Dear Loyola Faculty and Staff,

The Loyola Housing Forward student group would like to share with you the opportunity to join us in becoming involved with the West Suburban PADS shelter. For those who are unfamiliar, the PADS shelter provides immediate, temporary crisis response for 40 to 70 people per night from mid-September through mid-May. The guests are individuals from our own Maywood/Oak Park community. The PADS shelter is just one division of Housing Forward, which is the “only social service agency in west Cook County with a comprehensive housing and services solution for transitioning individuals and families out of homelessness”. Not only does Housing Forward provide shelter for individuals in need of it, but they also provide a sit down dinner, as well as breakfast the following morning and a sack lunch.

Loyola students have been involved in working the overnight shelter shifts for some time now, as well as packing sack lunches for the guests. Last year however, a few of us had the opportunity to be involved with the PADS dinner shift. Helping to prepare and serve dinner to the guests allowed us the time to better get to know the guests, and their current living situations from which they were working with PADS to transition out of. Every month that we returned to the shelter, guests were thrilled to share with us their success stories of finding employment, and their apartment searches. We are incredibly proud to be a part of such a supportive community.

In order to allow members of the Loyola community to become more involved in our surrounding community, the Loyola Housing Forward student group is working with PADS to host 4 of the shelter dinners within the upcoming shelter season. It will be a huge undertaking (serving ~50 hungry guests!), so we would appreciate your department’s help! Below are the details for each dinner.

Where: All of the dinners will take place at Oak Park Temple on Harlem and Division.

When: There are four dates for which Loyola is signed up to provide dinner. The dates are:
- October 27th
- December 1st
- January 5th
- March 22nd

What we need help with:
- Funding: Feeding 50 people is expensive. Dinner typically consists of a small salad, bread and butter, a main course (lasagna/pasta, a non-pork meat/potatoes, casserole, +vegetable), dessert, a few gallons of milk, and a few gallons of juice. We are estimating ~$350 per dinner. Whether you would like to donate particular items, or split the total cost of dinner between a few departments, we would be very grateful!
- **Cooking:** While we are planning on purchasing as much food as possible pre-prepared from Costco, there is still going to be a bit of heating/steaming that needs to be done prior to serving. It is much easier to do all of this ahead of time, and then bring the food ready to be served to the shelter. If you have a kitchen you would like to donate for a few hours the afternoon of our dinner date, and wouldn’t mind the company of a few medical students, we would welcome the help!

- **Final assembly/Serving:** Finally, once we transport the food to the shelter, we will need help putting the finishing touches on the food (cutting everything into portions, scooping ice cream), and actually serving dinner to guests. To make sure everything runs smoothly, we ideally would like 5-6 extra hands at the shelter. Dinner begins at 7:45pm, so we ask that you arrive at the shelter at 6:30pm. Dinner typically runs ~1 hour.

If you or your department would like to be involved, please contact medical student Lizzy Carroll, at ecarroll7@luc.edu. We look forward to having Loyola more connected with our neighboring community!

Learn more about Housing Forward and the PADS Shelter here: http://www.housingforward.org/about-us

You are also welcome to join us for “Make One, Take One!” every Tuesday from 11:30-1pm in the SSOM atrium, when we pack sack lunches for the PADS shelter guests.

Sincerely,
The Loyola Housing Forward Student Group