

The Road Home

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

**Arlington
Life Shelter**

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER





Stephanie R. Melchert
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

The rising cost of living is impacting all of our neighbors and is pushing more families and individuals closer to experiencing homelessness firsthand.

Your generosity provides our community members without permanent housing a place to go for help. Because you choose to give, the Arlington Life shelter can provide resources and programming designed to help some of our most vulnerable neighbors regain self-sufficiency.

This September, we're excited to celebrate North Texas Giving Day on Thursday, September 22, a day when we all come together to support important local causes. This year's an extra special one, coinciding with the Shelter's 35th anniversary.

Don't miss out – schedule your gift so you can join in on the celebrations and help even more families and individuals who lack stable housing.

In the meantime, please enjoy our latest issue of The Road Home knowing Carrington and Brianna's family are just a few people whose lives you've changed with your gifts.

Thank you for your dedication to fighting homelessness in North Texas. Your compassion and kindness make our community stronger.

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.

**Arlington
Life Shelter**

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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011
817-548-9885

A Fresh Start for Lucy and Carrington

Two years ago, Carrington and her newborn daughter moved to Houston after she secured a job cleaning at a local jail. Unfortunately, the pandemic hit just a few short months into the new job.

With little savings, Carrington and her daughter, Lucy, were suddenly facing homelessness. There seemed to be no jobs and no hope in sight. She and her daughter moved around from shelter to shelter until the pair landed in Dallas.

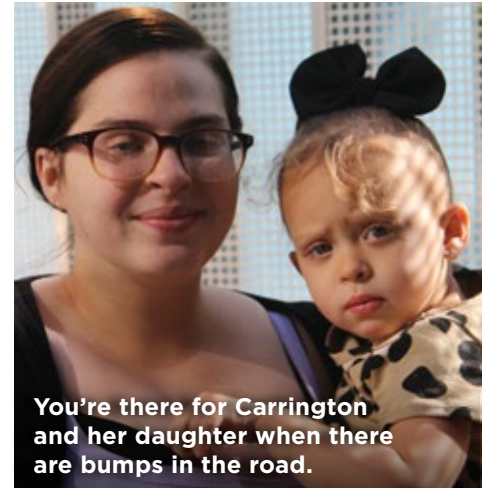
Carrington then found out she was pregnant and joined Embrace Grace, a support group that provides support for women with unplanned pregnancies. It

was there that she learned about the [Arlington Life Shelter](#).

“[The Shelter] took us with open arms,” Carrington says gratefully. With tears in her eyes, she adds, “This is the best shelter we’ve been to.”

Today, Lucy is flourishing in daycare and Carrington is going back to school to brighten her family’s future. The Shelter has also secured an apartment for the mother and daughter and assists with transportation to and from Lucy’s daycare.

Smiling down at her daughter, Carrington says, **“If it wasn’t for [your support], we wouldn’t be able to do the**

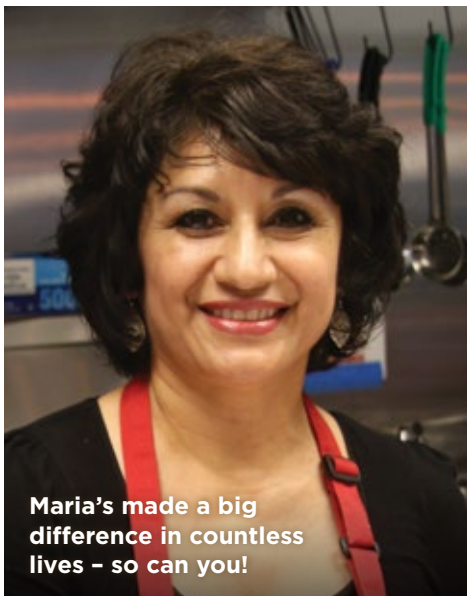


You're there for Carrington and her daughter when there are bumps in the road.

things we need to survive, like taking a shower or even having water.”

Thank you for giving so generously to help neighbors like Carrington and Lucy have the resources and opportunities to regain self-sufficiency.

Maria Jackson's Passionate About Giving Back



Maria's made a big difference in countless lives – so can you!

Maria Jackson comes to the Shelter with a group of volunteers from St. Joseph Catholic Church once a month to help bring hot meals to residents.

She’s been serving with the ministry since 1994. Even during the height of the pandemic, she and her group showed up regularly to share food with residents without a permanent home.

“We are all called to serve,” Maria says.

Maria’s especially passionate about the children she can help. Nearly a decade ago, she started volunteering at the Shelter’s daycare center, enabling parents to focus on work while knowing the little ones are safe and well-cared for.

She starts to cry thinking about all the children she’s helped throughout the years, saying, **“I watched a toddler start dancing when they got a new pair of shoes. A child cry because he got a hot meal.”**

She shares, “The families we are helping are so appreciative . . . My hope is to encourage others to go out and help.”

You can join Maria and her team of volunteers in serving your community! Make time to give back and have a big impact on the fight against homelessness. We hope to see you soon!

Brianna's Getting Back on Track with Your Help



Brianna shares how the Shelter impacted her life.

"We came for safety and a new beginning," says Brianna, mother of Samuel, 11, and Imani, 6.

Brianna and her kids came from Georgia to Texas to escape an abusive relationship. But she didn't have a job, the family had nowhere to go and she was turning to alcohol to cope.

The family heard the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) could help get them back on their feet. Now, Brianna, Samuel and Imani have been here for nearly three

months and will be able to move into an apartment in two weeks.

From childcare, counseling for the entire family, help with job applications, learning to budget and help in overcoming addiction, Brianna's family has gained powerful tools that will help them build an even better life for themselves.

"[The Arlington Life Shelter] provided us everything we could possibly need," Brianna says.

"We are at the peak of our short-term goals."

Brianna has a job as an energy consultant in Dallas and Samuel and Imani go to the Boys and Girls Club after school every day. Brianna has also regained sobriety and is staying strong for her kids.

"We are getting our lives back on track," Brianna says happily. "We take advantage of every opportunity [the Shelter] gives us to better our future."

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY 09.22.2022

It's almost that time again! We are participating in North Texas Giving Day on September 22nd, 2022. North Texas Giving Day is a day when local nonprofits raise money through a single event organized by the Communities Foundation of Texas. This year, we hope you'll help us raise money to continue serving our residents at Arlington Life Shelter. Every donation will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$100,000 courtesy of the Moritz Family!

In the past year, the shelter has seen an increased need in North Texas for homeless services—a trend we expect will continue. Your support allows the shelter to assist individuals and families impacted by homelessness to create a path to self-sufficiency. We hope you'll join us on September 22nd!

