

The Road Home

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER



**Arlington
Life Shelter**

WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER





Stephanie Melchert
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I've begun to settle into my role as executive director for the Arlington Life Shelter, one thing has become abundantly clear to me: I am not alone.

The Arlington Life Shelter exists because friends like you care. From day one, I've been amazed by the way you've stepped up to help your neighbors in need — often people you've never even met.

That's why it's truly an honor to begin this journey of partnership with you. Your compassion gives our residents hope for the future and courage to make positive change.

I hope you know what a difference it's making for our residents. I've chosen just a few of their stories for this edition of *The Road Home* because they represent the second chances you're making possible — like bringing Eric and Josephine's family back together again (page 3).

I love hearing these stories and witnessing the transformations that happen here — transformations that you make possible every day.

Thank you for your generosity. I am truly thrilled to be a part of this amazing organization and to partner with you to help homeless individuals and families get back on their feet.

Gratefully,

Stephanie Melchert

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

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SHELTER SUPPLY LIST

Thank you for generously supporting Shelter guests this holiday season. Your donations will be enjoyed all year long. In addition to our Immediate Needs, we are requesting help with replenishing the supplies we use daily in both our programming and development departments.

- Stamps
- White Copy Paper
- Case or Reams
- Light Blue Cardstock
- Astrobrights Pulsar
- Pink 65 lb paper
- Lime Green 24lb paper
- Yellow 24lb paper
- 1/3 cut file folders (any color)
- Reinforced Classification Folder, 2" Expansion, Letter Size, Manila
- Blue Painters Tape (wide and narrow)
- Large Reusable Shopping Bags



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You Helped Rodney Overcome Adversity



Rodney

Even the COVID-19 pandemic didn't stop Rodney, 58, from getting the help he needed to get back on his feet — and he's thanking you for making all that help possible.

"I am very grateful," Rodney says of his stay at the Shelter. "It motivates me to keep going."

Rodney says he was sleeping in the back of his truck for months before making his way to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). Since arriving nearly two months ago, he says he has focused his time on finding a steady job.

Part of Rodney's time at the Shelter was actually spent in

a hotel. He originally tested negative for the COVID-19 virus but tested positive three days later.

"When I was sick, they put me in a nice hotel. But the people [at the hotel] are not the people [at the Shelter]...I actually missed this place."

Now, Rodney is back in good health and continues to focus on finding a job while also helping to take care of his 82-year old mother. He wants you to know how much he appreciates your help as he works to get back on his feet.

"You are awesome,"
he says to donors like you.
**"You truly make this
Shelter what it is."**

You Bring Families Back Together

Eric and Josephine are thanking you for bringing their family back together and helping set them on a brighter path for their future.

After suffering some setbacks, the couple began living in a relative's vacant home and sent their children to live temporarily with their grandparents. But a severe storm caused more damage to the home, and they didn't have enough money for the repairs. Before long, they couldn't afford to keep the generator running, either.

That's when they began looking for another place to live. After discovering that many homeless shelters were

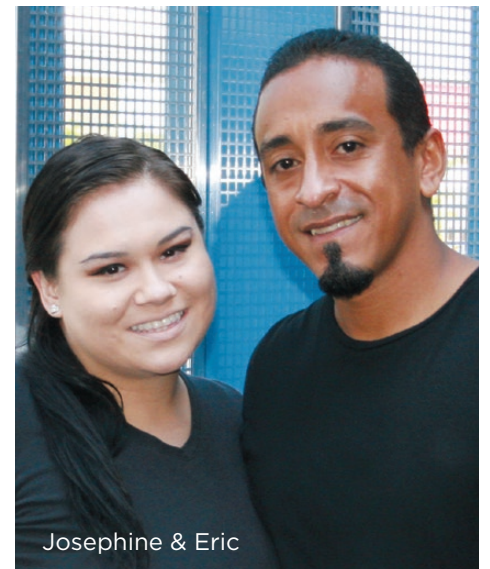
closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they were especially relieved to find the [Arlington Life Shelter](#).

"We could finally be with our children and in the same spot — and somewhere safe while getting that needed help," Josephine says.

Now, Eric and Josephine are focused on finding employment and housing while maintaining stability for their family.

They're grateful for your support as they continue to work toward their goals and want you to know what a difference you're making for families like theirs.

"Thank you so much for everything," Josephine says. **"[Thank you] for donating, for wanting to be a part of the Shelter and caring enough for our well-being."**



Josephine & Eric

You're Helping Jordan Reach His Dreams

Jordan is starting this new year off with a set of goals he once thought weren't reachable. Thanks to friends like you, he now has the determination to see them through.

"I want to be able to further my education," Jordan says of a major goal he has been working on since arriving at the [Shelter](#).

Jordan has been at the Shelter for a month now and says it has been much different than he expected.

"I had the feeling where I could finally relax," he says of the safety and comfort he felt after first arriving at the Shelter.

With that safe surrounding, Jordan says he has been busy working with staff and learning

how to save money, budget and find affordable housing and transportation.

"I am working on growth while I'm here — self-discipline and goals I never thought I could reach," he says.

Ultimately, Jordan is also putting plans into place to study mechanical work and engineering.

"I think I would be good at it," he says confidently.

A big part of that confidence, Jordan says, comes from Shelter staff and donors like you who give him the encouragement and tools he needs to succeed.

"What [you] have done is so good for the people in need of



opportunities like this," he says to generous donors like you. **"I am extremely grateful and thankful for [you]."**

VENTURE MECHANICAL STEPS UP FOR THEIR NEIGHBORS



Sam Petty and James Cochrum

James Cochrum and Sam Petty, owners of Venture Mechanical, are loyal sponsors and supporters of the [Arlington Life Shelter](#). They discovered the shelter through a business connection and recently generously provided the air conditioning for our new facility.

They've shared that their support of the Shelter has opened their eyes to the challenges their neighbors face. "The difference between having an apartment and then being homeless is a very thin line. My suspicion is there are a lot of people right now fighting that fight," Sam shared, referring to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on so many people. "The care of [the Arlington

Life Shelter] staff and their desire to give a bridge to a better opportunity is so sincere."

James and Sam encourage other business owners to get involved in their community organizations serving people in need. "Our businesses have an opportunity to help give back in the community they're in," says Sam. James adds, "Our business has been tremendously blessed and we want to give back."

Thank you, Venture Mechanical, for giving back to your neighbors experiencing homelessness! We are truly grateful for your support.