



Arlington
Life Shelter

SPRING 2019



THE ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter



Becky Orander, MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

There's so much to love about springtime in North Texas. The arrival of bluebonnets and warmer temperatures, picnics and school field days.

Thanks to your generosity, children receiving care at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) participate in activities just like these. Shorts and sandals replace winter clothing and jackets.

Parents are equipped to participate in job training programs and begin the transition from minimum wage jobs to higher paying employment, thanks to strong community partnerships. Thanks to you, children participate in educational and therapeutic activities while their parents are in training.

On the following pages of *The Road Home*, I hope you'll enjoy reading about just a few of the hundreds of homeless families your gift is helping this year. Neighbors like Torrey and Shantearion (page 4) are not only gaining the resources they need to support their family, but they're interested in returning as volunteers. You've inspired them.

So many circumstances can lead to homelessness, but your compassion helps neighbors find a way out and onto better lives. Your faithful generosity makes our community such a wonderful place to call home!

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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WWW.ARLINGTONLIFESHELTER.ORG

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You Help Give Second Chances

Claude painfully recalls when everything fell apart for his family. But he's so thankful for friends like you who are helping them rebuild again.

Claude says his family hit a low point last year when their two cars broke down and they couldn't afford repairs or another way to get to work. Eventually, this led them to homelessness.

"You'll leave not the same way you came in."

Thankfully, the family heard about the [Arlington Life Shelter](#), where Claude and his wife, Frances, have lived for nearly three months with their daughters, 2-year-old Azariah and 1-year-old Alysiah.

Claude says he's encouraged to see his daughters thrive at the Shelter despite being in a

new environment. The girls enjoy the activities provided for them, especially socializing with staff and other children.

And soon, the girls will get to explore a new home. Both Claude and Frances have found jobs and carved out goals for their family's future.

"[Our caseworker] Megan is great with teaching us how to set goals and save money, find jobs and daycare," Claude says.

With plans falling into place, Claude is especially thankful to donors like you.

"You'll leave [the Shelter] not the same way you came in," Claude says.

Your gifts help provide families like Claude's with the second chance they need. Thank you for making such a difference in our community!



Claude, Alysiah and Azariah



Lois Offers Hope to Children at Shelter

Today, Lois uses her experience with homelessness to reach out to those in her community facing similar struggles.

"I'm honored to be a part of the Shelter," Lois says.

The couple first began volunteering at the Shelter through North Davis Church where they're members. Remembering what it was like to be homeless as a child, Lois seeks to especially help children at the Shelter.

In addition to assisting with activities for kids, Lois and her husband also began a fundraiser specifically to benefit children staying at the Shelter.

Now in its ninth year, the Carter's Committee for Children's Charities has raised \$250,000 to help provide band instruments, summer camp tuition, college scholarships and various necessities for kids staying at the shelter.

Lois also teaches job interview preparation classes at the Shelter and her husband teaches public speaking.

Thank you, Lois, for making life at the Shelter so much brighter and more hopeful for so many residents — especially children! You're making an incredible difference in your community!

THE ROAD HOME TOUR

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

Tour Dates

Wednesday, April 10th at Noon
Saturday, April 27th at 10am
Wednesday, May 8th at Noon
Saturday, May 18th at 10am
Wednesday, June 12th at Noon
Saturday, June 29th at 10am

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.

LEAVE A LEGACY

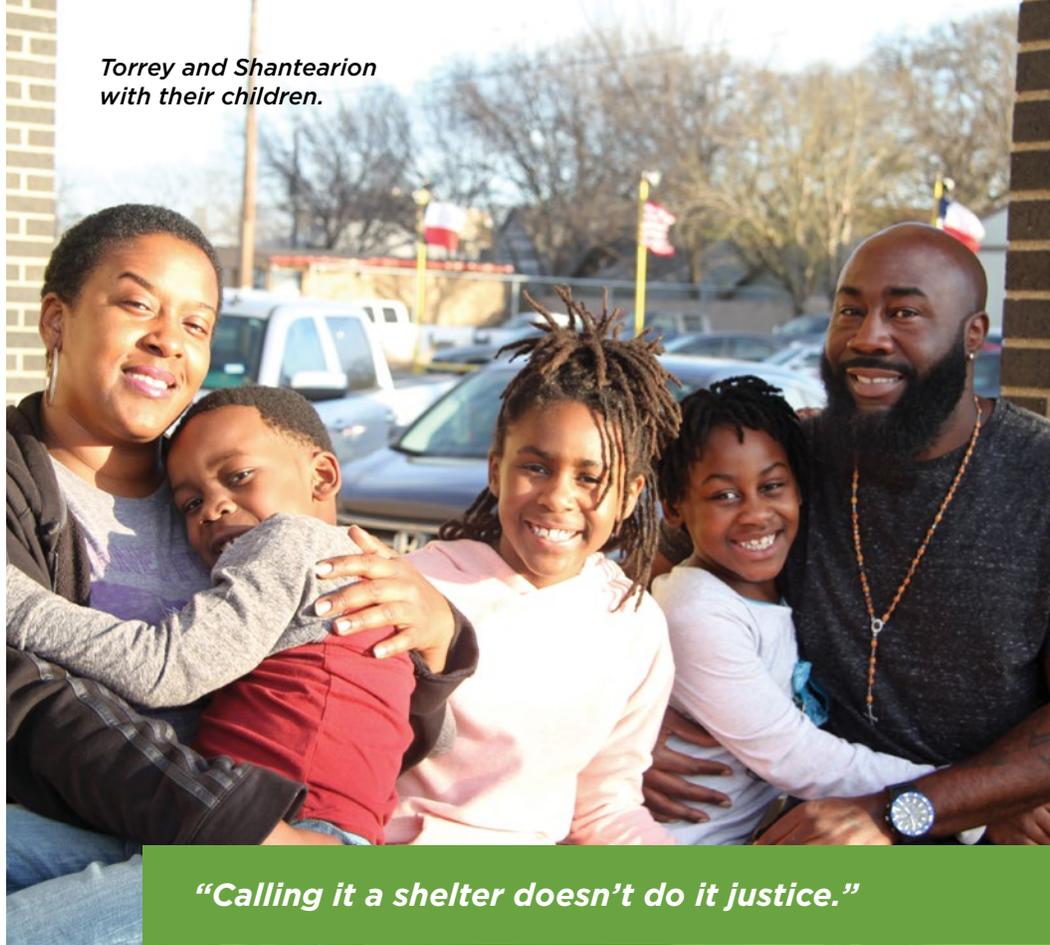
It's never too early to begin thinking about the kind of legacy you want to leave behind. Because you care so deeply about ending homelessness in North Texas, we'd like you to consider including the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) in your estate plans through a will, trust, life insurance gift or other legacy gift. You can also make a bequest to our *Hearts to Homes* capital campaign for a new facility. To learn more about how to make a lasting impact, please contact April Mitchell, Director of Development at amitchell@arlingtonlifeshelter.org.

WISH LIST

Paper towels
Disinfectant spray (Lysol)
Bottled water
Powdered drink mix
Laundry detergent

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

Torrey and Shantearion with their children.



"Calling it a shelter doesn't do it justice."

You Inspire Family to Give Back

Torrey and Shantearion showed up at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) with the hopes of a place to stay overnight. But they received so much more than they ever expected...

Almost three months after their initial arrival, the couple and their three young children are ready to move into their own home. And thanks to your support, Torrey and Shantearion say they're now better equipped to provide for their family.

"Our time here is almost up and they've prepared us so well," Torrey says.

The couple took a chance last year and moved with their children to the Arlington area for better job prospects. They stayed in hotels while searching for work, but the money soon ran out, and with it, a place to stay.

But since finding the Shelter, staff helped Torrey and

Shantearion find jobs and set goals for their family. Torrey says the Shelter has provided a lot more than just a roof over their heads.

"Calling it a shelter doesn't do it justice," he says, commenting on the numerous ways your gifts help Shelter residents during their stay. "If you don't come up out of this situation, [it's because] you don't want to come up."

Both Torrey and Shantearion plan to continue pursuing even better jobs, but whatever path their careers take, Torrey says their main goal is "to take care of our family."

And the entire family is now inspired to give back to the community, just like you have given to them.

"We look forward to coming back and helping," Torrey says. "We plan on becoming donors ourselves one day."