



Arlington  
Life Shelter

WINTER 2019



# THE ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter



Becky Orander, MSW  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## dear friend,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe we've turned the calendar to another year — I'm so grateful to start it with amazing friends like you.

But while the new year is cause for celebration, it's also a source of increased worry for those facing homelessness in North Texas. As you know, our weather can change from warm to freezing in the span of a few hours...

Often, homeless men, women and children are left with little choice than to sleep in their cars — or even outside — during harsh winter nights. For them, your gifts to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) are truly a lifeline — and a chance at a fresh, new start.

You continue to make an impact on residents' lives long after they leave the Shelter. Allan (page 3) was a child when he stayed at the Shelter and he attributes his success today to caring donors to the Shelter, like you.

With exciting changes on their way this year, I'm encouraged and hopeful that with the ongoing support of friends like you, we can bring more of our neighbors in from the cold.

I hope you enjoy the stories I've selected for this edition of The Road Home. They're just a few of the many lives you're impacting for the better!

Your partnership restores hope and dignity to the parents and adults struggling to provide for their families and get back on their feet.

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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325 W. DIVISION ST.  
ARLINGTON, TX 76011  
817-548-9885  
WWW.ARLINGTONLIFESHELTER.ORG

## From Shelter to Notre Dame Thanks to Your Generosity!

Allan is living his dream as a student of the University of Notre Dame, and he says the time he spent at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) eight years ago helped lay the foundation for his achievements today.

At nine years old, Allan stayed at the Shelter with his dad, Peter, and his older brother, George. Originally from Kenya, the family moved to America to make a fresh start.

However, Peter was unable to find a job that let him fully support his sons, and soon, homeless and without hope, they turned to the Shelter for help.

Allan remembers the Shelter fondly. He recalls the pivotal time volunteers spent tutoring him and George — years later he graduated from high school at the top of his class and received scholarship offers from 5 top universities. After

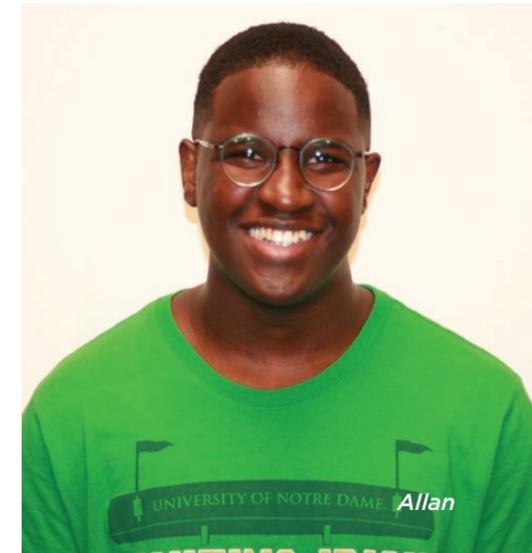
visiting campuses, he chose to attend Notre Dame because of its strong religious foundation.

Today, Allan is studying public health at Notre Dame, with the goal of becoming a hospital administrator. Allan wants to help ensure access to quality medical care for all, regardless of income. Robert Earley, President of John Peter Smith Hospital, is helping Allan begin the path by serving as a mentor, allowing him to shadow hospital administrators.

But even as Allan pursues his dreams, he's not about to forget the opportunity that people like you help provide for families like his — and even sent him to school with basic supplies to set him up for success!

"God bless you," Allan says to Shelter supporters like you. "Thanks for helping us."

Thank you for making it possible for families like Allan's to make new beginnings. You never know what that fresh start will do to make our community — and our world — a better place.



## "Our Passion Just Keeps Growing."

Brad and Rebecca Jay moved to the Arlington area back in 1994 and the Arlington Life Shelter has been a part of their lives ever since.

"It's a really great organization," Brad says. "We'll probably stay involved forever."



The couple first started volunteering at the Shelter along with fellow members of North Davis Church, helping serve meals on a monthly basis.

Those initial visits fostered in Brad and Rebecca an even deeper desire to help those who "are less fortunate and are going through a rough patch in life."

Today, Brad serves as Board President for the Shelter, so his passion for the work there has only grown with time. He's thankful to be a part of an organization that offers so much more than just a warm bed.

"[They] really counsel people and get them to be self-sustaining and on the right path," he says.

Brad is especially excited about the progress of the Shelter's capital campaign, *Hearts to Homes*. Meeting the campaign goals means there will be additional space and more life-changing service available to help homeless families and individuals.

"We'll be able to do so much more with the new facility," he says. "It's really exciting to see where it goes from here."

Thank you for your service to [Arlington Life Shelter](#), Brad!

## 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.

### Tour Dates

**Wednesday, January 16th at Noon** – lunch provided

**Saturday, January 26th at 10am**

**Wednesday, February 6th at Noon** – lunch provided

**Saturday, February 23rd at 10am**

**Wednesday, March 6th at Noon** – lunch provided

**Saturday, March 23rd at 10am**

Please RSVP to Rebekah at (817) 548-9885 ext. 3306 or [rgarner@arlingtonlifeshelter.org](mailto: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. 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](mailto:amitchell@arlingtonlifeshelter.org).

## WISH LIST

Children's Cold Medicine  
Disposable Bowls  
Lysol Spray and Wipes  
Coffee

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



Ashly and her daughter, Arianny

***"Please keep giving. The families really need it."***

## You Help Keep Hope Alive

Ashly and her 5-year-old daughter Arianny only spent a few weeks at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). But Ashly's thanking you for the chance it gave them to get back on their feet.

"They helped me get home," Ashly says.

Ashly and her daughter are living in their own home now. But Ashly says if it weren't for their time at the Shelter, they would likely be spending cold nights sleeping in her car.

"I had nothing to give my child," Ashly said of the time before living at the Shelter. "That hurt."

But Ashly is thankful your contributions allowed her the opportunity to seek out work and learn better life skills for the future. With a little help, she quickly found work and a way to provide for Arianny again.

These days, Arianny is a thriving, energetic little girl. She remembers her days at the Shelter fondly and says her favorite memories there were singing the ABCs and reading Winnie the Pooh books.

Ashly is optimistic about Arianny's future and her own. She feels her success comes from taking advantage of all the resources offered at the Shelter.

"Never give up hope," she shares. "Everything will turn around for the better."

Ashly especially wants to thank you for helping her keep hope alive for her and her daughter. Your donations make a big difference for families like hers.

"Please keep giving," she urges friends like you. "The families really need it."