



Arlington  
Life Shelter

WINTER 2020



# THE ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter



Brad Jay  
BOARD PRESIDENT

## dear friend,

A new year is a cause for celebration in and of itself, but I'm especially excited about 2020 and all it has in store for those served by the Arlington Life Shelter, thanks to generous donors like you.

It won't be long now before we can open our doors to even more children, families and adults seeking shelter and a second chance. The long-awaited construction of the Arlington Life Shelter's new building and remodel of our existing shelter is in full swing and should be completed by spring!

In the meantime, winter has arrived in North Texas, which means colder nights and more families and individuals needing shelter from the cold. Fortunately, your gifts allow us to provide a safe, warm place for those we serve and the support they need to get back on their feet.

In this edition of *The Road Home*, I hope you'll enjoy reading Yvonne's story (page 4) and how your gifts are helping her find stability again in her golden years. She's so grateful for your help.

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

Thank you for helping your homeless neighbors start this year with renewed hope.

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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## You Brought Benjamin in From the Cold

Benjamin, 19, didn't have a job, identification, a home or anywhere else to turn when he happened upon the Arlington Life Shelter. Now, he's thanking you for turning all of that around, and more.

Benjamin says he walked for days without really knowing where he was going or how to get help. He slept on the streets until he discovered the Shelter.

"I saw [the Shelter] and stopped to see if they could help," he recalls. "I've been here for three months."

In that time, Benjamin says his case worker has helped him find a job and an apartment he'll move into soon.

"I've been working hard, and

they've helped me every step of the way," he says.

And though Benjamin says he didn't have a good home life and lost ties with his family, he has come to view fellow Shelter residents as his chosen family.

"Everyone is here to help each other," he says.

Benjamin says he's grateful to donors like you for making his stay possible and giving him the help he needed to make a fresh start. He even hopes to return to the Shelter to volunteer.

"With [your] help, I've been able to get a job and make myself a functional and active member of society," he says, proudly.



BENJAMIN

## You're Helping Jacob Dream Bigger

Jacob

Jacob had only one goal in mind when he first arrived at the Arlington Life Shelter: finding a place to live. Now, his dreams are expanding thanks to the support of friends like you.

Jacob, 21, tells us he moved to the area with his dad, but began living in motels when they couldn't keep up with rent. That's when Jacob came to the Shelter while his dad moved in with friends.

"[The Shelter] gives you a straight line and what you can accomplish in a short period of time," Jacob says.

Jacob works for Republic Services and says Shelter staff have helped him learn how to set money aside for his future. Now, he's saved enough from his earnings to begin filling out apartment applications.

He says he's grateful he can focus on his future during his time at the Shelter.

"[The Shelter] provides the security of having somewhere to stay, not having to worry about where your next meal is going to come [from]," Jacob says.

Once Jacob has an apartment and transportation, he says he wants to consider further options for his future.

"Eventually, I'll get a laptop and get in school," he says. "That's a big one."

Jacob wanted to be sure you know how thankful he is for his time at the Shelter, and the fresh start you're helping give him.

"This helped me a lot," he says to donors like you. "I'm really grateful."

## 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.

### Tour Dates

**Wednesday, January 22nd at Noon** - lunch provided

**Wednesday, February 12th at Noon** - lunch provided

**Saturday, February 22nd at 10am**

**Wednesday, March 4th at Noon** - lunch provided

**Saturday, March 21st at 10am**

**Wednesday, April 8th at Noon** - lunch provided

**Saturday, April 25th at 10am**

Please sign up to attend a Road Home Tour on our website at [www.arlingtonlifeshelter.org](http://www.arlingtonlifeshelter.org) or RSVP to Chandra at (817) 548-9885 ext. 3302.

## 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, please 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, at 817-548-1670 or [jreeder@arlingtonlifeshelter.org](mailto:jreeder@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)



Yvonne

*"I thank God for the donors."*

## "It's a second chance at life."

Arlington senior Yvonne is starting this new year with a new apartment and renewed hope for her future — and you are the first one she wants to thank for the gift of a second chance.

"I just want to really, really thank the donors," says Yvonne, 66. "If it had not been for the donors, this place wouldn't be here."

After working 40 years in the healthcare field, Yvonne says she retired, but didn't qualify for housing assistance. She took on a new job just to pay rent, but it still wasn't enough.

Eventually Yvonne was evicted from her apartment and says she couldn't even afford a motel. Thankfully, she found out about the Shelter.

When we met up with her, Yvonne was preparing to move

into her new apartment. She says she had to put in the footwork to make it happen, but she had a lot of support from Shelter staff.

"I had to go to a lot of places and fill a lot of applications, but with their help I was able to make it," she says, grateful for the support.

And, above all, Yvonne is thankful for *your* support. Yvonne says she witnessed donors bringing warm, nutritious meals and even boots for cold, rainy days.

"If you really want the help, this is the place to come," she says.

Thank you for giving seniors like Yvonne a fresh, positive outlook for the new year and the support they need to thrive. You truly make our community a better place to call home.