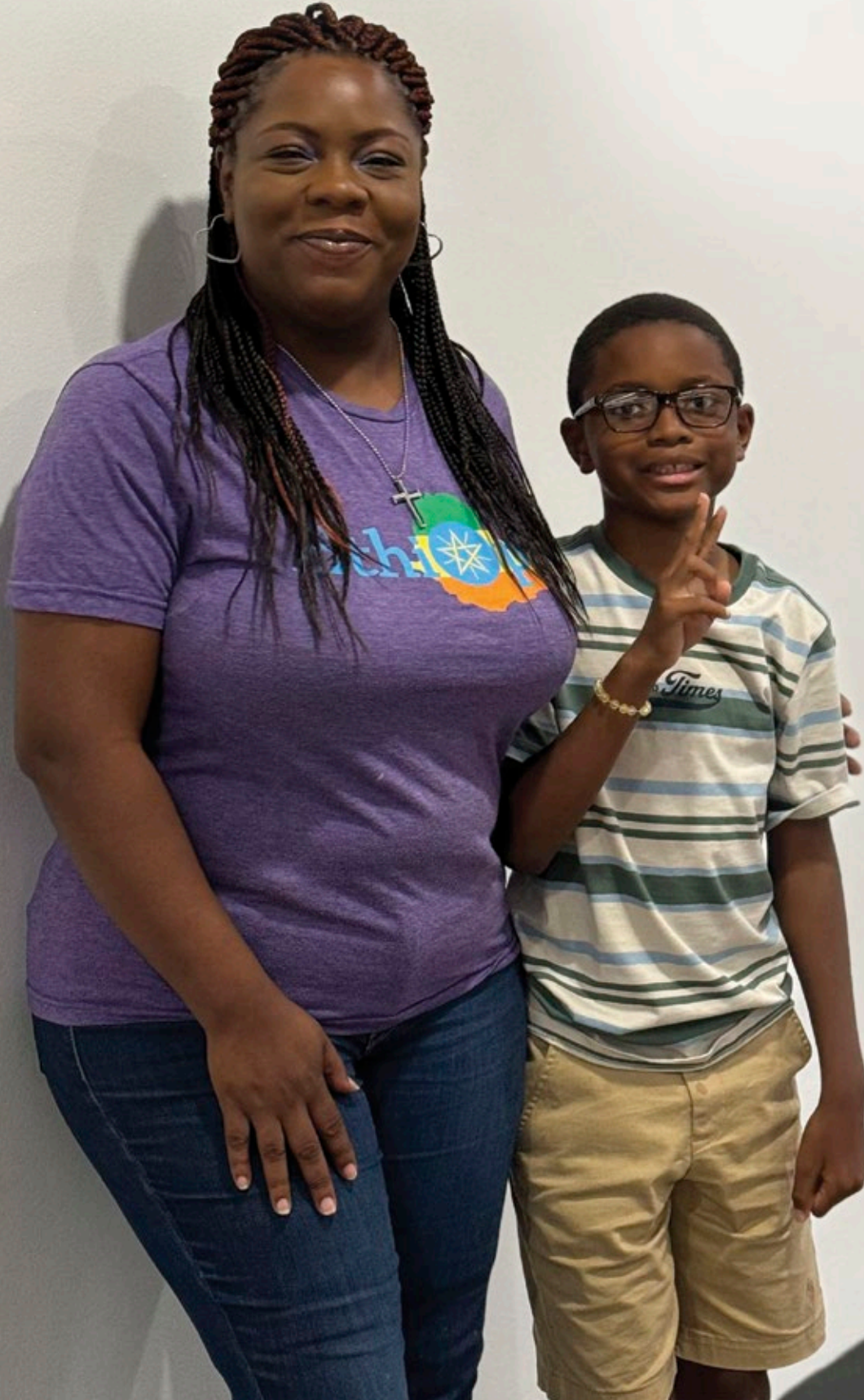


# The Road Home

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

Arlington  
Life Shelter

WINTER 2025



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**Arlington  
Life Shelter**

325 W. DIVISION ST.  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011



Stephanie R. Melchert  
PRESIDENT & CEO

Creating a stronger future takes all of us together. That's why I'm so grateful for your partnership today, and why I'm so glad to share the newest issue of *The Road Home* with you.

Inside, you'll find stories from people whose lives have been bettered because you choose to give.

Whether our community members are facing new hardships in 2025 or weathering ongoing trials, you help ensure that support is always available at the Arlington Life Shelter — 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

That support is only becoming more important, as the cost of living remains so high. Self-sufficiency is a moving target — a challenging prospect for anyone just trying to survive without safe or stable shelter.

Whether our community members need a helping hand, a warm meal or comprehensive support, your generosity helps meet that need. Families like Jasmine and J-cyien, p. 3, are so grateful for that lifeline.

In the year ahead, I can't wait to see how many more lives will be bettered by our continued partnership. Thank you again for investing in a stronger future for North Texas!

Gratefully,

Stephanie R. Melchert  
President & CEO

## You Helped Patricia and Jack Find Hope



Originally from England, Patricia often traveled to the US for work. It was on one of these visits that she met Jack, a businessman from Dallas.

They fell in love, had a family, and built a life together.

But when the financial crisis hit in 2008, Jack's business suffered substantial losses, significantly impacting the family's financial situation.

**"They're so good, they're so kind. They don't realize the impact they're having."**

As time went on, the challenges began to compound, including Jack suffering a series of three strokes. Everything culminated when their house went into foreclosure.

When trying to get back on their feet, Patricia and Jack came to the Arlington Life Shelter. "I just knew I was in the right place," Patricia recalls gratefully.

Here, Patricia and Jack found safe shelter, job readiness programs and housing application assistance, all of which helped them chart a path forward. "There's an abundance of everything you could possibly ask for," she says.

About the Arlington Life Shelter staff and donors like you, Patricia adds, "They're so good, they're so kind. They don't realize the impact they're having."

Now, the couple is excited to take the next step and move into an apartment in a retirement community, where a more financially stable future awaits them. Thank you for sharing so much hope in the lives of Patricia and Jack!

## "The Coffee Guy" Gives Back



"The other day, a guest shared his story with me over coffee. I realized that even in the hardest of circumstances, people have hope, faith and incredible resilience. It's humbling, and it's a reminder that we're all more alike than we think."

That's Michael, a North Texas neighbor and a dedicated Arlington Life Shelter volunteer.

Donating time has always been a cornerstone of his life, something he learned from his father, who was a pastor, and his mother.

Two years ago, Michael began serving guests at the Arlington Life Shelter through his church, spending one night a month making dinner for our residents.

Wanting to do even more, he initiated a monthly coffee-and-donuts event, which happens on Saturday mornings.

Now, Michael is known affectionately as "the coffee guy" around here, always willing to sit down and listen over a mug of something warm.

"I've always believed in filling gaps where there's a need," Michael says, adding "The people at the shelter... deserve to feel seen and valued."

Thank you, Michael, for sharing your time and heart so generously at the Arlington Life Shelter!

## CONSIDER A DONOR-ADVISED FUND (DAF)

Often an alternative to establishing a private foundation, a donor-advised fund allows you to maximize your donations with less expense and paperwork. Donor-advised funds are managed by institutions or foundations, so you can avoid additional expenses associated with starting and maintaining a foundation, all while collaborating to make sure your funds are going exactly where you want them.

Please reach out to your tax professional for assistance and advice.

## Jasmine and J-cyien Say “Thank-You!”

Through everything, Jasmine has always prioritized taking care of her son, J-cyien. So when Jasmine experienced homelessness, she ensured J-cyien had a safe place to stay with a family friend while working hard to find a stable place to land.

After going from place to place, Jasmine found the Arlington Life Shelter through a recommendation. “This was

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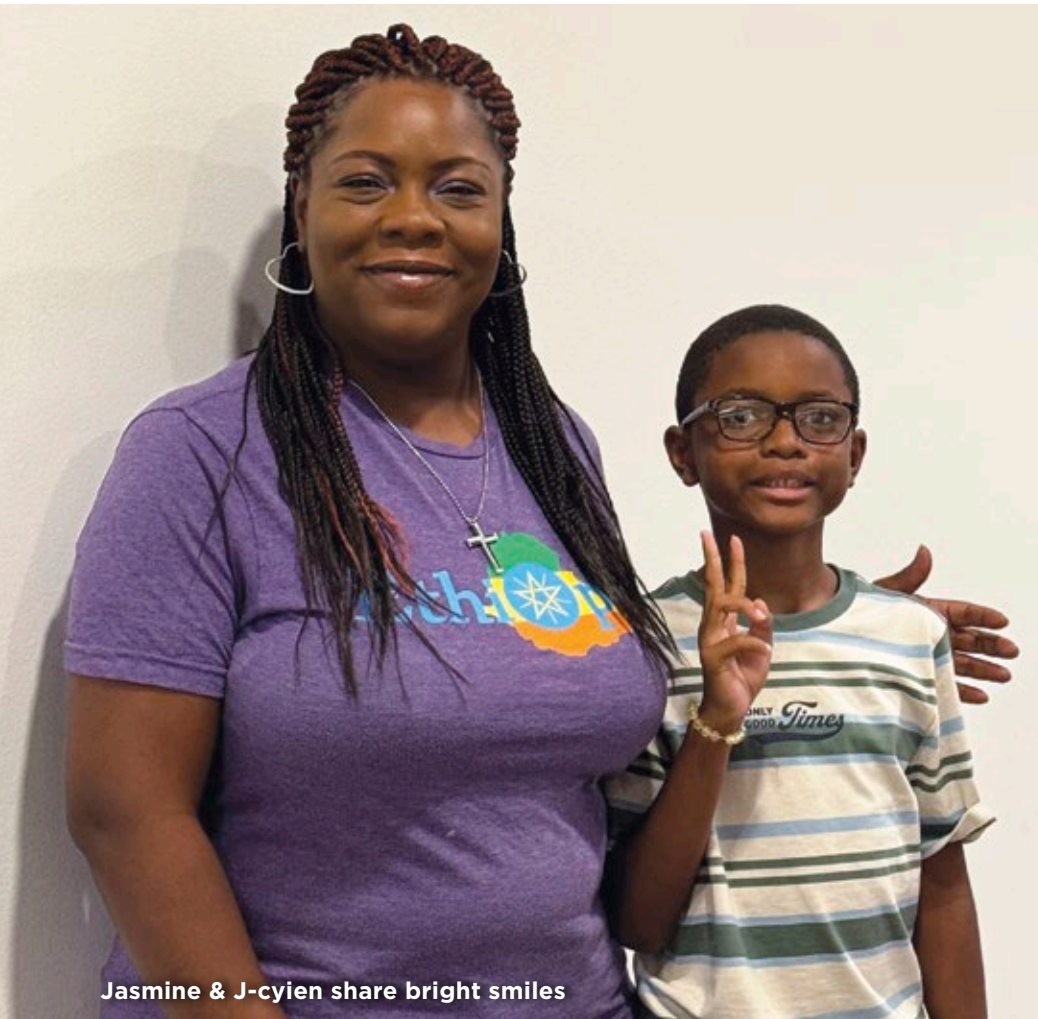
my opportunity to do a 180 and get my life back on track, and I took it,” she recalls.

The Arlington Life Shelter was a place of hope and reunion, where J-cyien could join Jasmine. He had the space to decompress and focus on being a kid, while Jasmine got to work applying for housing and taking life skills classes.

Jasmine soon had enough new skills in her toolkit to hit the ground running after she and J-cyien moved into a new home.

Now, Jasmine has been stable for several years. She’s enjoying her job as a manager, and she can’t wait to see what the future holds for her and J-cyien. “He’s like a little calendar sometimes, reminding me of how far we’ve come,” she says with a loving smile.

To donors like you, she says, “This is my thank-you now — living a better life, and sharing my story!”



Jasmine & J-cyien share bright smiles

### THE ROAD HOME TOURS

You are invited to visit the Arlington Life Shelter and meet our staff, learn about our programs and services, and see your generosity in action! All tours are in-person at noon on Thursdays, unless otherwise noted.

See our list of 2025 tour dates below:

March 6  
April 10  
May 8  
June 5  
September 4  
November 6 (virtual only)

To secure a spot on the tour, please contact Bertha Orona at [borona@arlingtonlifeshelter.org](mailto:borona@arlingtonlifeshelter.org) to register.

**Arlington**  
Life Shelter

**ROAD HOME**  
Tour