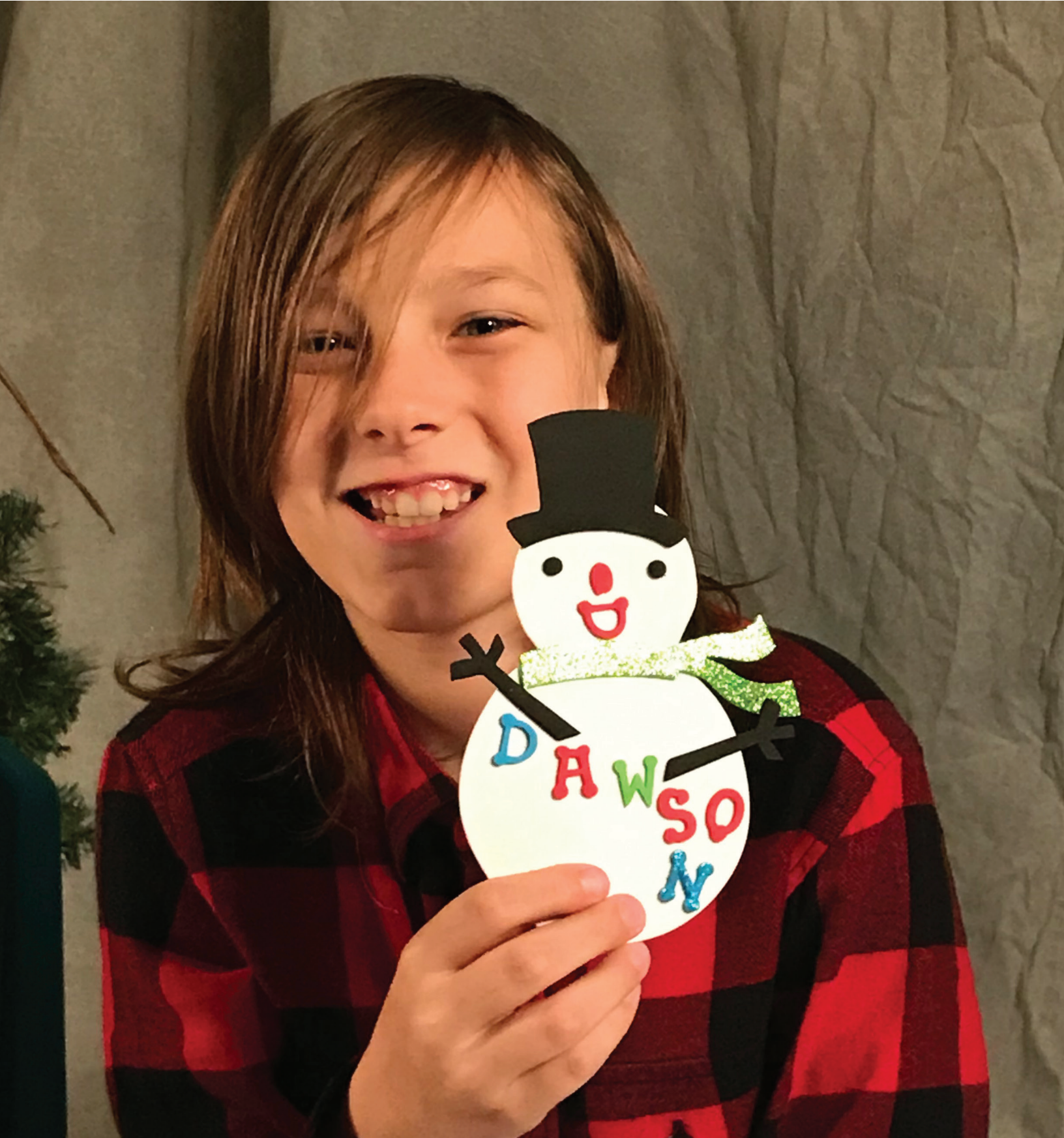


The Road Home

STORIES OF *HOPE* FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

**Arlington
Life Shelter**

HOLIDAY 2021





Stephanie R. Melchert
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

The holidays are here, and I find my thoughts of gratitude returning over and over again to you, my friend.

You've helped the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) during some very difficult times in our community. I know we can count on you when things get hard – and that's a real blessing.

When I think of each person we've helped, I think of you, the one who made it possible. The commitment you show to helping neighbors facing homelessness inspires me every day.

And with the coldest months of the year on our doorstep, your support is a real lifeline.

So you can see for yourself the difference you make, please enjoy this holiday edition of The Road. Your support provides critical programming that makes dreams come true.

I hope you're looking forward to the new year as much as I am. Encouragement from friends like you has made the Shelter stronger than ever. I can't wait to see what we accomplish together.

Thank you for making this holiday season extra special for so many. You're providing the greatest gift of all to a person experiencing homelessness: the security of having a safe place to call their temporary home.

Gratefully,

Stephanie R. Melchert
Executive Director

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**Arlington
Life Shelter**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

325 W. DIVISION ST.
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011
817-548-9885

You Make the Holidays Brighter

Maria worked her whole life in management positions while her husband Charles was a special education teacher for Fort Worth ISD for 13 years. The now-retired couple is celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary this year.

Maria and Charles have always done well for themselves. They planned carefully for retirement. But they had no idea the rent at their senior living retirement home would go up so drastically and all at once.

On top of their rent spike, Charles' health began declining due to early onset Alzheimer's and liver and kidney failure. They could

no longer afford to live in their home.

Maria and Charles panicked. They were referred to the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) for assistance.

"I didn't even know this place existed," Maria says. "I was overwhelmed with the acceptance."

The couple moved into the Shelter temporarily where they soon got help securing an apartment. They are so thankful to have found this place when they did.

"People come in with nothing and leave with dignity and pride,"



Maria says. **"A program like this gives us hope."**

Thank you for your role in being there for Charles and Maria when they needed you most. Your support means everything to neighbors at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) this holiday season.

Thank you for your leadership!

over 25 years ago with North Davis Church of Christ and became deeper involved with the agency as time has gone by.

Brad's leadership was crucial as the agency took on our Hearts to Homes Capital Campaign which allowed the agency to expand our facility to better serve the changing demographics of homelessness in North Texas. He says, "the shelter's been through a lot of changes over the last few years, when we embarked on the capital campaign there was a lot of construction cost

increases, and the community stood behind us, we could not have opened the newly expanded facility without them." As Brad completes his term as board president, he wanted to extend his gratitude to those in the community with a huge thank you and appreciation for supporting the shelter and our residents as they navigate their path back to self-sufficiency.

The shelter staff is so grateful to Brad for all he's done over the last 25 years, we simply cannot thank him enough!



Brad Jay
PRESIDENT

Arlington Life Shelter's board president, Brad Jay is completing four years of leadership service to the agency at the end of December. Brad first became involved with the shelter as a food team volunteer

ShaCamry Shares Her Dreams



ShaCamry shed tears of joy when she walked through the doors of the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) after experiencing nearly a year of housing instability.

“I broke down crying,” she says. “I was just thankful.”

Since October last year, ShaCamry, her 2-year-old, Gabriel, and 10-month-old, Gabriella, have lived in ShaCamry’s mom’s home, ShaCamry’s brother’s home, and various motels in between.

Currently, at the Shelter, she’s pending assistance from Child Care Management Services to get help with daycare fees. If she could afford to put Gabriel and Gabriella in daycare, she’d have the freedom to work regular hours.

Once she’s working again, ShaCamry hopes to secure housing for her family. In the meantime, she’s discovered a new passion: art.

This love she has for sketching, she realized, might even help her chase a longtime dream of starting a business – and if nothing else, working on her future logo has been a fun stress-reliever.

But for now, among preparation for the upcoming holidays, she and everyone at the [Arlington Life Shelter](#) who’s been touched by your kindness are counting their lucky stars for you, our friend who makes this help possible. You provide the assistance people need to overcome the barriers to achieving success.

To our donors, ShaCamry says, “Thank you. **This place has given me the courage to better myself.**”

Arlington Life Shelter

Celebrating

35 YEARS

SET UP A RECURRING GIFT TO HONOR 35 YEARS

It’s hard to believe that Arlington Life Shelter is celebrating our 35th anniversary! Since 1987, the shelter has served over 27,000 individuals and families experiencing homelessness in North Texas - and we could not do this work without community support and friends like you! What started as night shelter for men, has turned into an agency that provides individualized case management, educational opportunities, job coaching and much more that can now serve 120 men, women, and children a night - 140 in inclement weather.

One of the best ways to support the ongoing work of the Shelter is through our monthly gift program, Sustainers House. Recurring gifts help ensure that we can provide crucial services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and help people get back on a path to self-sufficiency. Please consider setting up your monthly gift today - every donation makes such a difference!

We invite you to continue to join us over the next year as we reflect on the last 35 years and examine where we started, where we’re at, and where we’re going. If there’s a need for homelessness services - Arlington Life Shelter will be here to answer the call.

I WANT TO HELP NEIGHBORS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Yes, **Stephanie**, I want to help restore the lives of families and individuals facing homelessness in our community. **Enclosed is my gift of:**

[Ask 1] [Ask 2] [Ask 3] [Ask 4]

Mr. & Mrs. John Q. Sample
Brad Cecil & Associates
2115 Arlington Downs Rd.
Arlington, TX 76011



325 W. DIVISION ST.
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011
817-548-9885

If you would like to give via credit card, please print clearly on the reverse side.

The Arlington Life Shelter is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Personal information remains confidential and will not be shared, traded or sold.

Donate online at
ArlingtonLifeShelter.org

ID Code

We and the people we’re proud to serve are so grateful for your kindness this holiday season. We’d love to know why you choose to support the Arlington Life Shelter’s mission. Please tell us what motivates your commitment to helping neighbors experiencing homelessness below.

Name

City ☐ Yes, you can use my name when sharing my comments with others.

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City _____

☐ Yes, you can use my name when sharing my comments with others.

For Your Convenience!

To give via credit card, please provide the following information (kept strictly confidential):

Name on card

Credit card number

Card Expires

MONTH

YEAR

Gift Amount

\$

The card I am using today is:

☐☐☐

Phone Number

Authorized Signature

Email Address

- ☐ I would like to donate \$_____ automatically each month by credit card.
- ☐ Please send me more information about including the Arlington Life Shelter in my will or estate plan.
- ☐ I would like to remain anonymous when the Arlington Life Shelter publicly recognizes donors.

Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.