

# *The Road Home*

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

**Arlington  
Life Shelter**

HOLIDAY 2023





Stephanie R. Melchert  
**PRESIDENT & CEO**

## Dear Friend,

I think of the holidays as a time of cozy cheer: another opportunity to continue beloved family traditions, spend time with loved ones, and create new memories to look back on fondly.

This season is also a time of hope. Hope is so important for the strength it brings us in hard times. But for our neighbors experiencing homelessness during the holidays, it can be in short supply.

For someone who may be feeling directionless, scared or uncertain of what the future holds, it is donors like you who ensure that hope can always be found at Arlington Life Shelter.

Here, hope is more than just an idea. It's a tool to be used alongside the many other tools we provide with your help — including daily resources and meals, employment assistance and individual case management.

For our neighbors like Irene, who you'll meet on p. 3, the caring staff at Arlington Life Shelter are there every step of the way on the path to self-sufficiency. That makes an incredible difference in the lives of our community members — and it's only possible with your help.

Please read on to see the impact your generosity had for our community this year. Thank you for helping to share the greatest gift of all for our neighbors without shelter — a safe place to call home.

Gratefully,

*Stephanie*

Stephanie R. Melchert  
President & CEO



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### Our Mission:

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



## *You Helped Irene Find New Purpose*

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Irene shares a grateful smile

dedicated to women waiting on organ transplants or living with cancer. That's just who she is — a caring and dedicated community member.

**“I love the experience here. They go above and beyond.”**

For Irene, 52, church has been a place of solace and peace through turbulent times. “God preserved me,” Irene shares, speaking of how she survived domestic violence and began to rebuild her life.

While healing from that experience, Irene has always tried to take care of her neighbors as well as herself. She created a foundation

In February of 2022, while working as a truck driver, Irene was involved in a major traffic accident. The whole experience caused her anxiety and depression, she says. Not only was her mental health impacted, but so was her ability to make a living when she lost her job shortly after.

Without a steady income, Irene was unable to keep her home. That's why she was so

glad to find out about Arlington Life Shelter and the support available here.

Irene says that, since arriving, she has found a new sense of purpose. “I love the experience here. They go above and beyond.”

With the support of Arlington Life Shelter and friends like you, Irene is now employed as a minister, participates in therapy and has even been approved for a new home.

“[Arlington Life Shelter] is like no other shelter,” Irene says gladly. And it's your generosity which makes that possible. Thank you, and happy holidays!



*Volunteer Paul Says:*

***“Knowledge is power to a better path forward.”***

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Part of Paul Baccus' job with Bank of America's North Texas Community Volunteers Leadership team is to create and lead volunteer opportunities for his colleagues in Tarrant County.

A volunteer and a Better Money Habits Champion, Paul has volunteered over 10 years with Pathfinder's, a Tarrant County area nonprofit focused on ending poverty through mentorship and financial

literacy. Paul teaches a five-week Pathfinder's course at Arlington Life Shelter to help our neighbors exit homelessness and plan a healthier future.

“I think what we are doing is critically important,” Paul says.

Paul has seen many peoples' lives change for the better in Arlington Life Shelter's Pathfinder's program. Like one local father, who mastered the skills he learned in the class. Paul shares,

“[His son] wrote a letter stating that because of the class his father completed and the budgeting, spending and savings skills he learned, they were never homeless again.”

To anyone considering volunteering, Paul says, “Get involved with your community! I believe you have the ability to mentor people at any point in life. People often lose focus on lifting as they climb — it makes all the difference to lift others up while you climb in life.”

# John Thanks You for Lending a Helping Hand

John is a neighbor whose determined attitude has brought him far in life. From the Navy to a lumber yard in Kentucky to real estate development and construction, John always puts his heart into his work.

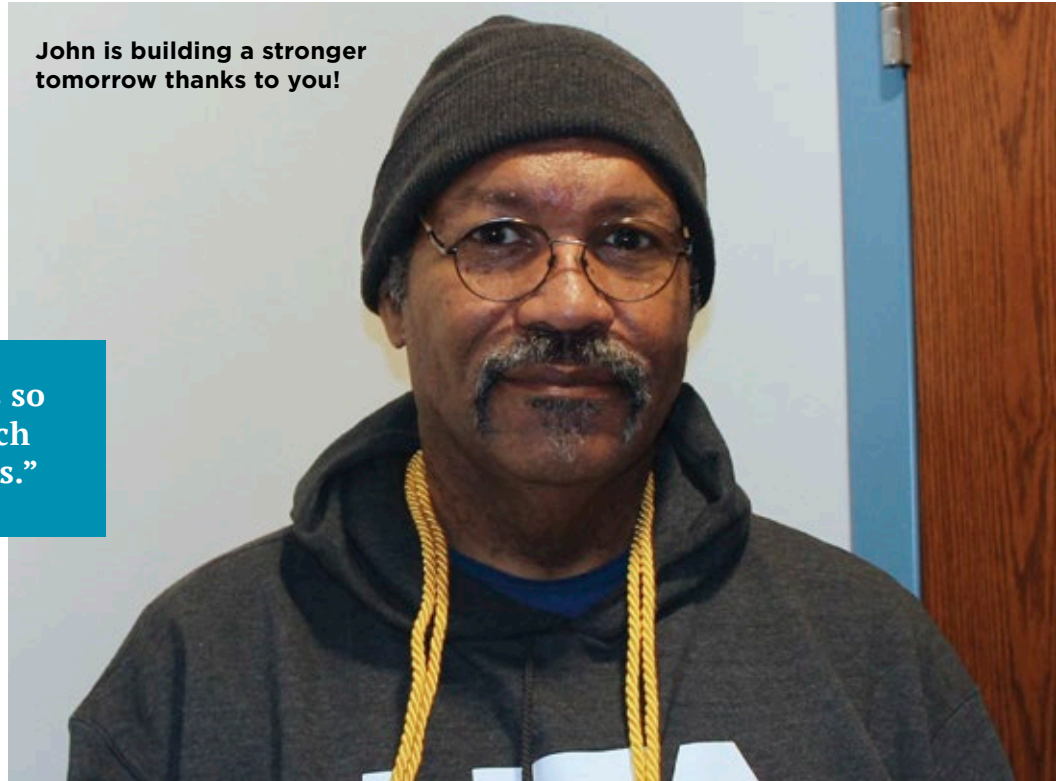
**“This [homeless] problem is so complex. Thank you, to each and every one of you donors.”**

“My mother always said you can do anything if you put your mind to it,” John says.

In 2021, a long string of health complications and surgeries left John with few work opportunities as he tried to heal. Without accessible healthcare in Kentucky, he moved to Dallas for a new job and better care options.

Unfortunately, John lost his job and the impact of the many medical bills meant that he lost his housing, too. Never one to give up, John enrolled at the University of Texas at Arlington to pursue a degree in real estate and finance.

**John is building a stronger tomorrow thanks to you!**



When his VA counselor told him about Arlington Life Shelter, John jumped at the opportunity to connect with a support network that truly cares about his well-being and success.

“They have such good people working here,” John shares. “Everybody is just so easy to talk to.”

Mark, John’s case manager at Arlington Life Shelter, helped

him navigate his financial options as a student. With Mark’s help, John applied for — and received — a Pell Grant to continue his education without the added worry of student loans.

To donors like you, John says, “This [homeless] problem is so complex. Thank you, to each and every one of you donors.”

## ‘TIS THE SEASON – SHELTER WISH LIST

As the weather grows colder, more people come to us for resources and support. Thanks to our generous community, we’re able to help many people escape the cold — but housing more people strains our limited resources.

By delivering a Wish List item to the Arlington Life Shelter, you’ll help free up funds to provide our neighbors with the essentials we all need to thrive: a warm bed, healthy food, and the resources for a stronger tomorrow!

### WISH LIST ITEMS

New or gently used bath towels  
Trifold paper towels  
Toilet Paper  
Multipurpose disinfectant wipes  
Paper towel rolls  
Gift cards (Walmart, Target, Amazon)

For a complete list, visit our website [arlingtonlifeshelter.org](http://arlingtonlifeshelter.org) or scan the QR code.

