

*PADS Crisis Services, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to providing emergency shelter, permanent housing, and supportive services to families with children and individuals who are experiencing homelessness in Lake County.*

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Gurnee, Illinois Permit 503



When we talk about the foreclosure crisis, we generally think about someone who had a loan they could not afford. But when the borrower is a landlord, foreclosure has additional consequences. The foreclosure crisis – fueled by the subprime loan meltdowns – is increasingly affecting stable households. In Illinois alone, one out of every 545 homes was in foreclosure last year.

This scenario rings true for Cindy Johnson and her five her-old daughter— *not their real names.*

This past month Cindy and Erica arrived at PADS with two trash bags of belongings and a harrowing story of divorce, job loss

## The Face of Foreclosure: Cindy Johnson and five year old daughter Erica

*After three months of living with different friends and family they ran out of options and found their way to PADS.*

and eviction. Cindy and Erica are the face of the foreclosure crisis – right here in Lake County.

Their unfortunate story began when Cindy and her husband divorced. Cindy, armed with her High School diploma set out to raise Erica, then only three years old, on the salary of a waitress. Cindy told her PADS Client Advocate that for two years she “really made a go of it!” She was able to afford a small apartment in North Chicago by working two waitressing jobs.

*Then the bottom dropped out.*

Cindy was laid off from one of the waitressing jobs when the restaurant closed. Despite having only one part-time job

Cindy still paid her rent – even if it meant letting the phone be disconnected or eating cereal for dinner. Cindy is a very proud young woman and always pays her bills. Then one morning after work she came home and saw all of her and Erica’s belongings on the curb and the front door had a padlock on it – they had been evicted. The building that Cindy and her daughter were living in had fallen into foreclosure. Cindy, not knowing her rights packed up what she could and left with Erica in tow. After three months of living with different friends and family they ran out of options and found their way to PADS.

Within an hour and a half Cindy and Erica were settled at The Family Center at PADS. A meeting was set for the following Monday with the Principal at Erica’s school and the PADS Family Advocate to ensure that Erica gets the special attention she needs while her Mom gets the family back on their feet.

Right here on the shores of Lake Michigan, Cindy is one of thousands of

people, real people, who live and work in our midst that are having their lives and the lives of their children destroyed through no fault of their own. They work hard, pay their bills, but still cannot maintain their housing in this economy. The PADS family of donors and volunteers have made it possible for Cindy and Erica to have a safe place to get back on their feet. It will not be an easy path but, thankfully PADS and its Family Center are here to respond on a moments notice for Cindy, Erica and the countless others who have yet to make their way to our door.

### *In this issue:*

PADS shelters needs still growing	2
The poet among us	2
Volunteer Spotlight	3
Our growing community garden	4

## Check out our Community Garden



At the northeast corner of Lincoln and 8th Street in Waukegan is a prairie garden used to hydroseed the fields, now more than two years old. It definitely does

not include invasives. But it is a reality of our world that weeds travel and of course over time, they have ended up here – despite our best intentions.

We also grow the best local warm-weather produce popular to our neighborhood. In the kitchen our kids eat the fruits and vegetables they sow, harvest and bake themselves. And we will be working on a labyrinth where neighborhood people can walk and meditate on their thoughts.

In the fall we’re looking forward to a public harvest of Xempoaixochiti / Marigolds and a public breakfast event called “What Patriotism Means to Me.”

This program is both shrinking kids waistlines and increasing their understanding of food and the environment. We’ve observed that when kids in urban communities are given the opportunity to learn about ecology in a real-world context, “They are more enthusiastic about attending school, making better grades, eat healthier foods due to wiser food choices and become more knowledgeable about natural food processes. Not only that, but the more kids know about the ecosystem, the more fruits and vegetables they’re likely to eat,” said PADS Executive Director Cathy Curran

*The PADS Garden has a wonderful collaboration with the Holy Family Food Pantry and the community at large.*



**Executive Committee**

**President**  
John S. Wineman  
Court Products, Inc.

**Vice President**  
Richard Greenswag  
Kaplan & Greenswag LLC

**Treasurer**  
Robert F. Reusché\*  
The Northern Trust (retired)

**Secretary**  
Randall Rossi  
Scotsman Ice (retired)

**Assistant Secretary**  
Robert J. Braasch  
Marathon Capital

**Assistant Treasurer**  
Robert D. Fitzgerald  
Bank of America (retired)

\*Denotes past President

**Board of Directors**

Sally Adams  
Maximus

Cindy Bellek  
Welch Allyn, Inc.

Richard Blackwell  
T-Mobile Corporation

Anthony A. Gacs  
The Northern Trust

David D. Grumhaus, Jr.  
Copia Capital, LLC

Tom Ritter  
Chicago Board of Trade

Stephen A. Sullivan  
NAI Hiffman

**Executive Director**  
Cathy Tasner Curran

Donate Online at  
[www.lakecountypads.org](http://www.lakecountypads.org)

**Matching Gifts**

If you work for a company with a matching gift program, your gift could be doubled or even tripled! Ask your employer if they offer a matching gift program.

**PADS Shelters sees 10% increase in clients ... again**

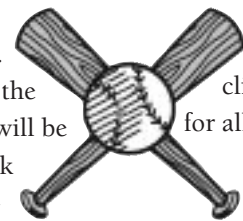


PADS Crisis Services is fortunate to have fourteen rotating volunteer emergency shelter sites that provide emergency shelter to our neighbors between October and April each year. As of press time the PADS sites were reporting a ten percent increase in clients compared to last year which continues the trend for the previous two years of ten percent increases each year. Last year alone PADS provided 48,900 nights of shelter to 1,357 children and veterans, families and individuals.

**Pitchers and Catchers Report!!!!**

Spring training has come to the North Shore! No, Lake County did not secure a minor league baseball team; PADS is fielding its own 16-inch softball team – the PADS Pit Bulls.

PADS clients will make up the backbone of the team which will be fielded as part of the Foss Park District Summer League. Fielding in will be PADS staff while the whole effort will be ably coached by our very own Development Associate, Audrey Carman.



A donor who wishes to remain anonymous approached PADS asking to help create a program to encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices amongst PADS clients. Funds were donated to pay for all equipment, fees and uniforms. So, May through August (and especially during the championship) come on out to Foss Park and root, root, root for the Pit Bulls!

**PADS Poet Laureate: Reginald "Reggie" Bryant**

Every homeless person copes with their situation in a way that is as unique as their individual situations. Reggie Bryant coped with his homelessness through poetry as he and his family stayed at The Family Center at PADS this past holiday season.

Sadly, Reggie is not atypical for the "new face of homelessness," he is a college graduate with culinary training and a combat veteran. While in the service he picked up a severe drug habit that continued after he was discharged. As time progressed things got worse, Reggie started dealing to support his habit and

wound up in prison for his crimes. Out of prison and with a wife and five kids with no place to live, Reggie, a gentle giant, was at his ropes end. A clean and sober Reggie brought his family to The Family Center at PADS. While finding his path at The Family Center Reggie wrote A Changed Man and The Center. Reggie and his family are a PADS success story. He is working full-time and they have a four bedroom apartment. Reggie is still writing poetry; if you would like to read Reggie's poems please visit [www.lakecountypads.org](http://www.lakecountypads.org).

**Volunteer Spotlight: Cardboard City Fund Raiser Held**



Photo: Annie Christie, News-Sun

As part of a larger area wide event, North Shore Unitarian Church staged a Cardboard City to raise money and awareness for PADS clients and

programs on Saturday, March 21st. Participants slept outdoors in cardboard boxes, tents or in their cars; everyone was sponsored for the

night and the proceeds were donated to PADS programs aimed at fighting homelessness in Lake County.

A special screening of the film Homeless in Paradise, by Chuck Braverman was shown at the event.

perspective of those who are homeless, Cardboard City participants saw a political and social system drawing fire from all sides of the political and social spectrum.

*Participants slept outdoors in cardboard boxes, tents or in their cars; everyone was sponsored for the night*

Many members of the PADS family of supporters attended Cardboard City including PADS' Executive Director Cathy Curran. Ms. Curran thanked all the "residents" of Cardboard City when she addressed them and said, "It is your continued and unwavering support of our clients that is at the bedrock of what we do each day at PADS – you are what makes PADS possible."

*Volunteer Appreciation Event*

Tuesday, May 12th at 5:30-7:30p.m. PADS will once again pay tribute and say thank you to those who make it all possible – THE PADS VOLUNTEERS!

Hosted by the Wesley Free Methodist Church, this year's event will be a light supper featuring an awards ceremony honoring the hard work and dedication of the more than 2,500 men, women and youth who have given thousands of volunteer

hours this year to make sure that everyone in Lake County has a warm safe place to sleep each night.

If you would like to attend please RSVP to Lynn at (847) 689-4357 x302 before May 7th.

Due to limited space, this event is for volunteers only. Thank you for your understanding.

**PADS WISH LIST**

Please consider donating the following currently needed items by calling Lynn at 689-4357 x121 to arrange a drop off or even a pick up.

- 20# white copy paper
- Baby diapers
- Backpacks
- Bleach
- Bottled water
- Bug repellent for skin
- Deodorant
- Feminine sanitary products
- Foam bowls, cups and plates (large and small)
- Foot salve
- Garbage bags (13, and 30-35 gal.)
- Heavy Duty liquid cleaners such as Fantastic or Pine-Sol
- PACE bus passes
- Paper towels
- Plastic utensils (no knives)
- Powdered laundry soap
- Razors
- Stamps (Forever stamps are available until May)
- Sleeping bags
- Sunscreen
- Toilet paper
- T-shirts (new, all sizes- not undershirts)
- Gift cards for fuel, office products, groceries, fast food, Sam's Club, Wal-Mart and Target

Would you and your friends like to organize an in-kind donation drive? Please call Lynn at 689-4357 x121 for a list of our most urgent needs before you begin. You can also call to get a list of tips and suggestions for running a successful drive.

At this time we are also grateful to receive new and gently used clothing and non-expired canned goods. We are also able to utilize fresh food donations daily. Please call Lynn at ext. 121 on weekdays or the front desk after 3 p.m. weekdays or on weekends at ext. 116.