

The Road Home

STORIES OF **HOPE** FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

**Arlington
Life Shelter**

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER





Stephanie Melchert
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

With a new season comes new challenges. In the summertime, jobs are put on hold while parents care for children out of school. Families worry where to spend some of the hottest days of the year.

And, even though kids should be enjoying vacation to the fullest, some are busy wondering if they'll get to sleep in a real bed that night.

For 35 years, invaluable partners like yourself have worked with the Arlington Life Shelter to provide shelter, critical programming and special resources for our community members facing homelessness.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to consider joining our new monthly giving group, Sustainers House, in celebration of the work we've done together for so long.

In the meantime, please enjoy these stories from just a few of the many neighbors you help with your gifts. You can see for yourself how your generosity is a real source of strength for our community.

Thank you for making this Texas summer even brighter!

Gratefully,

Stephanie R. Melchert
Executive Director

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

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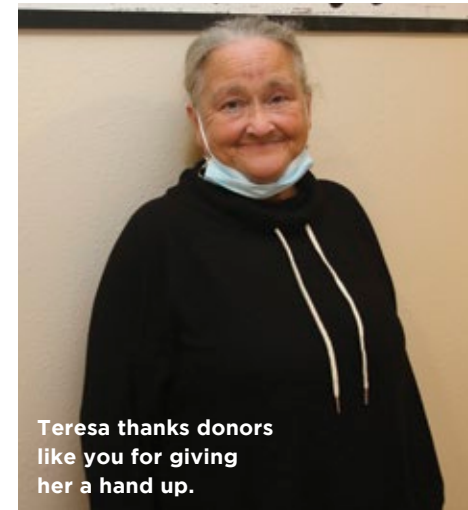
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**Arlington
Life Shelter**

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Teresa is Grateful for Your Helping Hand



Teresa thanks donors like you for giving her a hand up.

Teresa has been living in Arlington since 1975. She's an extremely hard worker and, several years ago, ran her very own cleaning company. Teresa cleaned houses for a living and

did well for herself until the pandemic hit.

Trying to keep the business going was taking a serious toll on her finances, so she decided to let it go. But Teresa didn't lose her determination to persevere – she began cleaning hotel rooms to pay bills. Unfortunately, the income she received wasn't enough to keep up with the rising cost of living.

More devastatingly, Teresa was recently diagnosed with cancer.

But thanks to the Arlington Life Shelter and friends like you,

Teresa doesn't have to fight this battle alone.

"[The Shelter] has been the biggest blessing in my life," Teresa says. "We all need a hand up sometimes."

Teresa has taken a class on coping to help come to terms with her illness and is getting counseling at the Shelter, too. Things are looking up. Right now, she's waiting for a date to move into a new apartment.

To donors, Teresa says, **"I am so grateful for all of your help. Without your giving, there is no way I could have made it."**

The Volunteer Who Couldn't Stay Away...

At 19 years old, Elder Alexander displays a deep love for his community and knows that being there for others is just a part of who he is.

As a Service Missionary from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he isn't meant to volunteer in one place for too long, but the Arlington Life Shelter is extremely special to him and he requested to stay.

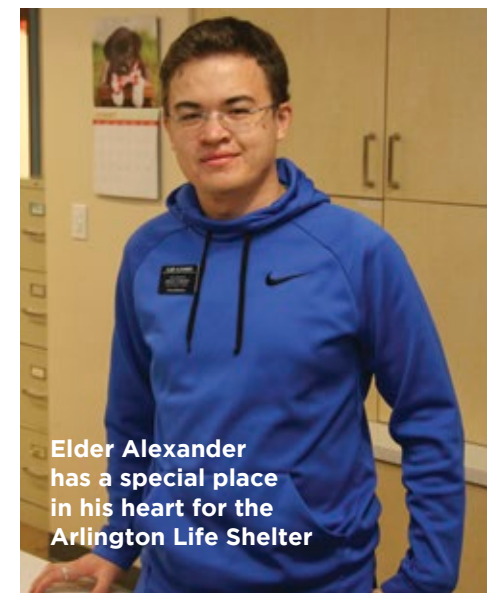
"I like being here because it doesn't just focus on one thing," Alexander says. "It touches various areas in a person's life."

He made a special request to stay at the Shelter – and residents and staff alike are so grateful he did.

Alexander doesn't have one thing he likes to do more than others because he truly enjoys the full experience of volunteering at the Shelter. But if he really had to choose, it would be playing with the kids.

"If [the kids] are on the floor playing with blocks or toys, I'm getting on the floor playing," he shares.

For friends who are considering volunteering,



Elder Alexander has a special place in his heart for the Arlington Life Shelter

Alexander encourages, **"It's about the people. See each person as an individual and [you will] be impactful."**

Victoria Cries Tears of Joy Thanks to YOU

Victoria is an incredibly brave mother. Recently she went through a very difficult time and was in a housing program for adults as a last resort. Her three boys, ages 7, 8 and 11 went to stay with their dad temporarily and she saw them as much as possible during the day.

But when Victoria went to pick up the boys from church one day, she realized things weren't right. She feared for her children's safety at home. She knew she had to get them away from that situation no matter what.

Victoria immediately contacted CPS to prevent her children from experiencing further neglect or abuse, and began calling on any local agency she could to find a place that could take in both her and her boys. That's when she was referred to the Arlington Life Shelter.

"It's been a blessing," Victoria says with tears in her eyes. "The boys left with nothing but the clothes on their backs. People have blessed them – new clothes, new underwear, school supplies, backpacks... Everything we needed, we got help with."

Victoria's boys are so much happier now. Samuel, 8, used to be failing all of his classes. Now, he's getting all A's and B's. And Aaron, 11, who has a learning disability and used to hate school, now loves to go.

Victoria's still on a job hunt, but she has high hopes. The Shelter has really helped her family turn things around, and, she says, "How the boys are doing confirms we're moving in the right direction... **There are no words to express the turnaround.**"



Victoria shares her success at the Arlington Life Shelter.

CELEBRATE 35 YEARS IN SERVICE BY MAKING A MONTHLY GIFT!

For the past 35 years, donors like you have worked together with the Arlington Life Shelter to provide our neighbors facing homelessness with the critical programming and resources needed to regain self-sufficiency.

As an invaluable member of our community, you're invited to join our new monthly giving group – Sustainers House – in honor of our 35th year in service.

When you make a monthly commitment to help our neighbors facing homelessness, you'll receive regular updates about how your generosity is helping our North Texas community. You'll also know about special opportunities to stay connected to the Shelter's mission throughout the year.

Make the gift that keeps on giving! Join Sustainers House today.

**Arlington
Life Shelter**

**35
YEARS**