

# The Road Home

STORIES OF HOPE FROM THE ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

Arlington  
Life Shelter

HOLIDAY 2025



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Gregg Wilkinson, *Owner, No Frills Grill & Sports Bar*

## VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Bill Brangers, *Sr. Project Manager, Cencora*

## TREASURER

Lisa Rein, *Ameriprise Financial*

## SECRETARY

Bryan Perry, *Architect, VLK Architects*

## PAST BOARD PRESIDENT, ADVISOR

Brad Jay, *Partner, Weaver*

## BOARD MEMBERS

John Arriaga, *Amergy Bank*

LaTonya Copeland-Berry, *Sr. Project Manager, Urban Strategies*

Elena Fernandez, *Attorney, Perdue*

Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP

Lachelle Goodrich, *Fort Worth*

*Housing Solutions*

Chris Holland, *Retired Non-Profit*

*CFO*

Nikkie Hunter, *Millwood Hospital and*

*City of Arlington Council Member*

Benjamin Mogendi, *Past Resident*

Danielle Snailer, *Angmar Medical*

*Holdings*

## Our Mission:

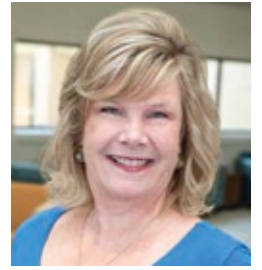
To promote self-sufficiency by providing shelter, employment programs and transitional services for North Texans impacted by homelessness.

**Arlington  
Life Shelter**

325 W. DIVISION ST.  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

## Dear Friend,

I hope that the upcoming holidays bring you joy, rest, and lots of time spent with loved ones.



Stephanie R. Melchert  
**PRESIDENT & CEO**

Despite the hardships our community has faced this past year, your generosity has helped ensure that anyone ready to regain self-sufficiency has support at the Arlington Life Shelter. Thank you.

Our doors have been open for 38 years, and the need for our services is only growing. What started as a night shelter has evolved to a program shelter, which includes employment programs, daily basic needs, laundry services, case management, transportation and more — all available 24/7, seven days a week, 365 days per year.

And what's made all that possible is YOU.

The effect of your generosity can't be overstated. For our neighbors like Charlene, p. 4, a friend like you makes all the difference.

As you read our special holiday edition of *The Road Home*, I hope you feel as inspired as I did by the stories of hope we've helped our neighbors create. Looking to the end of the year, I hope we can count on your continued partnership to help even more men, women and children experiencing homelessness.

Thank you again! May you and yours enjoy a joyful holiday season!

Gratefully,

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

Stephanie R. Melchert  
President & CEO





## A Fresh Start for Victor



Victor looks forward to a new job and a stronger future

Two years ago, Victor moved to Arlington to be closer to family, hoping to work with his half-brother while also recovering from multiple surgeries.

But then his half-brother ended up moving to Alaska — and despite submitting dozens of job applications, Victor couldn't find another

job in time and went through all his savings. He could see homelessness on the horizon.

When Victor found out about the Arlington Life Shelter, he came right away.

“It means quite a lot that this resource is even here,” he says. As a single man, he wasn't sure what services were available to help him. He was glad to find a safe place to land, where caring staff helped him apply for SNAP benefits and health insurance. “Everyone that works here is very willing to help you.”

**“It means quite a lot that this resource is even here.”**

Within a few months, Victor found a new job in manufacturing. “It's good pay, good hours,” he says. “Hopefully it will stabilize me enough to actually breathe a little bit.”

Now, Victor is ready to start saving and moving towards his dream career in back-end coding. Years of playing video games evolved into a passion for coding. “I'm planning to...learn a few coding languages, get a few certificates,” he shares.

In the near future, Victor is excited to have his own space again and return to self-sufficiency. Thank you for helping Victor reach a new day, home and life!



## Volunteer Shares Time, and Hope

Whether Linda's volunteering to help Arlington Life Shelter guests balance their checkbooks, assisting with data management, helping set up informational booths at events, or sending handwritten thank-you notes to donors like you, Linda always gives her whole heart.

Linda has generously supported our shared mission ever since she and her husband, Michael, moved to Arlington

from California in 1992. They shared a love of service and a desire to help through volunteering and donating.

For nearly 32 years, Linda and Michael worked side-by-side to help build long-term homelessness solutions in our community. Then, in March of last year, Michael sadly passed away, leaving behind a legacy of care that Linda is steadfast in continuing.

After he passed, Linda says, “I doubled down on what I was doing with the [Arlington] Life Shelter because it had

been something that he really believed in — something we both really believed in.”

If you're considering donating time, Linda says, go for it. “There are plenty of opportunities.” She suggests you follow your interests to get involved in a way that matters to you.

The legacy Michael and Linda built together lives on every time Linda helps a neighbor learn financial skills, or mails a thank-you card. We are so grateful to share this work with you, Linda!

## Charlene Says, “Everything’s Falling Into Place!”



“[I’m ready] to make a better life for me and my kids”

Talk to our neighbor Charlene, and you’ll notice right away her caring heart and warm personality. “I’m a people person,” she explains.

Two years ago, Charlene made the difficult decision to leave her family’s home in Arkansas because it was no longer safe for her sons, now ages 22, 20, and 16. After moving to Arlington, the family stayed in a hotel with support from Charlene’s mom while she searched for housing and work.

But weeks turned to months, and after a year, there wasn’t enough support to stay. Charlene started looking for other options. She landed at the Arlington Life Shelter with her youngest, while her oldest son found a job and moved into an apartment he shares with Charlene’s middle son.

Right away, Charlene began taking steps to secure a new job, updating her resume and spending hours applying in our computer lab. That added resource and support made all the difference.

“The first week I was here, I got myself a job,” she shares.

Charlene also attended our parenting class, and her case manager helped her fill out housing paperwork. Now, she’s closer than ever to stability, and looking forward to resuming classes to become a traveling nurse. “It’s something I’ve always wanted to do,” she says.

“[I’m ready] to make a better life for me and my kids,” she continues. “Everything’s falling into place!”

Donating to the Arlington Life Shelter helps so many people — and can provide tax benefits to you, too. Check out the information below for other ways to give.

### A LASTING IMPACT

#### **IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE GIVING**

We invite you to consider supporting our mission through various tax-smart giving options, including gifts from your IRA or stock donations. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your retirement account can be a powerful way to support our mission while also reducing your taxable income. We encourage you to consult with your tax professional for personalized advice regarding these opportunities. Thank you for considering this impactful way to give.

#### **DONOR-ADVISED FUND (DAF)**

Often an alternative to establishing a private foundation, a donor-advised fund allows you to maximize your donations with less expense and paperwork. Donor-advised funds are managed by institutions or foundations, so you can avoid additional expenses associated with starting and maintaining a foundation, all while collaborating to make sure your funds are going exactly where you want them.

Please reach out to your tax professional for assistance and advice

