



Arlington
Life Shelter

FALL 2018



THE **ROAD** HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter



Becky Orander, MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

Did you know that the average age of a homeless person in America is nine years old?

It's a sobering fact, but the fastest growing segment of the homeless population is women and families with children. Which is why I'm so thankful for neighbors like you as homeless Arlington kids head back to school this fall.

You make it possible for many of our community's homeless children to have a safe place to sleep and healthy food to eat — two of the most basic necessities for a child's success in school and life.

When you give to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#), you're giving kids and families real tools for success, and hope for their future.

I'm excited to share that with your help, we have plans to expand the Shelter to double the number of families served. Please stay tuned for more on our expansion plans.

And in this edition of *The Road Home*, I hope you'll enjoy reading about how you provided Shelter services for Qua'Vaughn, a Lamar High School senior, so that he could graduate and begin preparing for college.

Thank you for all you do to help homeless families and individuals in Arlington get back on their feet again. I'm so honored that you choose to join us in this amazing work.

Gratefully,

Our Mission: To promote self-sufficiency by providing shelter, employment programs and transitional services for North Texans impacted by homelessness.

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You Helped Him Finish High School

Qua'Vaughn was just shy of high school graduation when he made his way to the Arlington Life Shelter. Now, thanks to friends like you, he's on his way to college.

"[Being at the Shelter] helped me a lot through the last month of school," says 18-year-old Qua'Vaughn.

With his journal in hand, Qua'Vaughn shared about one of the longest nights of his life.

He had suddenly found himself without a safe place to call home, and not knowing where to go, he walked the Arlington streets until morning.

Qua'Vaughn made his way to his school bus stop that morning and went to school as usual. A social worker there connected him with the [Arlington Life Shelter](#).

"They've been helping me from day one," Qua'Vaughn says of the people he met when he arrived at the Shelter.

Because of your generosity, Qua'Vaughn had the support he needed to graduate high school and find a job for the summer. He's working on applying for

"They've been helping me from day one."



Qua'Vaughn at the
Arlington Life Shelter

scholarships through Tarrant County College so he can start earning his degree.

Qua'Vaughn's story of hope would not be possible without you. Thank you for helping him and so many other homeless neighbors find the support and encouragement they need for a fresh start.

Area Church Offers A "Hand Up"

Richard Kelly began volunteering at the Arlington Life Shelter in high school — and that was just the beginning of a long commitment to serving the homeless.

"I really enjoy the Arlington Life Shelter because of the way they try to treat everyone with respect and help them get back on their feet," Richard says.

Richard volunteers as a food team leader for his church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Arlington. Richard oversees several food teams from the church who alternate serving meals at the Shelter.

Recently, Richard and his church also played a big role in the Shelter's *Hearts to Homes*

capital campaign. Once Richard heard about plans for a new facility, he and his church committed to help.

"It's really quite simple," Richard says. "Our churches are in Arlington. There are less fortunate in Arlington and they need our help."

More than \$40,000 was raised for the campaign by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — all in only three weeks!

"I've never seen it as a hand out, but a hand up," Richard says of the Shelter's work.

The *Hearts to Homes* campaign is raising funds to expand the existing facility, doubling the number of families that can be served each night. Learn more about the Shelter's expansion and how you can participate at www.arlingtonlifeshelter.org.



Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints prepare a meal at the Arlington Life Shelter.

THE ROAD HOME TOUR

Discover our community's "final safety net" in 59 minutes. Wednesday's programs include lunch and residents are at work and school while the Shelter is in full operation on Saturdays.

- Wednesday, September 12th at Noon
- Saturday, September 22nd at 10am
- Wednesday, October 10th at Noon
- Saturday, October 27th at 10am
- Wednesday, November 14th at 10am

Please RSVP to Rebekah at rgarner@arlingtonlifeshelter.org or on the agency's website at www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org.

NOTRE DAME BOUND



Many of you read about Allan, a smart, active 9-year-old who received services from the [Arlington Life Shelter](http://ArlingtonLifeShelter.org) with

his father and older brother. Nine years later, Allan has begun college at Notre Dame, majoring in Public Health Administration. Allan's ultimate goal is to secure a position where he will have the authority to address the disparity in health care access and services. Read more about Allan's adjustment to college in the next issue of the Road Home newsletter.

WISH LIST

- Bottled water
- Powdered Drink Mix
- Bath towels/wash cloths (used or new)
- Powdered Laundry Detergent
- Individual chicken/tuna salad kits
- Small Vienna sausages

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



Glenn & Kim pose in their new neighborhood.



"Thank you for a second chance!"

You Didn't Give Up on Them

Married couple Kim and Glenn travelled a winding road to get to the [Arlington Life Shelter](http://ArlingtonLifeShelter.org), but they're both thankful for the place it led them.

"It impacted me on such a big level," says Kim of her time at the Shelter.

When Kim and Glenn got married, they both worked full-time jobs. But two years later, Kim broke her leg and due to complications was unable to continue working as a chef — a job she'd maintained for 20 years. When Glenn also lost his job, the timing couldn't have been worse. Before long, they weren't able to pay their rent.

The two stayed briefly with family but ultimately lived in a motel before finding the Arlington Life Shelter.

Kim couldn't say enough about how helpful it was to have the resources that you help make available through the Shelter. The educational classes and employment services were just what she and Glenn needed to get a new start.

"I took every single class that I could take to better myself," Kim says.

Thanks to you, the couple had help finding jobs before leaving the Shelter. They've since bought a car and are working to rebuild their credit so they can rent a home again.

"Thank you for a second chance," Kim says with gratitude for your generosity. Tearing up, she adds, "Thank you for not giving up on us."