



Arlington
Life Shelter

SPRING 2018

THE ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter



Becky Orander, MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

As director of the [Arlington Life Shelter](#), I spend much of my time talking to people in the community about our work of providing life-changing services to homeless men, women and children. It's one of the favorite parts of my job.

When I'm at a speaking event or other gathering, many attendees are surprised to learn that Arlington has families living in their cars, and that the number of elderly men and women needing care last year doubled. These are hardworking, retired individuals whose savings and Social Security checks do not cover the high cost of living in our community.

Children and the elderly, our community's most vulnerable citizens, have a safe place to sleep, regular meals and help obtaining the resources they need to live independently because of you. I want you to know how greatly your generosity is appreciated.

In the following pages, you'll see how your choice to invest in the lives of homeless families and individuals is already paying off. You can read about Kimberly and Cliff, who I'm sure will be back in a home of their own in no time because of you. Meet this inspiring couple on page 3.

While we tend to think about the homeless the most when the temperature drops, it's important to remember that the extreme needs of our residents aren't seasonal. For parents without food to feed their children and individuals laid off from their jobs, the need for your support is no less urgent. By working together, we can ensure that our community's homeless, infants to the elderly, have a place to turn in their time of need.

Thank you for your kindness and compassion!

Gratefully,

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

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Because You Give, A Couple Will Soon Be Home

A week and a half into their stay at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#), Kimberly and her husband, Cliff, are on the right track. After just five interviews, Kimberly landed a job. But she didn't accomplish this alone. She had help, which was only possible thanks to caring supporters like you.

Each time you give to the Shelter, you ensure neighbors like Kimberly can access Leg Up classes, which prepare shelter residents for employment, and education classes to help earn certifications for higher paying

“Nobody wants to be in a shelter, but life sometimes throws you curveballs.”

positions. Services like these are critical to helping our homeless neighbors become self-sufficient.

“By the grace of God there's a great networking system here [at the Shelter],” Kimberly said, explaining how she was able to find work so quickly.

Considering the number of life-changing transitions she

and her husband have been though in the past few weeks — becoming homeless, settling into a shelter and finding new jobs — Kimberly continues to be overwhelmed with joy and gratitude by the kindness she and Cliff have been shown. She simply can't believe someone would give so much support to complete strangers.

“Nobody wants to be in a shelter, but life sometimes throws you curveballs,” Kimberly said. “Thank God there are places like this.”

“I Like Knowing That We Make A Difference”

A core value of the Pi Theta Tau fraternity at Dallas Baptist University is service, especially to those facing homelessness and other hardships. It's because of this sincere desire to help that fraternity members have volunteered hundreds of hours of service to the Shelter over the years.

The [Arlington Life Shelter](#) is officially part of the Pi Theta Tau's homeless ministry. This is a monthly volunteer commitment that the group members are happy to fulfill. Recent projects have included construction, cleaning up debris around the Shelter and organizing the warehouse.

“I like knowing that when we go, we make a difference,” says Cody Caldwell, Phi Theta Tau President. “It's the purpose of serving – it gives me and the other people in the fraternity some gratification to see things accomplished.”

Do you have a large group interested in volunteering? Current

needs include painting, preparing and serving dinner, providing sack lunches, decorating the Shelter for Easter and providing a “School's Out for Summer” party for residents of all ages.

Please consider following in Pi Theta Tau's footsteps and contact Chandra Thompson, Director of Volunteer Services at cthompson@arlingtonlifeshelter.org.



Members of Pi Theta Tau, a Fraternity at Dallas Baptist University

THE ROAD HOME TOUR

Learn how the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) helps homeless families and individuals secure employment, become self-sufficient and break the cycle of poverty.

Discover our community's "final safety net" in 59 minutes. Tour our facility during the day while shelter residents are at school and work.

March 14, 24

April 11, 28

May 9, 26

June 13, 23

Please sign up to attend a Road Home Tour on the agency's website at www.arlingtonlifeshelter.org or RSVP to Rebekah at (817) 548-9885 ext. 3306.

WISH LIST

Lysol spray
Drink mixes

All-purpose cleaner

Trash bags (55-gallon and 13-gallon)

Commercial Microwave Oven

Cereal bowls

For a complete Wish List, please visit www.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.



Jim and James

*"I can't wait to be successful."
- Jim*

Fully Recovered and Ready to Work, Jim Says 'Thank You'

As Jim spoke about the events that led his family to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#), he talked constantly about his son, James. He beamed with pride as he shared photos and videos, including several of James performing in a recent school talent show at the private school he attended before the family's financial situation changed so dramatically.

From talking to Jim, it seems his family's difficulties have had more to do with bad luck than anything else.

Jim had two heart attacks last year that left him unemployed for quite some time. According to his doctors, he's lucky to be alive. Now fully recovered, James is back to looking for work with the help of support services your generosity makes possible through the Shelter.

Just a few weeks into his and James' stay, Jim is close to finding a job that will meet his family's long-term financial needs. In the meantime, he's working with James' old school to see if his son can qualify for financial aid. He hopes to re-enroll James' so he can continue his education in the place Jim thinks he'll have the most success.

A survivor by nature, Jim has no doubt that his family will be out of the Shelter very soon. When that happens, Jim says he'll be able to spend more time with his son talking about baseball and the other hobbies they share. Jim is visibly excited about the future, and it's thanks to your generosity.

"[Your gifts] go a long way to helping families get their lives back together," he said.