

News Release

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DuPage PADS Earns Seal of Excellence

DuPage PADS Passes Rigorous Ethics and Accountability Standards

Wheaton, IL (December 30, 2009) DuPage PADS, whose mission is to end homelessness in DuPage County, has been awarded the Standards for Excellence Institute's Seal of Excellence for successfully completing its certification program. DuPage PADS voluntarily opened itself to scrutiny by a "jury of its peers". The peer review team examined DuPage PADS for compliance with the **Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector established by the Standards for Excellence Institute, a program of the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations.**

Standards for Excellence are based on fundamental values such as honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility, and accountability. DuPage PADS programs and services, management, fundraising and financial practices were examined in depth before the certification was awarded. DuPage PADS is one of the first organizations to be certified under the national Standards accreditation program that began in 2006. This program provides a model for how the most well managed and responsibly governed nonprofits operate.

Carol Simler, DuPage PADS Executive Director, said "Submitting to the scrutiny required for certification under the Standards for Excellence wasn't easy, but it was a worthwhile process for us. This seal shows we have taken every step to ensure we're serving the community and operating according to the highest standards of accountability in the most upright way. We undertook this rigorous process voluntarily and we are especially proud of our board and staff and volunteers that helped us accomplish this national recognition. DuPage PADS' work on behalf of the men, women and children who are homeless in our county exemplifies both our dedication to our cause and to meeting the highest standards of organizational best practice. We continue to strive for excellence."

The Standards for Excellence Institute offers a voluntary, leadership based accreditation program for nonprofits interested in demonstrating that they abide by the **Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector**. While the program was initially available only in a select group of states that have licensed Standards for Excellence Replication Partners, in 2006, the Standards for Excellence Institute launched the national certification program and opened up the opportunity for any US nonprofit to apply and earn the Seal of Excellence. For more information about the Standards for Excellence Institute, please call visit www.standardsforexcellenceinstitute.org or 410-7271726 ext. 14.

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DuPage PADS founded in 1985, is the only organization in DuPage County working exclusively to end homelessness. DuPage PADS couples interim/overnight, transitional and permanent supportive housing solutions with comprehensive life skills and employment services to assist people in establishing and maintaining self-sufficiency. The organization's headquarters and support center are located at 705 W. Liberty Street, Wheaton, IL 60187. Additional information can be obtained by contacting DuPage PADS via the phone (630-682-3846) or through their website (www.dupagepads.org)