

FALL 2020



THE ROAD HOME

Stories of hope from the Arlington Life Shelter

Brad Jay
BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Friend,

To say the last few months have been wild would be a major understatement. From navigating the ongoing crisis around the COVID-19 pandemic to moving into our new building, we've all had our fair share of challenges.

But in the midst of all of this, I've been reminded again and again: your generosity is second to none. There is absolutely no way we could make it through without your kindness, compassion, and willingness to step up and say, "I'll help."

Many of you are fighting your own battles related to COVID-19, and yet you've committed to helping others in need. I'm here to tell you it's making an incredible difference for those we serve.

I hope you take the opportunity to read the stories on the following pages. Debra (page 4) is especially relieved her grandchildren are safe, happy, and gearing up for another year of learning, thanks to you.

And as more children in our care return to school this fall (whether from their school building or here at the [Shelter](#)), your gifts also help prepare them for the best possible school year and a brighter future ahead.

We truly don't know what tomorrow holds, but I have hope because friends like you continue to show up, continue to give, and continue to care. Thank you!

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're Giving Skylar a Fresh Start

At 27 years old, Skylar's life is just beginning in many ways, and you're helping set him on a better path moving forward.

"I'm not sure where I would be without the [Shelter](#)," he says.

Skylar is near the end of his stay at the Arlington Life Shelter, but he says he's gained a lot as a resident, including a healthy dose of optimism for his future.

"For someone like me coming into the shelter, hope is here," he says.

Skylar attended classes at community college and IT school, but he regrets that he didn't take his time there seriously. Instead, he racked up a hefty student loan that he's still working to pay off.

His passion has always been making music — he plays guitar and sings — but Skylar says musicians often have a "hard road if they expect to make it."



Skylar

"I still don't expect to make it, but it's something I will chase forever," he says.

"My life is beginning because I can get up and be thankful."

Still, Skylar is optimistic he is on the right track now to both pay his bills

and pursue his dreams. With help from Shelter staff, he was hired at a restaurant and continues to look at other job opportunities.

"My life is beginning because I can get up and be thankful," he says.

You help countless men, women, and children like Skylar wake up to better days and a brighter future through your generous support. Thank you.

THANK YOU!

We can't stop talking about you.

You see, at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#), you really are our hero. The last several months have been challenging for us as residents, volunteers, and staff, but we know it's also been challenging for you.

But you look past your own struggles and make a way to help us. That's what gives us all so much hope, even on the hardest days.

Because you give, we know you believe in us. You're our cheerleader. So, when we face

one more job interview, one more search for a home, the start of a new school year, or just the beginning of a new day, we know we have someone in our corner — you.

Because you give, we can dream again and plan for a better future, all while feeling safe, supported, and cared for.

Because you give, we now look forward to many more tomorrows and all the possibilities they bring. You inspire us to work hard and give all we've got to make not only



our lives better, but also the world around us.

Our lives are infinitely better because you care. Thank you.

*The Residents, Staff, and Volunteers
of the Arlington Life Shelter,
September 2020*

PATH OF KINDNESS PERSONALIZED BRICK PAVER PROGRAM

As the men, women, and children experiencing homelessness follow the “Path of Kindness” to the entrance of the Arlington Life Shelter, personalized bricks visibly remind them that others care. Bricks make a great gift idea for any occasion or to leave your own legacy. The original deadline to purchase bricks has passed and bricks from that order have been placed. We will be placing a second order before the end of the year. You can go online between now and December 1, 2020 to be included in our second order. Visit www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/lifeshelter.



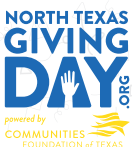
ROAD HOME TOUR/ VOLUNTEER UPDATE

All Road Home Tours and Volunteer opportunities have been cancelled until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are excited to showoff our new facility, your safety and that of our staff and residents is our top priority. We hope you understand and will consider supporting us in other ways.

SAVE THE DATE!

9.17.20

Give to



You Kept A Family Safe

It was a perfect storm for Debra and her grandchildren when they found themselves living out of their car in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to you, they had a safe place to turn.

Debra cares for her grandchildren, but when the property where they lived was sold, they had to start sleeping in her car. Then concerns of the pandemic started swirling.

“In the middle of COVID-19 I knew we had to get to the Shelter because we were using public restrooms and it was no longer safe,” she says.

Debra says the family’s time at the Shelter has helped provide needed safety, but also help for their future. Debra’s only income is from Social Security, but Shelter staff helped her make a short-term goal to get into a housing program.

“Our long-term goals are to look for something steady and secure,” she

says. “I want [my grandchildren] to have a normal childhood and the opportunity for a normal life.”

“Your donations have made it possible for us to live as normal as possible during this situation.”

Since arriving at the Shelter, Debra has been relieved to see how her grandchildren have thrived. They enjoy the interaction with the other residents and the staff at the Shelter.

“In such a difficult time, your donations have made it possible for us to live as normal as possible during this situation,” she says to donors like you.

Thank you for sharing what you have during this challenging time and helping keep families like Debra’s safe and thriving.