

The Road Home

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

**Arlington
Life Shelter**

HOLIDAY 2022 NEWSLETTER





Stephanie R. Melchert
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

With the holiday season upon us, my thoughts turn to gratitude for friends like you and for your unwavering support through many difficult days over the last couple of years.

I look forward to the new year and the hope it brings for all of us, but especially for families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness in North Texas.

With help from friends like you, Arlington Life Shelter will continue to welcome people experiencing homelessness and offer the resources and encouragement needed to rebuild and regain self-sufficiency.

I hope you'll stand with us again today to ensure that families with young children, as well as individuals, will receive transformative help that's needed now, throughout the holidays, and through the cold winter days ahead.

The stories and photos in this special holiday edition of The Road Home clearly demonstrate the incredible impact your support is having for neighbors like Connie (next page), and Taylor and her little one, Sekani (back cover). For that, I sincerely thank you.

Be encouraged that you are helping make a difference through your partnership, and please give again as you are able so we can share the greatest gift of all to a neighbor who is experiencing homelessness this holiday season — a safe place to call home.

Gratefully,

Stephanie R. Melchert
Executive Director



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Our Mission:

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

Thank You for Making Connie's Holidays Bright

Connie is thankful for the help she's received and excited about the new year ahead!



Connie has big dreams for the future and a clear path to help her get there. She knows it won't happen overnight, but she's determined to put her love of cooking to work by owning and operating her very own food truck.

She can hardly recognize herself as the same woman who, less than a year ago, was facing homelessness. A caring friend told Connie about a special place where she could find safe shelter and help to get her life back on track — Arlington Life Shelter.

From day one, Connie dug in and did the hard work to rebuild her life. She participated in programs like AA, received counseling, took classes

in financial literacy, and started going to church. She also received certification in food handling and is now a culinary apprentice.

This holiday season is an especially happy one for Connie who is looking forward to the new year and the opportunities it holds. She is so thankful for the help she received in her darkest days.

"If it was not for the donors and volunteers, I would not have a roof over my head and clothes on my back," she says.

"I feel good about myself knowing that my life is heading in the right direction."

Volunteer Shares Hope Through Service

Volunteers are integral to Arlington Life Shelter. The gift of time we receive from individuals, groups, and other organizations helps our guests create a path to self-sufficiency.

One of our newest volunteers, Elder Baine, is a service missionary for his church. He wanted to give his time to a worthy charity and, after touring Arlington Life Shelter, he knew he'd found a special place where he could have an impact for good within the community.

Elder's contributions have been deeply appreciated by staff who are thankful for his

eagerness and flexibility. "One day I could be in the kitchen and another day I could be making bed frames or putting duct tape down," he says. "I am there for an extra hand, twice a week."

"I just want to help where I can. There is so much negativity in the world right now ... this is a way that I can spread a little more positive light."

Like many of our volunteers, Elder Baine has found that he is enriched through his service here at the Shelter.



Elder Baine -
a valued volunteer

"Volunteer work has allowed me to work for a purpose. You get a good feeling," he says. "The time put into volunteering is nothing compared to that good feeling you have knowing that you are helping people."

“You are Helping so Many People ...”

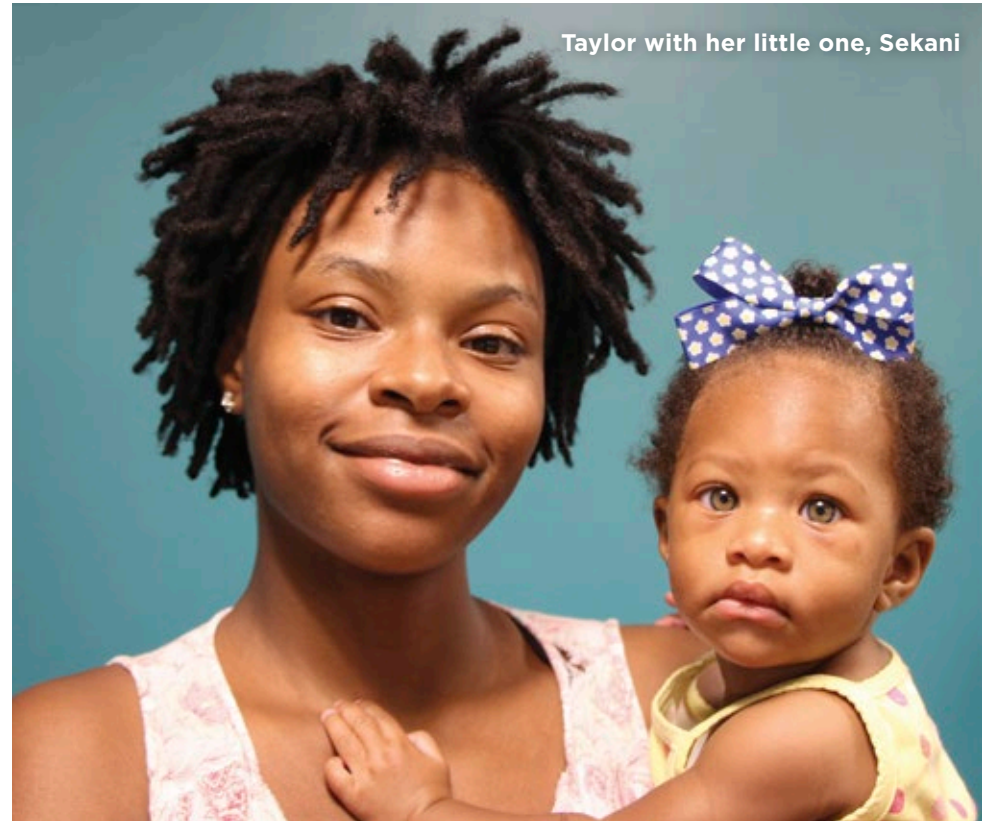
The tree and decorations here at the shelter are merry and bright, like Sekani's smile. But for the toddler's mother, Taylor, there is even more to celebrate this holiday season...

Taylor and her partner, Denedric, relocated to Texas with Sekani from Puerto Rico, staying in the home of a friend. But before they could get on their feet, the lease was up and the family found they had no place to call home.

“That's when we came to Arlington Life Shelter,” Taylor says. Thanks to support from friends like you, they received even more help than they had hoped for.

“Arlington Life Shelter has helped us with drivers licenses and library cards and all the practical things that would take us a lot longer to figure out on our own.”

“Our next step is to work on a housing voucher so we can get a place for ourselves here in Arlington,” Taylor says. “We



Taylor with her little one, Sekani

want to stay here because my partner has a good job. I have to give attention to my toddler so I am not in a position to work again yet, [but] I hope to attend Full Sail University to pursue a film/cinematography degree.”

This holiday season will be filled with hope and fresh opportunities for this young family, and Taylor is so thankful

for the help she, Denedric and Sekani have received.

“To the donors I would give a very big thank you,” she says. “You are helping so many people and doing such a very good job.”

A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS!

Are you looking for a way to get involved with the great things happening at Arlington Life Shelter?

Consider starting a food team! Food teams are special friends like you who work together to prepare and serve meals to our residents.

Your gift of meals and compassionate words will share hope and encouragement with neighbors who are working to rebuild from homelessness, joblessness, addiction and other life-dominating challenges.

Give us a call at 817-548-9885 to learn more!

Arlington Life Shelter

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