Hotel Program Continues to Assist Homeless Throughout our Community



The **McHenry County PADS Homeless Shelter** Hotel Program was launched in December 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic and was designed to provide a short-term, safe place to live until arranging more permanent housing. Emergency Shelters were not accepting new clients and non-congregate shelters were limited and prioritized.

"Pioneer Center wanted to expand our services and help as many people as we could during this challenging time and the Hotel Program was implemented," *said Carrie Freund, Director of Homeless Services.*

The hotel program continues to be used today when our own shelter is full, as an overflow destination. We use the program to quarantine people and prevent the spread of contagious disease. We partner with outreach agencies, including police and local hospitals that assist during extreme weather-related emergencies.

The program is helpful during a crisis, including fires, domestic violence, releases from the hospital and police related situations. Vulnerable youth are often suddenly homeless and without resources and this program delivers a quick solution until a better housing situation is established.

Freund explains, **"A hotel has been particularly useful for large families because we make every effort to keep families intact and reduce trauma for their children."**

Hotel placements are expensive, and PADS relies heavily on funding grants and donations to keep this program running. From July 2024 to present, this program provided 1,464 nights of shelter to men, women and children.

Pioneer Center can accomplish its mission through the generous support of the community, businesses, donors and friends. Please Donate to PADS Homeless Shelter on our website www.pioneercenter.org/donate/ or contact the Development Department at (815) 759-7144.