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PRESS RELEASE (For immediate release)

South Suburban PADS Receives \$20,000 COVID-19 Grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois

May 12, 2020, Chicago Heights, IL– To help ease the increased needs of Illinoisans during the COVID-19 pandemic, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) has awarded South Suburban PADS a \$20,000 grant as part of BCBSIL's \$1.5 million COVID-19 Community Collaboration Fund.

"BCBSIL is helping to save lives in south suburban Cook and Will Counties," says Doug Kenshol, Executive Director of South Suburban PADS. Support from BCBSIL helps South Suburban PADS provide free meals and hotel rooms for 70 homeless people to enable them to self-isolate and stay safe. So far, despite the pandemic, there have been no confirmed cases of Covid-19 among the homeless guests. "BCBSIL is a large company facing uncertain economic conditions," says Doug. "We are grateful that they are putting safety first and stepping-up to help the most vulnerable, whatever the cost."

BCBSIL selected 75 organizations across Illinois with missions focused on access to care, hunger and shelter to receive \$20,000 grants to rapidly help address to the current crisis.

"We know COVID-19 is challenging the resources that allow local organizations to provide a safety net for people most in need," said Steve Hamman, president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. "While we continue to help ensure our members have access to the care and coverage they need, these grants allow us to broaden our impact and make a difference in the lives of so many."

For a full list of grantees go to <https://www.bcbsil.com/newsroom/category/community-health/covid-19-community-grant-awards>

About South Suburban PADS: South Suburban PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) is an interfaith movement that is working to prevent and end homelessness in the south suburbs of Chicago. Over the past 29 years, the organization has provided shelter and meals to enable over 18,000 people to survive homelessness. In addition, South Suburban PADS provides pathways home and currently helps over 500 people to preserve or access affordable rental homes every year. More at www.sspads.org and facebook.com/sspads.org, on Twitter @SSPADS.

About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) is committed to expanding access to quality, cost-effective health care to as many people as possible in Illinois. BCBSIL is dedicated to innovation and exploring, nurturing and activating future possibilities to make the health care system work better for our members and our communities.

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