon themselves to once again coordinate a collection of items to build some "Welcome Home" kits for our clients who secure permanent housing of their own. These items are invaluable to the success of setting up a new household and maintaining it. What a wonderful housewarming gift! Thank you, Sunday Dinner group.



Five individuals secured permanent housing toward the end of our season. Two moved to Streator and three to Ottawa. AJ and Bob from Ottawa PADS are pictured with the box truck from Lily PADS Too on delivery day. Thanks to our generous community for their donations to Lily Pads, we were able to gather up home furnishing for each of these households, and Bob and AJ spent the day delivering the items to the new homes.

From the Executive Director

Hope- to believe that what is desired or needed can be had or will turn out for the best, a feeling of trust.

This summer we reflect on the ending of IV PADS' 2021-2022 season. Hope and prayer are necessary elements of everyday lives as our staff works with each client to find permanent housing as well as other needs. May is a stressful, yet rewarding time for staff and clients.

We celebrate the successes of our clients!

- A gentleman who had been with us for many months moved out to a job and housing. He was given a bike with baskets and was very appreciative since he had walked to us from Streator to seek help.
- Another man received his housing the last week of May after being with us all season. He is now set up with medical care as well.
- Another young man arrived with his parents. While with us, he secured a job, bought a bike to transport himself to and from work, and now has his own apartment for the first time.

How do you measure the worth of IV PADS? One way is to see outcomes such as these.

Thank you to every person who volunteered, prepared and served food, or gave monetary gifts or supplies. We truly appreciate your help and the opportunity to provide a program to assist this process of finding housing and care.

Thank you to every customer and donor that helped through the work of our two resale boutiques. Each of you is the reason we can believe that things will turn out for the best.

Carol Alcorn

