



Arlington
Life Shelter

SPRING 2017

THE ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter



Becky Orander, MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

The flowers are beginning to bloom, the birds are singing and children are spending more time outdoors. There's only one explanation — spring has finally arrived!

While it's easy to make room in our hearts for those who are less fortunate during the cold months — it's important to remember that homelessness is a year-round problem for children and their families. I'm so grateful that friends like you understand this.

Now, more than ever, your continued support is critical as more families need care than ever before. Your partnership ensures that everyone who comes through our doors can receive the temporary shelter and services they need. Over the past year, this has sadly included a number of babies who have started their lives at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) with their young mothers needing our support.

As you read this issue of the Road Home, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the impact you're having on the lives of our homeless neighbors. Because of you, the individuals and families who you'll read about here are back on the path to self-sufficiency.

This spring, I'm beyond grateful for people like you who give their time and treasure to further our shared vision of ending homelessness in our community. Thank you so much!

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Thank You for Helping Mothers like Monica

Like most parents, Monica would do anything for her child. So, when her son, an Iraq war veteran, was having serious health problems, she didn't think twice about dropping everything to be there for him.

Over the next year and a half, Monica put her life on hold, leaving behind her job and other responsibilities to help her son recover. When his situation finally improved, Monica accepted an invitation to live with a friend in Arlington.

But when those housing plans fell through, Monica wasn't sure what to do next. With no job and very little money, Monica needed help — and thanks to caring people like you, she found that support at the Arlington Life Shelter.

"It has been a blessing being here," Monica said, reflecting on

your generosity that made her stay possible. "They opened their doors to give me a chance."

Monica was amazed by the many resources available to her as a new resident. Through the employment program, Monica was inspired to pursue employment at an Amazon store in Grapevine — her first step in being able to afford her own place to live.

"They opened their doors to give me a chance."

"I am so ready to get back into my own place and start living again and the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) is helping me do that," Monica said.

For Monica and countless other homeless individuals in North Texas, it can be a real challenge to find safe, reliable shelter. Because



Monica

of you, our struggling neighbors have an amazing resource they can rely on during the most difficult times of their lives. Thank you for caring!

Helping Build A Homeless-Free Arlington

Throughout his childhood, Gregg Wilkinson's father instilled in him an ethic of hard work. Thanks to this, Gregg is now a successful business owner. He now spends much of his time overseeing the operations of No Frills Grill & Sports Bar, which has several locations across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

In his free time, Gregg volunteers as a member of the [Arlington Life Shelter](#)'s board of directors. He's a true champion in the fight against homelessness in our community, regularly going above and beyond his normal board duties.

When Gregg isn't helping raise funds for important Shelter services, he is recruiting friends and fellow business owners to become involved in the agency's work.

While his volunteering requires a great deal of effort on his part, Gregg has no regrets. To him, serving others is simply the right thing to do.

"The way I feel about life is that everyone has the right to have a job and to work," Gregg said. "This shelter helps get people back to that, to being self-sufficient and to having a personal level of self-satisfaction."

We couldn't have said it better ourselves. Thank you, Gregg, for your service on behalf of homeless children and families here in North Texas!



Gregg Wilkinson

THE ROAD HOME TOUR

Discover our community's "final safety net" in 59 minutes. Learn about the homeless families and individuals served by the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) by touring the Shelter during the quietest part of the day - while the residents are at work and school.

Wednesday, April 5

Noon, Lunch provided

Saturday, April 22

10 a.m.

Wednesday, May 10

Noon, Lunch provided

Wednesday, June 14

Noon, Lunch provided

Saturday, June 24

10 a.m.

Please RSVP to Rebekah at (817) 548-9885 ext. 3306 or rgarner@arlingtonlifeshelter.org.

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** Jim Reeder, Community Development Director at jreeder@arlingtonlifeshelter.org or (817) 548-9885 Ext. 3307.

WISH LIST

Powdered laundry detergent
Water
Lysol spray
Commercial microwave

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

A Mother and Son are Grateful to You



Tabitha* and her son, Bradley

When Tabitha tragically lost her husband more than a year ago, her whole life changed in an instant. She was devastated - and nothing could ever fill the gaping hole in her heart.

As she worked through the grieving process, Tabitha knew she had to stay strong for her school-age son, Bradley. But without a regular source of income, affording life's basic necessities became nearly impossible. Homelessness soon

"[You] saved us."

became part of their life story.

But Tabitha refused to give up. While she had spent the last several years as a full-time mom and homemaker, before that, she was a nurse. Unfortunately, too much time had passed and her license was expired. Desperate to provide some form of income for her family, she accepted the first

job she could find — a position at a local fast food restaurant.

Even though Tabitha was working hard, carrying extra shifts when possible, the resources just weren't enough to raise her young son. She was relieved when a school staff member referred them to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). While here, she has been able to collect her thoughts and plan while providing Bradley with the resources he needs to grieve his father and feel a sense of stability.

Tabitha has now begun a job in healthcare to sharpen her skills as she takes the necessary steps to recertify as a nurse.

Every day, hard-working neighbors like Tabitha come to the Shelter in hopes of putting their lives back together. For many, this takes time and specialized care that is only available because partners like you give.

"[You] saved us," Tabitha said, fighting back tears of gratitude.

*Names have been changed at the resident's request.