

# *The Road Home*

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

**Arlington  
Life Shelter**

SUMMER 2024





Stephanie Melchert  
**PRESIDENT & CEO**

## Dear Friend,

I couldn't let summer begin without thanking you for your generous support of the Arlington Life Shelter. Because of you, individuals and families in North Texas have the resources needed to create a path to self-sufficiency.

This time of year, warm weather and sunny skies bring many of us hope. But for our neighbors without shelter, summer can be a time of uncertainty — and even danger, as temperatures soar and the risk of dehydration and heatstroke rise.

Homelessness threatens countless people in our community, including people who may have housing but live paycheck to paycheck. What happens when children are out of school and need childcare? What about seasonal workers?

Thankfully, friends like you are there to answer those questions. Your generosity ensures the Arlington Life Shelter is prepared to help our community members in many different ways, like case management, parenting resources, employment programming and more — 24/7, 365 days a year.

Please, take a moment to read through our enclosed summer newsletter and reflect on the difference you've made in our community for neighbors like Mettorcia, p. 2.

Thank you again for sharing our mission. Together, we can make sure this summer is hopeful for *all* North Texans.

Gratefully,

Stephanie R. Melchert  
President & CEO

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### **Our Mission:**

To promote self-sufficiency by providing shelter, employment programs and transitional services for North Texans impacted by homelessness.





Mettorcia is on her way to a strong, stable future because of you.

## You Help Mettorcia's Family

No matter how hard things get, she says, that goal keeps her going. "Some days I want to give up, but I have all of these eyes looking up at me."

Mettorcia moved to Texas in 2020, seeking a better life for her children after leaving an unstable relationship. While she called shelter after shelter, the family slept in their car.

**"Ever since we moved here, there's been blessings on top of blessings"**

Thankfully, she heard about the Arlington Life Shelter through her job as a preschool teacher. Immediately, the family was welcomed in.

"Ever since we moved here, there's been blessings on top of blessings," she says gratefully.

Your support helped provide Mettorcia's family with safe shelter, a housing voucher and essential resources. Speaking on the Shelter, Mettorcia says, "it's a family. They are respectful and understanding. You feel the love — my kids don't even look at it as a shelter."

Thanks in part to friends like you, Mettorcia will be returning to school for a degree in psychology this summer. Thank you for helping her create a stronger future!

When she was just a child of 11, Mettorcia had to help raise her four siblings. Now a mother of four herself, she says it's her top priority to ensure her children don't have to grow up as fast as she did.

## Over 30 Years of Service

A warm, home-cooked meal never fails to remind Patsy Miller of home. That's why she's made it her mission, for the past 30 years, to share delicious food, cooked with love, with our neighbors facing homelessness.

Together with her church, Patsy provides a monthly meal service at the Arlington Life Shelter. "We want it to be a nice experience...[to] make it feel like home," she says.

She loves each part of the process, from researching recipes with the group, to the

cooking itself, to sharing the end result with our guests. "I think they came for thirds last time," Patsy says with a smile.

Patsy also helps out through Partners of the Arlington Life Shelter (PALS), planning events and activities for families and children at the shelter. She assists in packing hygiene kits and coordinating donated bulk items, too.

If you're wondering what it's like to volunteer for Arlington Life Shelter, Patsy has a word of encouragement to share. "I would say just try



A home-cooked meal is one way Patsy loves to serve our community.

it," she suggests, adding that there's many different ways to get involved in a way that's meaningful for you.

Thank you, Patsy, for dedicating over 30 years to our neighbors experiencing homelessness!

# Daniel's Grateful for Your Helping Hand



at AT&T Stadium, where his hard work recently earned him Employee of the Month.

**"I can't keep from smiling"**

Inspired by your generosity, Daniel is continuing to search for his dream job, where he can work with his hands again. His other goals include getting a car, so he can visit his family, and securing an apartment of his own.

Daniel has always been a hard worker. Most of his career has been spent in the factory and production industry, where he enjoyed working with his hands. At 30, he joined the army, but an injury led him to be honorably discharged.

When Daniel lost his only mode of transportation, he was suddenly unable to keep his job — which brought his stable

life into question. Bravely, he moved from Kentucky to Dallas looking for a fresh start. And he found it at the Arlington Life Shelter.

"My case manager — I can't sing his praises enough," Daniel says.

With the support of his case manager and friends like you, Daniel found a new job

"I can't keep from smiling," Daniel says gratefully of his life lately. He's especially appreciative of donors like you, who help support the Shelter. Because of you, he says, "we've got everything we need [to thrive.]"

**Come see how your support is paving the way home for neighbors in need!**

**We've got two opportunities to see our program in action**

**ROAD HOME**  
Tour

Join us for a tour of our facility!  
You'll learn about our programs and services, which are designed to provide a path to self-sufficiency.

To secure a spot on the tour please contact  
Bertha Orona at [borona@arlingtonlifeshelter.org](mailto:borona@arlingtonlifeshelter.org) to register.  
We can't wait to show you around!

## Upcoming Tour Dates

June 12 - 8:00 am -9:00 am  
July 10 - 4:00 pm- 5:00 pm



**ROAD HOME**  
Luncheon

You're invited to a FREE lunch!  
Come hear inspirational stories from residents and learn how you can support the homeless of our community.

For more information or to register visit  
[www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org](http://www.ArlingtonLifeShelter.org)

**Thursday, August 22, 2024**

North Davis Church of Christ  
1601 North Davis Dr, Arlington  
Noon - 1pm

