



Arlington  
Life Shelter

HOLIDAY 2017



# THE ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter



Becky Orander, MSW  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## dear friend,

Brandon stopped by the Shelter several weeks ago, arms overflowing with donations. He's living a life he couldn't have imagined when he was a child staying at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) with his mother and younger brother. Your partnership provided the support his family needed during their time of crisis. Now, he has a job he loves, a comfortable home and is expecting his first child any day.

Brandon was in 6th grade when I met him on my first day at the Arlington Life Shelter 20 years ago. His easy smile and helpfulness brought light into the lives of other residents struggling just to put one foot in front of the other. Brandon was one of the few children at the Shelter in 1997. Today, over half of the residents served are young families.

I wish you could meet some of our former residents. They're involved in their children's schools, active in their faith communities, employed in management positions... They're living the bright futures they could never have imagined, and it's all because of you.

It's the families — our residents — that keep me motivated. Children have always been my passion. My heart is with the children at the Shelter. When I think of my own incredible childhood and how blessed I continue to be, I want to make sure that every child who walks through the doors of the Arlington Life Shelter, now and long into the future, has the same opportunity to grow up and thrive.

Now, more than ever, our children need your support. I firmly believe that, together, we can change the future for the infants, children and adults turning to the Arlington Life Shelter for care.

Over my 20 years here, I've seen so many stories like Brandon's. That's why I made a commitment to not just serve the Shelter and its residents during my lifetime, but to include the Arlington Life Shelter as a beneficiary in my estate plans so this important work can continue long into the future. It's something I fervently hope you'll consider, too. The Arlington Life Shelter is just too important to the future of our community.

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I want to make sure that over the next 20 years and beyond, the Shelter can continue to uplift lives like Brandon's, and like Nicholas's, who you'll meet on page three of this newsletter. I hope you'll choose to join me, either through a gift in your will, a charitable bequest, a stock gift, or any of the other many ways you can leave a lasting legacy that changes lives well into the future.

This holiday season, I hope you'll take the time to think about how fortunate we are to have roofs over our heads and warm meals on the table. These blessings we often take for granted are a big deal for people facing the desperation of homelessness.

Your community needs you — now and tomorrow. The problem of homelessness isn't going away, but together, we've got this.

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

## Because of You, Angelica's Family Has a Home for the Holidays

When you give to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) you help provide resources like emergency shelter, life skills services and job readiness training to families like Angelica's.

Angelica, just like most mothers, wants a stable home for her son, especially during the holiday season. She recently left a dangerous living situation and had nowhere to go until she found the Arlington Life Shelter.

She needed help getting back on her feet so that she and her son, Nicholas, 8, could start over. Angelica felt hopeless, but your partnership with the Shelter not only provided for their basic needs like food, clothing and help with medication, but gave them so much more.

Now that Angelica has stability, she was able to secure full-time employment with the possibility for advancement. Because of your support, she and Nicholas won't be at the Shelter much longer. Soon, they'll be celebrating the holidays in a home of their own.

Your generosity to the Arlington Life Shelter allowed Angelica and Nicholas to have hope again. Angelica is very grateful for all the help and will leave knowing that there are generous people like you who are there for others in need. We join Angelica in expressing deep gratitude for your compassion and generosity at this special time of year.



Angelica and Nicholas

## MAKE A PLANNED GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are the perfect time to make a planned gift. As we celebrate this season of gratitude, we can ensure that our joy is shared for years to come.

A planned gift can be any of the following:

- Charitable Bequest
- Life Income Gift
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Real Estate Gift
- Gift of Stock or Other Assets

To learn more about how to make a lasting impact, please contact Jim Reeder, Community Development Director, at [jreeder@arlingtonlifeshelter.org](mailto:jreeder@arlingtonlifeshelter.org) or (817) 548-9885 Ext. 3307.

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**Thursday, December 7, 2017**

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
at Sheraton Arlington.

Join us for a festive dinner event including entertainment by the UT Arlington Jazz Combo, auctions, raffles and inspiration. Celebrate the holiday season knowing that you are providing warm beds and sweet dreams for homeless children and families. Tickets and select sponsorships are still available.

Please visit our website at [www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org](http://www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org) or contact Kellie Reichert at 817-548-9885, ext. 3304 or at [kreichert@arlingtonlifeshelter.org](mailto:kreichert@arlingtonlifeshelter.org)

**Carolyn**



**You Gave Carolyn Hope**

## WISH LIST

**Walmart gift cards**

**Socks and underwear —**  
*Children and Adults*

**New twin sheets**

**Cold medicine —**  
*Children and Adults*

For a complete Wish List, please visit [www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org](http://www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org)

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Calling all of Santa's helpers! Volunteers are needed to accept holiday donations, sort and wrap gifts and pick up and assemble gifts from December 13th – 24th during daytime hours. Please contact Chandra Thompson at [cthompson@arlingtonlifeshelter.org](mailto:cthompson@arlingtonlifeshelter.org) or 817-548-9885 ext 3302.



Carolyn has a bright and friendly personality. To meet her, you'd never know how much she's been through.

For 15 years she worked in the finance department for the state government. But her whole world changed when she was rear-ended by an 18-wheeler. After the accident, she endured multiple surgeries and her doctors told her that she would never be the same. She was suddenly disabled and out of work.

***"[The Shelter] has given me an opportunity and a chance."***

Carolyn eventually lost her home and was forced to live out of her truck, moving from church parking lot to church parking lot trying to find a safe place to sleep. It was the darkest time of her life, and she didn't see a ray of light until she learned about the [Arlington Life Shelter](http://www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org).

Carolyn's in pain most of the time, but she was determined to follow the Shelter's program and find a new job. When she learned about an opening with UTA's janitorial team, she jumped at the opportunity even though she was told her degree and experience made her overqualified.

Her daily pain makes the work hard, but she says she's just grateful to have a job. Meanwhile, the support you're making possible at the Shelter is giving her the tools she needs to continue her search for an even better position back in the financial services industry.

"[The Shelter] has given me an opportunity and a chance," she says with gratitude.

Because of you, Carolyn has hope and can look ahead to the future. This holiday season, she and all of the residents at the Arlington Life Shelter are more grateful for your generosity than you can imagine.