



Arlington
Life Shelter

WINTER 2017



THE
ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter



Becky Orander, MSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

dear friend,

Winter is here and that means we're in what's often the most difficult season for our homeless neighbors. The chilly overnight temperatures we usually see during the winter months can make sleeping outside even more risky than usual — especially for young children.

But because friends like you support the [Arlington Life Shelter](#), there's a solution for members of our community who need help getting indoors and back on their feet. Your generosity allows us to provide a safe place for children and their families to access the tools and services they need to thrive.

Last year, you helped so many of our residents return to our community ready to restart their lives. Thanks to your partnership, this year looks to be even more successful.

For our first issue of The Road Home in 2017, I've selected a few stories that show the impact you're already making in our community. With your help, we can keep the momentum going in the many months ahead.

There aren't enough words to tell you how much I appreciate your kindness and generosity. You're truly a hero to the homeless children and adults we serve together.

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Two of Laura's children, Ayden and Elizabeth, enjoy a meal served by shelter volunteers.

Your Gifts Mean the World to This Young Mother

As a mother of four children, Laura is one of many North Texas parents who's grateful for your generosity. This past summer, she and her kids — ages 6 to 10 — became homeless shortly after moving in with Laura's mother.

After living with a serious knee injury that's made it difficult for her to find steady employment, Laura decided staying with family would help her save up enough money for another surgery —

hopefully her last. At the time, temporarily sharing a roof with the kids' grandma seemed like a good idea.

Laura learned soon after moving in that her mother was having financial troubles. When Laura came across an eviction notice in the house one day, she was devastated. What would happen to her family?

When the day of their eviction arrived, Laura and the kids had

nowhere to go. She recalls the restless night they spent huddled together in a nearby park, their belongings hidden under nearby bushes.

Finding out about the Arlington Life Shelter was the ray of light she desperately needed. Because of your support, her kids are safe and sleeping in warm beds and receiving food and activities to

"[You've] been a huge blessing."

help them grow. Laura's been busy searching for a job that won't put too much strain on her knee while she waits for her next surgery to be scheduled.

The peace of mind you've brought to Laura — and many other families with young children — means so much. Being homeless is extremely stressful, especially when you have kids. Laura can't thank you enough for what you've done for her through your gifts.

"[You've] been a huge blessing," she says. "This place is amazing."

Honoring a Committed Homeless Advocate

"Carol loved to help people in their time of need," says Steve Zimmer of his late wife.

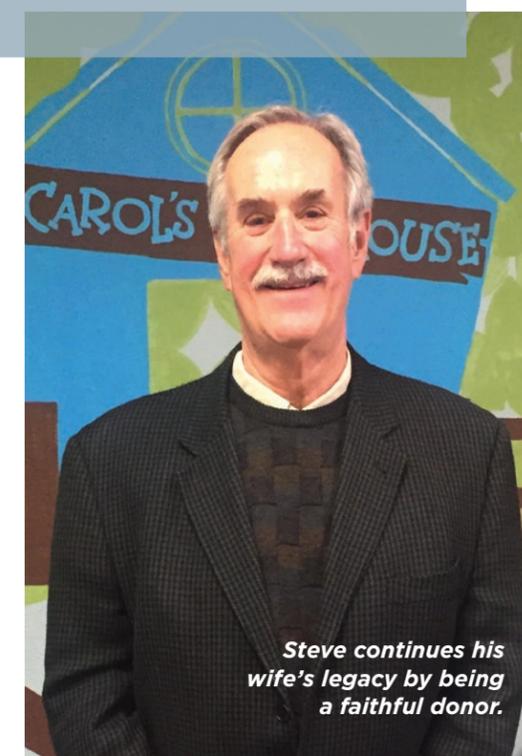
Before she passed away in 2013 after a 12-year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease, Carol Zimmer dedicated much of her free time to serving our homeless neighbors in North Texas. For the most part, Carol focused her efforts on making the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) a safe place for children to learn and grow.

While Carol volunteered, Steve worked as an accountant with Accenture. After 30 years with the company, he was able to retire early, which allowed him to spend quality time with Carol as she reached the end of her life. Today, he's still grateful he was able to be with his wife and their children when it mattered most.

Steve and Carol joined Road Home, the agency's first sustainable giving program, several years ago. As a way to continue Carol's legacy, Steve made a pledge to support the Shelter with an additional annual gift. The funds are earmarked to help meet the Shelter residents' most urgent needs.

Because he truly believes in the mission at the Arlington Life Shelter — just as Carol did — he's not shy about encouraging his neighbors to pitch in as well in his effort to end homelessness in this community. He gives a few very convincing reasons why others should get involved.

"You are providing a needed service to your community," says Steve. "This isn't just a landing place — it gets our neighbors to improve themselves."



Steve continues his wife's legacy by being a faithful donor.

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.

Wednesday, January 18th

12 – 1 p.m. (lunch provided)

Saturday, January 28th

10 – 11 a.m.

Wednesday February 8th

12 – 1 p.m. (lunch provided)

Saturday, February 25th

10 – 11 a.m.

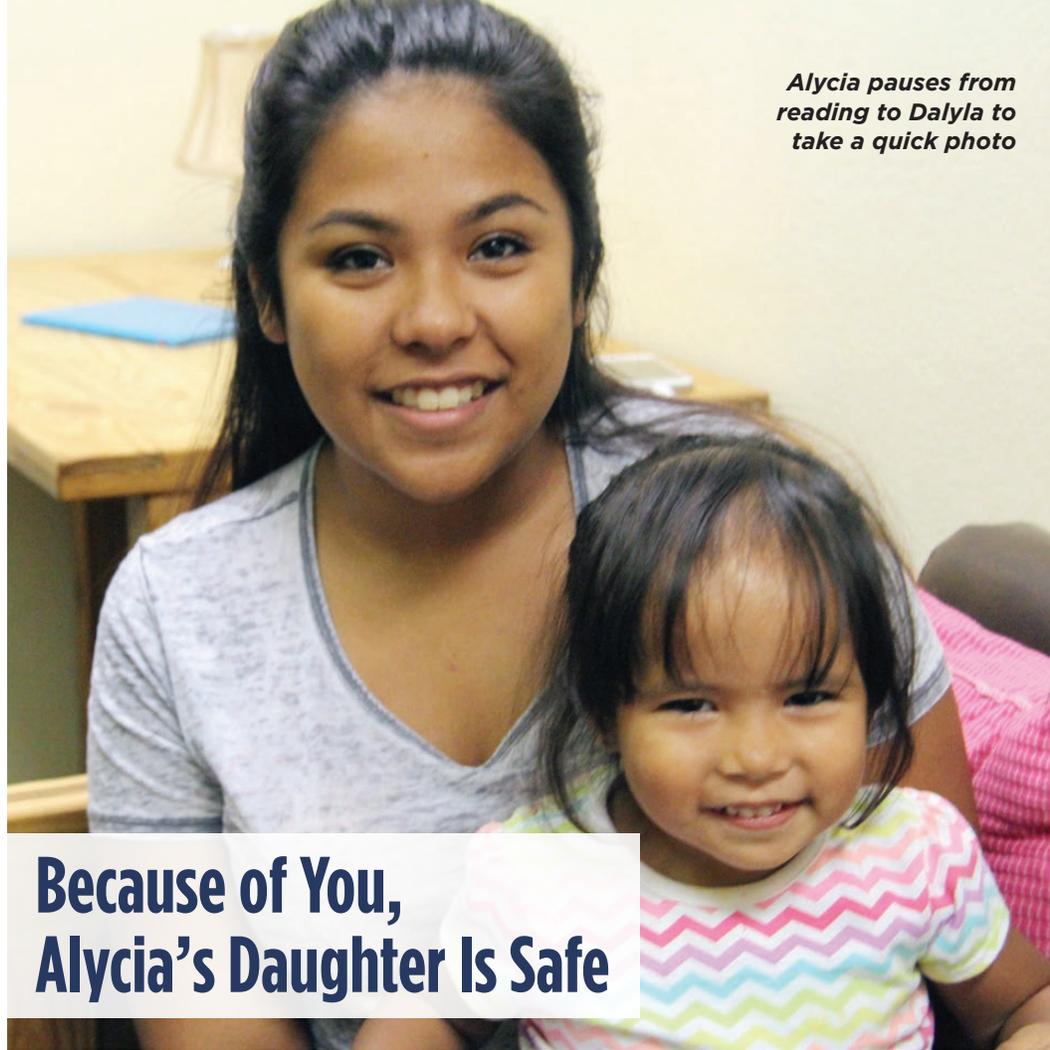
Wednesday, March 8th

12 – 1 p.m. (lunch provided)

Saturday, March 25th

10 – 11 a.m.

Please RSVP to Rebekah at (817) 548-9885 ext. 2004 or rgarner@arlingtonlifeshelter.org.



Alycia pauses from reading to Dalyla to take a quick photo

Because of You, Alycia's Daughter Is Safe

PLANNED GIVING

It's never too early to begin thinking about the kind of legacy you want to leave for future generations. By including the Arlington Life Shelter in your estate plans, your passion for helping homeless children and families can live on in the years and decades ahead.

For more information, please contact Jim Reeder at jreeder@arlingtonlifeshelter.org or (817) 548-9885 Ext. 2012.

WISH LIST

Hot chocolate mix
Kleenex
Lysol
Cold Medicine (*Children and adults*)

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

Alycia just adores her little girl — 2-year-old Dalyla. When she has time, she enjoys taking her to the park and reading books. Books by Dr. Seuss and Sesame Street are some of Dalyla's favorites.

But life hasn't always been happy for this hardworking mother. When she lost her apartment, she had no money and no family or friends to take her and her daughter in. It was only when Alycia spoke with someone from her school, where she's working on her GED, that she was able to find help.

Today, Alycia and Dalyla are at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) — much to Alycia's relief. She's so glad friends like you have been there during this difficult time in her little family's life.

Upon arrival at the Shelter, Alycia received help applying for housing and employment to meet her family's long-term needs. She

was also given plenty of clothes, pull-ups and other items for little Dalyla. All of these services and items were made available because generous people like you choose to give.

"Thank you for providing me and my daughter with what we didn't have."

Each day Alycia leaves her daughter to search for work is a challenge, but your generosity gives her courage. She knows that if she keeps searching, she'll be able to find gainful employment and an apartment for her family.

"Thank you for providing me and my daughter with what we didn't have," Alycia says.