

# PADS

LAKE COUNTY  
Helping the Homeless Find a Way  
FALL NEWSLETTER

## Update from Executive Director

Dear Valued Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with both gratitude and optimism for the path ahead. Thanks to your unwavering support, PADS Lake County has made significant strides in addressing the growing challenges of homelessness in our community. I'm excited to share some key updates on our progress.



We are thrilled to announce that our long-anticipated fixed shelter is set to open in the summer of 2025. This new facility will provide consistent, dignified shelter for families in need, a vital resource as we face an increasing demand for a permanent resilient homeless response system. This marks a major milestone in our commitment to providing not just temporary solutions but sustainable pathways out of homelessness.

In addition to this exciting development, we have welcomed four new board members, whose expertise and passion will strengthen our leadership and drive us forward. Their dedication will be instrumental in guiding PADS through this next phase of growth.

We've also expanded our new healthcare program to better address the complex medical needs of our clients, many of whom face significant barriers to accessing care. Alongside this, our newly launched rental assistance program is already helping families secure stable housing as we work to prevent homelessness before it starts.

None of this progress would be possible without you—our incredible community of supporters. Your generosity fuels the work we do each day, and we are deeply grateful for your continued partnership. Together, we are building a brighter future for Lake County, one where our neighbors in need have access to safe shelter, quality healthcare, and a path to a better life. Thank you for standing with us!

Warmly,



Allen Swilley, Executive Director, PADS Lake County

## Path to Progress Giving Season

We are thrilled to announce that we are kicking off our 2024 Path to Progress Giving Season! We are grateful that you are with us on this journey!

Because of YOU, we were able to raise crucial funds last year. Can we count on your support this year to meet the needs of our vulnerable neighbors?

- We hope you enjoy this Fall Newsletter, filled with exciting news from PADS!
- On December 3, we will celebrate #Giving Tuesday, a global generosity movement that highlights philanthropy and giving back to the community. Help us meet our goal of \$40,000! Any new donation you make from Nov. 26 to December 24 will be matched dollar for dollar (up to \$10,000) by the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County.
- Your chance to make a difference continues after Giving Tuesday – your year-end gifts will be a great opportunity to raise crucial funds for PADS.

Thank you for your immense generosity that saves and transforms lives!



# Impact Report

**BETWEEN JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024**  
**THIS IS THE DIFFERENCE YOU'VE MADE FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS!**



**463 PEOPLE MOVED INTO PERMANENT HOUSING**

Our priority remains finding long-term solutions.



**OVER 2,069 PEOPLE SERVED**



**OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT MADE IT POSSIBLE**

**OVER 1,079 RECEIVED SHELTER**



Individual accommodations have kept our clients & community safe.



**434 CHILDREN WERE SHELTERED**

We continue to house families in individual accommodations so that they have a safe and stable place to stay while they work to move into permanent housing.

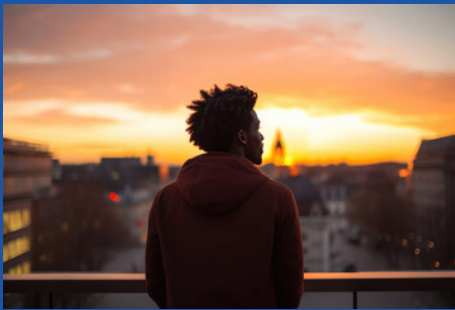
**515 PEOPLE STAYED SAFE AT HOME**

Whether advocating with a landlord, connecting folks to emergency resources, or helping families re-connect, these individuals & families were able to stay out of the shelter system.

**OVER 162 ENGAGED THROUGH OUTREACH**

We continue to work to build relationships with anyone living outside to provide a path to housing.

## A Story of Hope & Resilience



Rob was thriving! By 18, he had purchased his own home and built a business from the ground up, working tirelessly to provide a promising future for his family. But then, everything changed. The sudden loss of his mother sent him into a spiral. Overwhelmed by grief, his relationships began to unravel, his business collapsed, and a severe accident left him struggling even more.

For the first time in his life, Rob was lost. Having always been self-reliant, he didn't know where to turn or how to ask for help. Eventually, he was referred to PADS Lake County, where his case manager, Madiha, stepped in. Madiha connected him with crucial community resources, emotional support, and access to medical care. She also helped him secure an apartment, with PADS providing assistance for his security deposit, first month's rent, and basic essentials. With this support, Rob had the stability he needed to begin rebuilding his life.

Through PADS, Rob rediscovered his confidence, reclaiming his independence and setting new goals. Today, he's not only on a path of personal growth but has become a motivational speaker and mentor, using his experiences to inspire others facing their own struggles. His journey with PADS has transformed his life and empowered him to turn his setbacks into a story of resilience and hope.

\*Name was changed to protect client's confidentiality.

## We need your help!

Our current most needed items are:

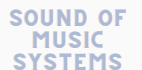
- Winter coats, gloves, and warm clothing (children and adults all sizes)
- Support our Clients' Holiday Celebration needs on Dec. 14: [padslakecounty.org/in-kind-donations](https://padslakecounty.org/in-kind-donations)
- Donate items from our wish list: [padslakecounty.org/in-kind-donations](https://padslakecounty.org/in-kind-donations)
- Donate items from our Amazon Wish List: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Email us at [give@padslakecounty.org](mailto:give@padslakecounty.org) for questions and information.

We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission and for your big and generous hearts!

## Path to Progress Annual Celebration

Thank you to our sponsors, donors, staff, volunteers, and guests for making PADS Lake County's inaugural Annual Celebration a night to remember!





# Meet Our New Board Members

## Adam Carson



Adam is a social entrepreneur focused on shaping the community in a positive way, leveraging his professional experience in healthcare, public health, and community development. He launched Drip and Culture, a socially minded coffee shop, housed within Supermercado Gonzales in Waukegan, Illinois, which he operates with his wife, Nydia. They envision these spaces as a vibrant community hub that fosters meaningful social engagements and activities.

He aims to use his understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities PADS face to humanize the unhoused, shape policy, systems, and environmental change, and to build partnerships towards shared solutions. Adam has a Bachelor's Degree in Hospital Administration from Jackson State University. Adam and Nydia have two daughters.

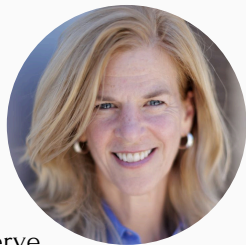
## Carissa Casbon



Carissa is a passionate public servant, organizer, and community advocate. She is a Lake County Board member and has served in its Housing and Community Development Commission and the Advisory and Recommendation Committee on Homelessness. She also was a Team Leader for the county's Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count.

"I joined the PADS Board to help end homelessness in Lake County, a cause I've cared about since childhood. My government experience will be valuable during crises to support our unhoused residents. Above all, I hope to prioritize prevention, coordinating with agencies to address root causes. I look forward to working with the PADS Board to create lasting solutions!" Carissa lives in Warren Township with her husband Larry, kids Sam and Lillian, and their two crazy rescue dogs, Percy, and Delilah.

## Kelly Wojda



Kelly's decision to forge a new path after a 33-year corporate career at Caterpillar, Inc., as its VP of Learning and Development allowed her to be grateful for the fruitful years of helping organizations and people adapt to change, achieve better human outcomes, career, and business results. At this stage in her life, Kelly likes to be a mindful innovative coach to help others make the most of their professional lives.

She is committed to providing access and resources so individuals can reach their full potential as human beings. "I recognize the need for new strategies to achieve better outcomes and agility to navigate change for those we serve. As a board member, I am eager to communicate the mission, and be a sounding board and cheerleader!"

Kelly lives in Libertyville with her husband. They have a son in school at Michigan State University.

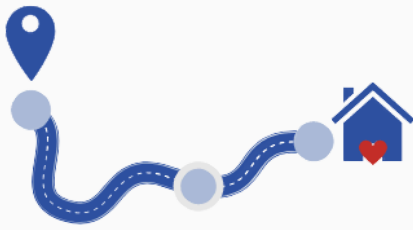
## Dr. Daniel "Danny" Woestman



Dr. Daniel Woestman (Danny) began his profession in education 15 years ago, leading in his various roles with the commitment to rethinking education from the ground up. He has worked in classroom and leadership positions in school systems and currently serves as the Superintendent for Warren Township Schools in Gurnee, Illinois.

He was previously Superintendent for Belvidere School District which received continuous local and national recognition for their advanced achievements in college readiness and positive work environments. He also served as a senior administrator for the Rockford Public School District.

Dr. Woestman holds a Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in English Education, a Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Cincinnati and a Doctorate of Education from Northern Illinois University.



## PATH TO PROGRESS

# PADS

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### PADS Lake County Board of Directors

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Vice President: Jason Gunther

Secretary: Shelley Majewski

Treasurer: Kiearra M. Lawrence

Alexandra Beiriger | Adam Carson

Carissa Casbon | Laura Comilla

Patrick Niday | Dr. Daniel Woestman

Kelly Wojda

Executive Director: Allen Swilley

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