

**Arlington
Life Shelter**

SUMMER 2026



THE ROAD HOME

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER



A Brighter Future For Sherice's Family – pg. 3



A Meal Made with Love By a Volunteer "Gabe" – 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,

Summer has a way of arriving quickly, and I didn't want the season to begin without taking a moment to thank you.

Because of your support, our medium-barrier shelter program continues to provide safe, stable shelter for women, children, and families every day of the year. Your partnership makes it possible for us to meet people where they are—offering not only a place to stay, but a pathway forward.

While our commitment to the community never changes, the summer months bring unique challenges. Families experiencing homelessness face heightened instability in the summer as access to consistent meals, childcare, and daily support systems become more limited. At the same time, summer can be a season of renewal—and we are dedicated to ensuring that the individuals and families we serve experience that hope.

With your help, we provide more than shelter. We offer case management, supportive services, and opportunities for long-term stability so families can move toward independence and lasting success.

In the pages ahead, you'll read stories that reflect the impact of your generosity—stories of resilience, strength, and new beginnings for families just like those we serve every day.

Thank you for standing with us and for sharing in this mission. Because of you, this summer holds the promise of new days, safe homes, and brighter futures.



Stephanie R. Melchert
PRESIDENT & CEO

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie".

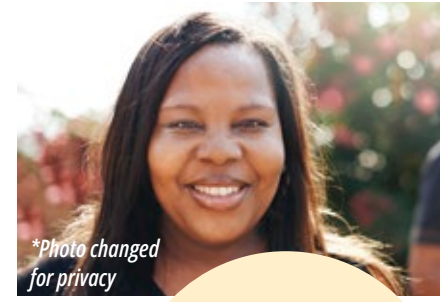
Stephanie R. Melchert
President & CEO

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR SHERICE'S FAMILY

When Sherice imagines her future, it's crystal clear. A fulfilling career as a nurse practitioner at her own clinic. Her four children healthy and thriving. And a house where the family can gather around a home-cooked meal.

When we met Sherice, she was already working hard to make that dream a reality. Between overnight shifts at the VA, "I'm taking the last of my prerequisites for nursing [school]," she explains.

Housing instability wasn't a part of the plan, but the family couldn't stay in their last rental apartment. Finding a new place to live was a challenge. Sherice could feel the hourglass sand running out, as she had limited funds to continue living in a hotel.



"I just needed somewhere temporarily where I could stay...and not have to stress,"

"I just needed somewhere temporarily where I could stay... and not have to stress," she recalls. She found that place at the Arlington Life Shelter.

Here, Sherice found the stability she needed to reset and refocus. Her family arrived in December, and the children were welcomed with holiday gifts.

Sherice got to work with her case manager, figuring out next steps and applying for housing programs.

Now, Sherice's family is on the road to self-sufficiency again. A new home is on the horizon, and Sherice's dream is one step closer!

A MEAL MADE WITH LOVE BY A VOLUNTEER



Along with his family, Gabe came to Arlington in 2018 to serve as an associate pastor at The Vineyard Church. The role was all about community, and soon Gabe began asking himself what more he could do to serve our neighbors.

When he learned about the Arlington Life Shelter, it was an easy "yes." Gabe started out filling in roles as needed in our kitchen, but he wanted to do more.

So, he organized a consistent team from his church and began cooking and serving a meal to Shelter guests every third Monday.

"It's like this labor of love," he says. "I would call it practicing hospitality to my neighbors."

The meal itself is something special, Gabe says. "We really take pride in making the food excellent." But the real magic happens when Gabe and his team sit down to share the meal with residents.

"There's something about sitting around the table," he says. Connections formed over this meal

are lasting, and go far beyond the walls of the Arlington Life Shelter. Even Gabe's teenage boys have started getting involved in the tradition.

To Gabe, the meaning behind volunteering makes it truly worthwhile. "You will walk out of here feeling better than you did walking in!"



"I'M READY FOR THE NEXT STEP!"

Roasted salmon with Brussels sprouts. That's the first meal Kennedy's going to prepare in her own kitchen. After a few years moving from city to city, trying to find the right direction as a young adult, she's looking forward to making herself dinner in her own home.

Kennedy hasn't ever let life's uncertainty slow her down. Even when she wasn't sure what tomorrow would bring, she continued working hard, earning her cosmetology license and working full-time at various jobs.



The Arlington Life Shelter was a safe place for Kennedy to land

"Sometimes, you're just one step away from homelessness. But then you're also just a couple opportunities away from your next blessing."

But despite Kennedy's hard work, an eviction notice still came. She'd just

started a phlebotomy program and could see a more stable future ahead, so she called our number from a resource list. That call brought her here.

At the Arlington Life Shelter, Kennedy found a welcoming and safe place to land, where staff went out of their way to support her on her journey.

"Sometimes, you're just one step away from

homelessness. But then you're also just a couple opportunities away from your next blessing," Kennedy says.

"I'm ready for the next step," she adds. To her, that means finishing her phlebotomy course, landing what she calls her first "big girl job" as a CNA, and settling into a new home!



SAVE THE DATE - STOCK THE SHELTER

June 1st - June 30th

Send donations to:
Arlington Life Shelter
325 W Division St.
Arlington, TX 76011



Scan the QR Code to
find our list of needs