



Arlington
Life Shelter

FALL 2016

THE ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter



Becky Orander, MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

As boys and girls in North Texas settle into a new school year, I can't stress how critical you are to our work. It's caring people like you who make sure that countless students' lives aren't interrupted just because their families are going through a tough time.

By standing with the Arlington Life Shelter, you're providing more than temporary housing — you're paving the way for hundreds of people to achieve self-sufficiency. The vital services you support through your gifts help empower those who are homeless to thrive in work, in school and in life.

Because of you, families and individuals are more prepared to deal with life's challenges after they leave the Shelter. With these skills, they'll be able to become long-time contributors to our community. Everyone who goes through one of our programs is changed for the better.

But there's more. Now that we've wrapped up our strategic planning process, we're even better prepared to address the most pressing problems facing our city's homeless population.

In this issue of *The Road Home*, you'll see how children and families continue to benefit from the work you make possible. Their smiling faces are proof of the positive impact you're making every single day.

Thank you for choosing to be a hero to our homeless neighbors. Without you, I know many children, women and men wouldn't have the bright future that they do now.

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325 W. DIVISION ST.
ARLINGTON, TX 76011
817-548-9885

WWW.ARLINGTONLIFESHELTER.ORG



Thanks to You, A Family is Safe

Chequita has never been one to ask for help. But earlier this year, she didn't know what else to do. She and her boys had just escaped a difficult situation, and there was no money left to secure another apartment — or even a motel.

"We had no other choice but to sleep in my car," Chequita recalls. "My boys were crying — I was so frustrated."

Things had seemed to be looking up for Chequita. She loved her new temporary job and was relieved to be able to pay the bills. But when she wasn't hired on as a permanent employee, her finances took a huge hit. It was clear Chequita needed more than her grit and determination to bounce back.

Around this time, a family member had told her about the Arlington Life Shelter. Not wanting to spend another day without a safe place for her family, she and her boys came to the Shelter for help.

During their stay at [Arlington Life Shelter](http://ArlingtonLifeShelter.org), Chequita explains that beyond putting a roof over her family's head, she has received other necessary support that she wouldn't have had elsewhere — including resources for her youngest, who has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Through the shelter, she's able to access the medication he needs to focus and succeed in school.

Chequita is diligently working to find a new job that will allow her family to move into a place of their own. In the meantime, she's grateful to know people like you care about her and her sons' well-being.

"Thank you," Chequita says. "Without you, most of these families wouldn't make it."

Crockpot Dinners Bring a Touch of Home

Members of the First Christian Church Food Team — Carol Heath, a retired school counselor, and her husband, Larry, a former math professor — have been serving their homeless neighbors at the [Arlington Life Shelter](http://ArlingtonLifeShelter.org) for a long time. Carol says it was about 25 years ago when their Sunday school leader approached them about volunteering with the meal program — they've been coming out once a month ever since.

Over the years, Carol, Larry and their fellow church members have met hundreds of homeless families working to become self-sufficient. In that time, they've put smiles on residents' faces by providing a variety of crockpot dinners, as well as sack lunches that help give adults in the employment program the fuel they need to continue their job search.

While their work with the Shelter has been personally

rewarding, as well as helpful to the residents — Carol and Larry also feel their service is, in part, about setting a good example.

As the parents of four children, it's always been important for Carol and Larry to teach their kids the value of volunteering. Carol thinks they succeeded. Each of their children grew up to be adults who are very concerned about the wellbeing of others.

Reflecting on their time as volunteers, Carol continues to express passion for improving the lives of those who are less fortunate. She hopes others will decide to serve as well.

"[Volunteering] is a wonderful way to pay back for the advantages you have," Carol says.

We want to thank Carol, Larry and countless other members of the community who donate their time to help provide meals to our residents. Your gifts of time

improve the quality of life of our homeless neighbors more than you'll ever know.



LEAVE A LEGACY

It's never too early to begin thinking about the kind of legacy you want to leave behind. Because you care so deeply about ending homelessness in North Texas, we'd like you to consider including the Arlington Life Shelter in your estate plans through a will, trust, life insurance gift or other legacy gift. **To learn more about how to make a lasting impact, please contact Becky Orander at 817-548-9885 x 2002.** Thank you.

THE ROAD HOME TOUR

Take a "behind the scenes" tour of the Arlington Life Shelter while the residents are working or at school. See where the residents sleep and learn about the classes and services that help them secure jobs and get back on their feet.

Wednesday, 12pm (lunch provided):
October 12, November 16 and
December 14

Saturday, 10am:
October 29

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Save the Date!

Thursday, December 2, 2016
6:30 p.m. at Sheraton Arlington

Celebrate the holiday season knowing that you are providing warm beds and sweet dreams for homeless children and families right here in Arlington.

For sponsorship and ticket information contact Kellie Reichert at kreichert@arlingtonlifeshelter.org.

WISH LIST

Plastic silverware
Paper towels
Powdered laundry detergent

For a complete Wish List, please visit www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org

*Rachel, Karl
and their
daughter,
Kamryn*



"God bless you."

Your Gifts Are Changing Lives This Fall

It's an emotional time for new parents Rachel and Karl. Their sweet baby girl, Kamryn, was born just this past May. With such a big change in their lives, having your support through your generosity to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) has meant so much to this small family.

Rachel says her family's problems began when Karl, a pipeline worker, lost his job of 12 years. To make ends meet, he found work as a commercial truck driver. But his time with the company ended suddenly when he was the victim of a hit-and-run accident that totaled his only work vehicle.

At the same time, he and Rachel – almost at her due date – were staying with a relative and needed to find a new place to live.

Thanks to your gifts, Karl and Rachel were able to come to the Arlington Life Shelter just in time for Kamryn's arrival. They were given a safe place to live while caring for their newborn and preparing to get back on solid footing. Karl and Rachel know it won't be long before they're in a place where they can provide for Kamryn on their own.

The couple has been overwhelmed with gratitude for how the community has responded to Kamryn's debut into the world. Your support – fill Rachel and Karl with hope. Rachel can't say enough what your generosity has meant to her family.

"God bless you," Rachel says. "We would not have had a place to live without your donations."