



Arlington
Life Shelter

HOLIDAY 2018



THE ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter





Becky Orander, MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



dear friend,

When I think of the holidays, I think of family. The relationships in my life that bring me joy.

As we get caught up in the festivities and traditions that come with the season, it is easy to forget that for many, especially the homeless, the holidays can be a time of loneliness and sadness.

They can be a reminder of the home they no longer have or the family and friends no longer part of their lives.

Thanks to you, the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) is a special place during the holidays, filled with the delicious aromas of homemade treats. Bright lights, parties and a teddy bear tree bring joy to the residents struggling with memories of holidays past.

The stories I've selected for this edition of The Road Home are just a small sampling of the impact you're making on the homeless seeking care from the Shelter this holiday season.

Neighbors like Andre (page 3), a veteran spending the holidays without a home in the very country he served. And Daniel, who would be spending the holidays on the streets with his three sons if not for your generosity (page 4). Andre and Daniel are so very thankful for your kindness - and so am I.

Thanks to your gifts, Arlington Life Shelter is here to care for the homeless with shelter, meals and resources to find their way "home" again. What a gift you are giving!

On behalf of those we serve together, happy holidays! Thank you for your generosity during the holidays and all year long.

With gratitude,
Becky

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



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WWW.ARLINGTONLIFESHELTER.ORG

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Andre Thanks You For Your Help



Andre survived major heart surgery a year ago, only to find he could no longer tolerate the cold winters of his native state of Michigan.

So the 69-year-old veteran set out with his daughter, Natalia, for a move to Texas' warmer climate. A car breakdown on the way and the needed repairs cost them most of their savings and left them with only their car for shelter.

"We didn't have a room" Andre explains. "I didn't have a place to cook our meals."

Andre, who served in the Air Force, said a case worker from

Veterans Affairs told him about the [Arlington Life Shelter](#).

Thanks to people like you, Andre and Natalia can stay at the Shelter while they seek work and a place to live. Andre's immediate goals are to get a Texas driver's license and look for a job.

Natalia is currently working for McDonalds, but will soon transition to working for a moving company. She hopes to return to college, where she plans to study business.

"Everybody in here has a story," Andre says. "We're not here because we want to be. We want a leg up, not a handout."



Andre

Thank you for helping veterans like Andre this holiday season. You're making a difference for so many lives.

"You're helping my family return to society," Andre says. "All these people [at the Arlington Life Shelter] want is the ability to move forward."

Students Taught Value of Giving, No Matter Their Size

Beatrice Davis drives by the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) on her way to teach at Webb Elementary School. And that's how she received inspiration to turn a simple school lesson into a service project for her students.

The lesson theme she was tasked to teach was "Earn, Save,

Spend & Donate." To launch the project, Beatrice wrote a letter to students' parents asking them to assign chores and pay their kids for their work.

The children bring their earned money — no amount is too small — to school, where Beatrice collects it and uses the combined total to purchase critical-need items for the Shelter, such as toiletries and cleaning supplies.

"We teach [students] that we can make our community better," Beatrice says of the service project. "No matter how small we are, we can make a difference."

The project began in Beatrice's classroom, but soon spread throughout the school. Now in its fifth year, students have raised more than \$5,000 overall.

Beatrice continues to be amazed at how the students' parents are happy to help, realizing that many struggle to provide for their own families. She's also thankful for school principal Elena Lopez, who supports and makes the project possible.

"I just love it and I get so excited every year," Beatrice says. "We're teaching these kids to be kind, caring citizens."

Beatrice was also instrumental in starting the "One School, One Item" holiday drive where surrounding schools join Webb to collect holiday wish list items for the Shelter.

"You don't have to do what we do," Beatrice advises. "Just get involved."



Beatrice and other teachers from Webb Elementary shop for supplies to be donated to the Arlington Life Shelter.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thursday, December 6, 2018
6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.
Sheraton Arlington

Join us for a festive dinner event including holiday entertainment, 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 or contact Jim Reeder at jreeder@arlingtonlifeshelter.org.

NOTRE DAME UPDATE



Allan, who was served by the **Arlington Life Shelter** in 4th grade, has found college to be much better than he could have imagined.

“The students are very goal-oriented with clear visions for their futures, so I felt welcome right away.” He attributes his success to the people who helped him at the Shelter. “I learned that if I worked hard, my choices for the future were unlimited.”

VOLUNTEER FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Calling all of Santa's helpers! Volunteers are needed to accept holiday donations at the Shelter from December 17th – 24th. Please contact Rebekah Garner at rgarner@arlingtonlifeshelter.org to volunteer.

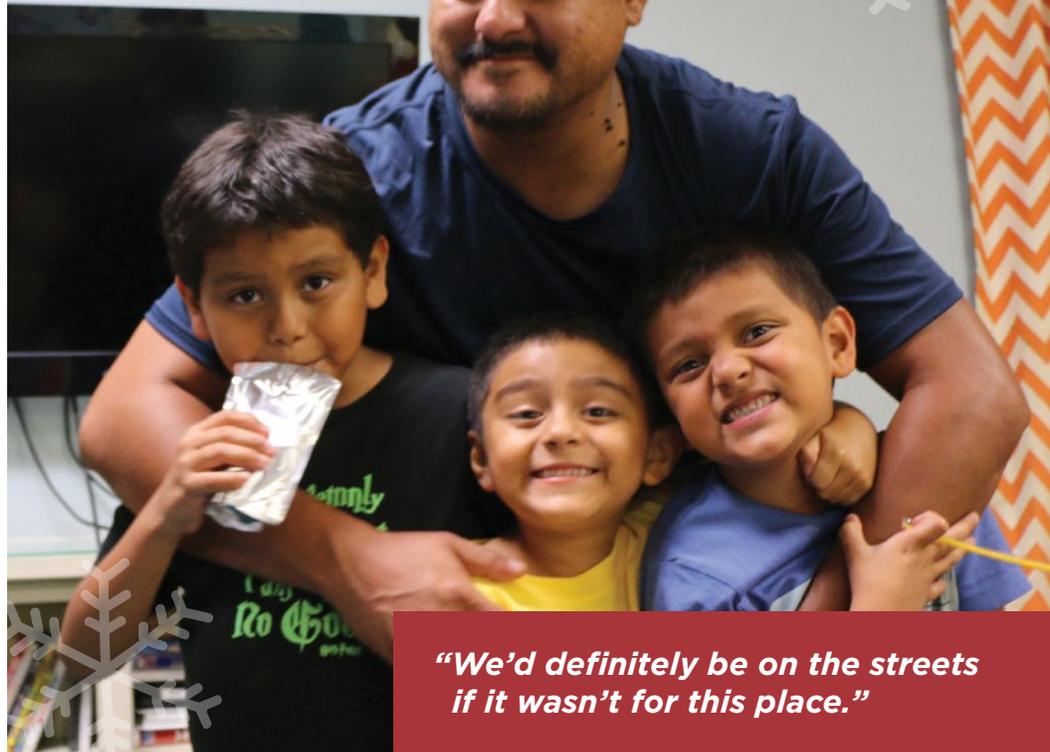
HOLIDAY WISH LIST

- Holiday Gift Cards for teens (Amazon, McDonald's, Subway)
- Gift bags of all sizes
- Wrapping paper and tape
- New commercial microwave
- 4 iPads

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



Daniel embraces his three sons.



“We’d definitely be on the streets if it wasn’t for this place.”

Single Father Thanks You For Helping His Family

Noah, Nikko and Nathan have been busy brothers. First, superhero camp. Next, calling BINGO at a birthday party. Most recently, playing musical instruments in a talent show. All of this in only three weeks’ time — and made possible by caring and generous people like you.

“Thank you for your contribution,” the boys’ father, Daniel, says. “It helps more than you think.”

Daniel has had a difficult time getting by since separating from his wife. He’s been without work, and only had a little money left from his last job. Unsure where to go, he moved his sons into a motel.

Although Daniel has family in the area, they weren’t able to stay with them. So he searched for some place that could help them with housing.

But while many services are available for single mothers, few are available for single fathers. Thankfully, Daniel heard about the Arlington Life Shelter.

“We’d definitely be on the streets if it wasn’t for [the Arlington Life Shelter],” Daniel says.

Daniel was thrilled to find a temporary job delivering pizza while seeking employment that would utilize his previous work experience in a parks department or city services role. But for now, he’s just focused on stability for his sons.

This holiday season, Daniel and his sons — and all the residents at the [Arlington Life Shelter](http://www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org) — are so grateful for your generosity. It makes a world of difference for your neighbors.