

The Road Home



HOLIDAY 2020 NEWSLETTER





Brad Jay
BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

In a year packed with a multitude of challenges, we still have so much to celebrate as we enter this holiday season — and much of it is thanks to your incredible generosity.

You made it possible to open the doors of our new and renovated Shelter at an extremely critical time. We couldn't have predicted how vital this new space would be in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, as we enter this special time of year, we can offer shelter to even more of our homeless neighbors, along with the critical support needed as men and women work to make a better life for themselves and their children.

In this holiday edition of *The Road Home*, you'll hear from a couple of neighbors who are excited to begin the next chapter in their lives — all because you choose to give.

It was hard for Joseph (page 3) to concentrate on much of anything beyond where he would sleep each night. Through your generous gifts, he's now college-bound with all the support he needs for a successful school year.

That's what you do. You make dreams come true and give our neighbors the tools they need for success. As we look ahead to the coming year, I remain confident because of your steadfast compassion and willingness to stand in support of your neighbors throughout every season and struggle.

Thank you for making the holidays so much brighter for the children, men, and women we serve. Happy holidays to you and yours.

With Gratitude,

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325 W. DIVISION ST.
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011
817-548-9885

You're Easing Burdens During the Pandemic



In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nicole was alone and sleeping in her car. Your generosity was there when she needed it most.

"It's been an emotional struggle for me because I've never been in this situation," Nicole says.

Nicole's difficulties started when the temp agency she worked for no longer offered her enough work hours. Before long, what little money she earned wasn't enough to pay her rent.

While Nicole spent her nights sleeping in her car, she spent her

days searching for somewhere she could stay and keep herself safe. She has Lupus and worried about her condition, especially in the midst of the pandemic.

Thankfully, Nicole heard about the Arlington Life Shelter. Since arriving, she's faithfully participating in the Shelter's employment and education program and is close to finding a new place to live.

"It's a needed program," she says. "With everything happening in the world right now, to be able to come to this place is amazing."

Nicole hopes to one day have her own business, helping other people with Lupus, and she's

working on the steps to make that possible. In the meantime, she's grateful for the simple things that you make possible every day.

"To be able to lay down and rest and get up the next day not to worry about what you're going to eat and where you're going to be — **for people to provide that and not know the people they're helping, it's a real great thing.**"

This holiday season, countless more neighbors are thanking you for easing their everyday worries so they can concentrate on making a better life for themselves and their families. Thank you.

All About Our New Space

- The Arlington Life Shelter now offers a wider variety of support services for residents, including classes, a computer lab, children's programming and a collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club.
- Every resident of the Arlington Life Shelter now has access to the facility 24 hours a day, seven days a week during their stay.
- The new facility and renovation of the Arlington Life Shelter increased the number of beds in the Shelter by 40 percent, including the ability to house single-parent or two-parent families with children.
- The Arlington Life Shelter's new and larger kitchen allows more guests to be served more quickly and efficiently.
- It costs more than \$2 million each year to operate the Arlington Life Shelter. Every gift made from generous donors like you truly changes lives for the better.



Joseph is College-Bound with Your Support

Joseph was just looking for a place to lay his head, but what he found at the Arlington Life Shelter is the support he needs to begin the next chapter of his life at North American University in Houston.

“I wouldn’t be where I am... without your help,”
Joseph, 19, says to friends like you.

Joseph was living at a relative’s home before being asked to move out. For several months, he lived with friends until he heard about the Shelter.

Though Joseph had a scholarship already in place, he says it was only after his stay at the Shelter that he was truly able to concentrate on the things he needed to do to make his education goals a reality.

With your generous support, Shelter staff were able to help Joseph prepare with the school supplies, transportation, COVID-19 testing, and physicals he needs in order to attend school classes and live on campus.

Joseph especially wants you to know how grateful he is for making his stay possible, and in turn helping make his dream to study criminal justice a reality as well.

“Thank you,” he says. “You have helped a lot.”

Thanks to friends like you, Joseph can head off to his first year of college with the support and encouragement he needs to succeed. Thank you for helping him, and countless more individuals, reach their goals and find their fresh start.



EVENING UNDER THE STARS

Thursday, December 17, 2020
6 - 8:30 PM | FB Live 7:30 PM

Due to current health guidelines, we are adding a special twist to our holiday dinner and auction this year. Instead of our donors and supporters gathering for an evening together, we will be sharing that experience with our residents. They will enjoy a plated dinner, inspirational message, holiday decorations, music and activities. There will be an online auction and raffle for our donors and supporters. You can still support the event by becoming a sponsor and/or bidding on items from our online auction. Please visit ArlingtonLifeShelter.org or contact Liz Hammond at 817-548-9885 ext 3306 or lhammond@arlingtonlifeshelter.org

HOLIDAY GIVING

Even with our newly expanded and renovated space we can only accept certain items. If you would like to make a donation for the holidays, please visit our website for a complete list of acceptable/high priority items. Please do not gift wrap your donation. All donation drop-offs will need to be scheduled and received by Wednesday, December 16.

If you or your organization are considering doing a drive, please email your information to donate@arlingtonlifeshelter.org. All drives need to be preapproved.

VOLUNTEER UPDATES

We miss our volunteers! If you have not already, please create a VolunteerLocal account as this will be our main way of communicating and scheduling with volunteers. You can create an account by using this link or going to our website. arlingtonlifeshelter.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer

Food Handler Licenses are required for all food team members that will serve or prepare food onsite at the shelter. It is not required of those that do not come to the shelter.

Please email volunteer@arlingtonlifeshelter.org to find out more.