



THE ROAD HOME

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER



Ethan's Heading Home! – pg. 3



Celebrating 21 Years With Rachel – 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,

Homelessness doesn't begin the day someone loses their home. It often begins weeks or months earlier—with one unexpected expense, one medical emergency, one lost job, or one missed paycheck. Today, more families and individuals across North Texas are living on that edge than ever before.

That's why ending homelessness cannot simply mean providing a bed for the night. It must also mean creating a pathway to lasting stability.

At Arlington Life Shelter, we do both.

Every hour of every day, 365 days a year, our doors are open to families, women, children, and men facing one of life's most difficult moments. We provide immediate safety, compassionate care, and the dignity every person deserves. But our work doesn't stop there. Through case management, employment support, financial education, housing navigation, and personalized services, we help our clients build a foundation for a future in which homelessness is no longer part of their story.

That future is possible because of people like you.

Last year, together, we served 848 men, women, and children seeking hope and a fresh start. Even more importantly, 508 individuals successfully exited our program and moved toward stable housing and renewed independence. Behind every number is a parent able to tuck their child into bed in a home of their own, a veteran reclaiming stability, or a neighbor rediscovering hope and purpose. Those stories exist because our community chooses to invest in people, not just problems.

As you read this edition of *The Road Home*, I hope you'll see what I see every day: extraordinary resilience, remarkable courage, and the life-changing power of compassion. These stories remind us that homelessness does not define a person—it is a circumstance that, with the right support and a caring community, can be overcome.

Thank you for believing that every person deserves the opportunity to rebuild. Your generosity, compassion, and partnership make transformation possible every single day. It is truly an honor to serve this community alongside you, and I remain deeply grateful for all you do.



Stephanie R. Melchert
PRESIDENT & CEO

With heartfelt gratitude,

Stephanie

Stephanie R. Melchert
President & CEO

ETHAN'S HEADING HOME!

No matter where life has taken Ethan, his mindset has remained the same. "As long as you stay consistent and stay committed with what you want to do, you'll get it," he says.

That applies to his hobbies, like physical fitness, as well as his work. Ethan has two jobs, and plans to add a third. Yet the cost of living has impacted him, despite his work ethic.

Ethan came to the Arlington Life Shelter from Dallas, looking for a safe, reliable place to stay and regroup. "I took the last spot at the time," he remembers.

Here, Ethan had access to an array of resources, not least of all the encouragement and support of our case managers. That community helped Ethan outline the path back to self-sufficiency.

It didn't take long for Ethan to secure housing. Soon, he's moving into a one-bedroom apartment. He's looking forward to having a quiet place to call home, just for him.

Ethan can see the shape he wants his future to take in his new home, thanks to the Arlington Life Shelter. First, he plans to purchase a reliable car. Then, he's headed back to school to build a career in cybersecurity, and a bright future!

"As long as you stay consistent and stay committed with what you want to do, you'll get it,"



Ethan has a plan for a stronger future.

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS WITH RACHEL



We're celebrating Rachel's 21-year career with us!

"Everybody has a story, a different story, and what brings people here is all different."

That's Rachel speaking, Program Manager of the Arlington Life Shelter. She's worked here for over twenty years, and seen lives transformed, hope restored and changes big and small.

Rachel has worn many hats in her many years here. She started as a volunteer, and soon became a resident assistant. Then? Case manager, coordinator, operations manager. Now, as our Program Manager, she oversees our employment program and supervises our case managers.

"That's my life," she says with a smile.

Rachel was here when the Arlington Life Shelter evolved from a night shelter to a 24-hour operation, open 365 days per year. "That helped a lot with us being able to bring the resources here," she says.

Now, residents can find on-site support from our community partners, like JPS Health Partners, AA and NA, and The Women's Center.

"We've helped a lot of people," she says. "But one of the things that I love is just having those few...come back and say 'thank you, I'm safe now. Thank you, life is better for me now.' It means a lot."

Thank you, Rachel, for your 21 years of service!

SAFETY AND HOPE FOR CARTINA AND AMAD



Cartina is on her way to a new life.

For Cartina, the Arlington Life Shelter is the final stop before arriving at a new day, home and life. Originally from Louisiana, Cartina came to the Arlington area looking for one thing: safety.

She left domestic violence behind, not only for herself but also for her son, Amad. "I didn't want my son to see me with black eyes," she says. "I didn't want him to see that."

Cartina hit the ground running when she arrived in Arlington, picking up two jobs and calling local resources for help. She found transitional housing, but during a surprise inspection, she had to move.

That's when she came to the Arlington Life Shelter. Here, she was connected with case manager Rachel, who helped her plan her next step — moving to Nacogdoches, where Amad is staying with family.

"She just has good energy," Cartina says about her case manager. "She gives people second chances in life. She's got a beautiful spirit!"

Through everything, Cartina holds on to her faith and her love for her son. "I don't know what I did, but I'm so glad that God gave him to me," she shares. A brighter future is within reach, thanks to you and the Arlington Life Shelter!

2026 ROAD HOME LUNCHEON



Please join us for our annual Road Home Luncheon! We're so glad to share this event with you, and celebrate the incredible work of the Arlington Life Shelter and the lives we've changed together!

Where: North Davis Church of Christ

When: Wednesday, November 4, 2026
12pm to 1pm

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY IS SEPTEMBER 17!



On Thursday, September 17, join North Texas in a day of generosity by donating to the Arlington Life Shelter. Your support helps us continue our mission to provide shelter, meals, and vital support services for homeless individuals and families on their path to self-sufficiency.



Use the QR code to make your donation. Early Giving opened on Monday, August 27.