

KANE COUNTY RIVERBOAT FUNDS PROVIDE KITCHEN EQUIPMENT FOR HESED HOUSE

Hesed House in Aurora is home to Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc. (PADS). PADS is a non-profit organization that provides basic services to some of the most needy persons in the greater Aurora area. This organization is dedicated to alleviating the plight of poor and homeless persons. For over two decades, PADS has involved nearly 70 Fox Valley faith-based communities in providing a spectrum of care for homeless persons including:

- 1) PADS overnight emergency shelter
- 2) PADS A.M daytime drop-in center
- 3) Transitional Living Community
- 4) SEEDS Case Management
- 5) Rainbow Medical Clinic
- 6) Hope Legal Clinic
- 7) Working for Success
- 8) LEAP Systemic Advocacy



*Hesed House can be found at
659 South River Street in Aurora, Il.*



*Ryan Dowd, Executive Director of PADS, with
some of the new kitchen appliances.*

PADS has two goals:

1. Meet the basic needs of food and shelter for homeless individuals and families in a way that gives them dignity and respect
2. Return people to independent living as quickly as possible while empowering them with the skills and resources necessary to stay self-sufficient.

In order to meet the basic needs of food and shelter, the organization has been able to buy food in bulk, but they must have a place to store all perishable food received.

Unfortunately, the existing kitchen appliances were undependable and quite old. Some of the appliances were becoming obsolete, and the parts to repair them were becoming harder to find. The Kane County Riverboat Grant Program provided a grant to PADS in the amount of \$34,840 to replace their old appliances with industrial equipment which included refrigerators, freezers, range, deep fryer, and ice machine.

According to Aurora's Consolidated Plan, 8.5% of Aurora's 2000 population was at or below poverty level. In 2006, Hesed House averaged 160 guests each night, which was up nearly 20% from the previous year. Guests and residents at Hesed House must be homeless and include the unemployed, mentally ill persons, physically disabled persons, victims of domestic violence, chronic homeless, veterans, displaced families, senior citizens, emancipated teens, legal immigrants, alcohol and substance abusers, and those experiencing homelessness due to severe economic duress.

PADS, the only full-service shelter in Illinois' second largest city is Aurora's only program offering food, shelter, ancillary services, and, most important, hospitality to all homeless individuals and families who have nowhere else to turn for help. The PADS overnight emergency shelter program consists of various elements designed to assist homeless persons to meet their basic needs and recover their sense of dignity and self-worth. The overnight emergency shelter program provides homeless guests a place to sleep for the night and both dinner and breakfast the following morning.



Perishable food is safely stored in new industrial refrigerators and freezers.



Recreational equipment is available for the children that are guests at Hesed House.

PADS' philosophy is rooted in the belief that, in addition to satisfying their most basic needs for survival, persons must first value themselves if they are to have the motivation to return to independent living. Their guests meet with their SEEDS case managers who can address obstacles to self-sufficiency with one-on-one mentoring and referrals to other area human services agencies specializing with the particular cause of their homelessness. Experience has proven to them that this type of intensive, personal case management points the way to achieving guests'

economic stability.

In the Transitional Living Community (TLC) program, residents play an active role in its operation. They are responsible for meal preparation and all household tasks. Staff members work with residents to assist them in developing goals and to tap into various community

resources that help them move back into the mainstream of society. Program staff teach residents life skills needed for self-sufficiency while case managers work more intensely with each individual. In addition, a paid private counselor (working at a greatly reduced rate) conducts on-site sessions with the children every other week, focusing on problems they may have, and helping build their self-esteem. TLC endeavors to effectively help its residents obtain appropriate services leading towards independent living.



Volunteers help serve over 176,800 meals each year.

The PADS model, which began in Aurora, is the most commonly replicated form of emergency shelter in Illinois. In addition to administrative and other paid personnel, over 6,000 volunteers from 70 different area faith-based communities serve Aurora's homeless persons by staffing our overnight emergency shelter each night.

The Kane County Riverboat Grant Program is proud to partner with Hesed House by replacing the badly needed food service equipment. This will allow the organization to continue to provide its valuable services to the community while storing, preparing, and serving over 3,400 meals to their guests and residents each week. More information about Hesed House is available at www.hesedhouse.org