

THE ROAD HOME

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER



LaKeisha Creates Holiday Magic – pg. 3



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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**

325 W. DIVISION ST.
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

DEAR FRIEND,



Stephanie R. Melchert
PRESIDENT & CEO

A Christmas tree. A holiday meal. A wreath hung on the front door. So many holiday traditions aren't complete without a *home*. And right now, a growing number of neighbors have no choice but to go without during this special time of year — without special traditions *or* the stability to enjoy them.

Our mission at the Arlington Life Shelter is to bring that stability within reach of neighbors who are looking for a way to leave homelessness and housing insecurity behind for good.

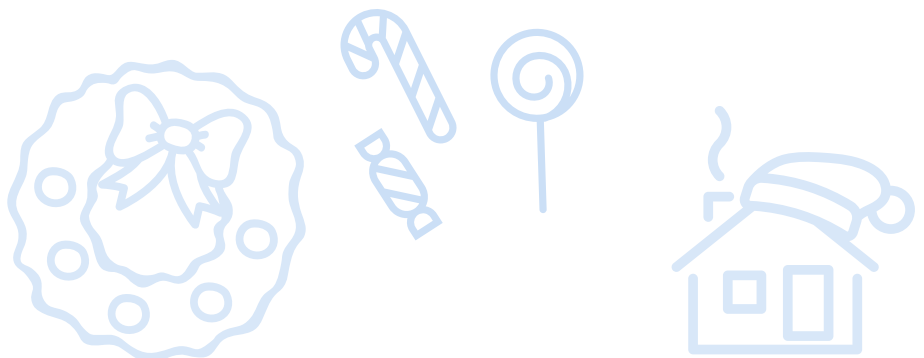
This holiday season, we are already at work providing immediate safety, compassion and care to the families, women, children and men who need it. Our doors are open 24/7, 365 days a year for this purpose. But our work goes beyond the day-to-day to provide the foundational tools and resources that help rebuild lives, including case management, employment support, financial education, housing navigation and personalized services.

I hope the stories in this edition of *The Road Home* show you all the ways in which our shared efforts have impacted our neighbors' stories. They are stories of incredible resilience, determined faith, and unwavering love for family.

As we look to the end of the year, I want to thank you for being a part of this work. This season is rooted in gratitude, appreciation, and hope for the coming days and months. You truly help give meaning to the season. Wishing you and yours Happy Holidays!

Gratefully,

Stephanie R. Melchert
President & CEO



REBUILDING FOR HER FAMILY

"They opened the door for me,"



**Photo changed for privacy*

Cloverice never hesitates to lend a helping hand. When she had the chance to move to Arlington to support her son and his family, she took it.

Excited to be an involved grandma, Cloverice set out to build meaningful bonds with her grandchildren, who are 17, 13, and 11. She found a room in a

shared house nearby, and for two years, she gave her son's family a pillar of support to lean on.

But month after month, her savings account dwindled. Eventually, there wasn't enough left to stay housed. Cloverice started looking for solutions, and that's when she found the Arlington Life Shelter.

Cloverice came to us with a goal: become stable again, so that she can continue to be in her grandchildren's lives. "I talk to them every day on the phone," she shares.

In search of that stability, Cloverice attended our financial skills classes. She calls what she learned "real help" — practical knowledge that she can apply to her life to leave homelessness behind.

Another part of that "real help" is the support of case manager Miss Rachel, who helped Cloverice get approved for a new apartment. "They opened the door for me," she says. Now, she looks forward to stepping through that door into a stronger future!



LaKeisha and Marcy Street Kitchen spread holiday cheer at Arlington Life Shelter

In December, Santa Claus visits the Arlington Life Shelter, bringing his elves, Mrs. Claus, and no shortage of holiday cheer.

For the children staying with us over Christmas, this visit is incredibly meaningful. Santa reads the story of Jesus, and then they all

LAKEISHA CREATES HOLIDAY MAGIC

enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast before the children receive a stocking and a toy.

"[The children] are so excited to hear their name called, to get a stocking...to just see Santa," says Lakeisha Glover. She's the founder of Mercy Street Kitchen, a nonprofit that partners with the Arlington Life Shelter, and the driving force behind the Breakfast with Santa event, along with several other annual events.

At the heart of LaKeisha's efforts is compassion for children that has existed for decades. "It's something that's been on my heart since I was a little girl," she says, recalling her own childhood in New Orleans and seeing

families with kids experiencing homelessness in her own city.

LaKeisha knows homelessness herself, after surviving Hurricane Katrina. She lost everything, including her home, and moved in with family in Texas in the aftermath. Now, she does everything in her power to share her blessings through Mercy Street Kitchen and the Arlington Life Shelter.

LaKeisha hopes you'll consider getting involved however feels right to you. "Sometimes," she says, "the biggest thing you can do for someone is just show up!"

A STRONGER FUTURE FOR LUIS' FAMILY

If you asked Luis what keeps him going, the answer is simple. “My kids,” he says. “That’s the only thing I think about — they’re my lifeline.”

His oldest is a junior in high school, on the cusp of adulthood. His middle son is turning 12, and the youngest was born in 2023.

Over the past few years, Luis weathered hardships including an unstable relationship with his children’s mother, a living situation with her relatives that fell through, and credit card debt rung up in his name — without his knowledge. When he left that relationship behind, he opened the door to a new future that was stronger, and healthier, for his children.

Coming to the Arlington Life Shelter marked a turning



point, when Luis decided he was ready to ask for help.

At the Arlington Life Shelter, Luis had a safe place to land, regular meals to rely on, and a helpful, simple routine. He quickly found a job, and then a second job to supplement his income. He returned to his

faith. And with the support of a caring case manager, Luis found housing nearby — a house he plans on raising his children in.

“I thank the Lord, I thank the Shelter, for all the good!” He says gratefully.

Donating to the Arlington Life Shelter helps so many people — and can provide tax benefits to you, too. Check out the information below for other ways to give.

A LASTING IMPACT

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE GIVING

We invite you to consider supporting our mission through various tax-smart giving options, including gifts from your IRA or stock donations. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your retirement account can be a powerful way to support our mission while also reducing your taxable income. We encourage you to consult with your tax professional for personalized advice regarding these opportunities. Thank you for considering this impactful way to give.

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.

